



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1875 HD2 SD1

RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo

(Senate Committee on Judiciary)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i

(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 7, 2026

10:15 AM

Lumi 016

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1875 HD2 SD1** which extends Hawai‘i’s existing protections for reproductive health care to include gender-affirming health care, establishes remedies against abusive litigation, limits improper disclosure and use of protected health information, and protects providers from certain adverse actions by medical malpractice insurers and health carriers solely for providing lawful care.

OHA supports this measure because Hawai‘i has a strong constitutional tradition of protecting privacy, bodily autonomy, equality, and personal liberty. This bill is grounded in those values. It responds to a shifting legal landscape in which people seeking or providing lawful care in one state may face civil, criminal, or professional consequences driven by another state’s laws. Hawai‘i has a legitimate interest in ensuring its residents, providers, and health care institutions are not pulled into abusive interstate litigation or compelled disclosure simply for engaging in care lawful under Hawai‘i law.

This measure also matters from a Native Hawaiian cultural and equity perspective. Māhū, transgender, and gender non-conforming people have deep roots in traditional Hawaiian society and remain a significant but often unacknowledged part of Hawai‘i’s community today. Hawaiian culture has a long history of gender diversity and acceptance of people who would now be understood as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or gender non-conforming. In pre-colonial Hawaiian society, aikāne and māhū were revered and held important roles in community life and in certain cultural practices. Yet today, māhū, transgender, and gender non-conforming people continue to face systemic and often harmful discrimination that is not reflective of Hawai‘i’s cultural history or traditional values. Protecting dignity, privacy, and access to lawful care for transgender and gender-diverse people is therefore not only a civil rights issue, but also consistent with Hawai‘i’s own cultural traditions and values.

OHA also supports the bill's practical structure. It does not create new insurance coverage mandates. Instead, it focuses on protecting lawful care from external interference, preventing misuse of state resources for out-of-state investigations or proceedings, limiting improper use and disclosure of protected health information, and ensuring providers are not penalized by insurers or carriers solely for offering lawful reproductive or gender-affirming health care. These are reasonable, governance-based protections aimed at preserving Hawai'i's policy choices within Hawai'i's borders.

In a time of growing legal uncertainty and political division around this subject, OHA believes Hawai'i should be clear and consistent in protecting lawful care, patient privacy, and provider stability. This bill reflects sound public policy, respect for constitutional rights, and protection for vulnerable people and communities.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HB1875 HD2 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII
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TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: Testimony on H.B. No. 1875, H.D. 2, S.D. 1
Relating to Health Care

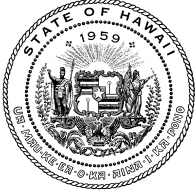
Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would, among other things, amend protections for reproductive health care services to include gender-affirming health care services. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on the substance of this bill, but supports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

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

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

This bill (starting at page 15 line 11) 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
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ADMINISTRATOR

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April 2, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, 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-SD1 -- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

HEARING: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 @ 10:15 am; Conference Room 016

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports HB 1875-HD2-SD1, 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 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.

HB 1875-HD2-SD1: testimony of SHPDA (2026), continued

In closing, HB 1875-HD2-SD1 strengthened 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 HB 1875-HD2-SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:15 a.m.
Place: Conference Room 016 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2 SD1: Relating to Health Care**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HB1875 HD2 SD1**, 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, māhū describes someone who embodies kāne and wahine energies.¹ While the visibility of māhū individuals has recently increased, ongoing barriers to gender-affirming care remain.²

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

⁵ Hawai‘i State Departments of Education and Health, Hawai‘i Health Data Warehouse, Hawai‘i School Health Survey: Youth Risk Behavior Survey.

https://hhdw.org/report/query/selection/yrbs/_YRBSSelection.html

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

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

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

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

Protecting reproductive health and gender-affirming care strengthens community safety, where everyone has the freedom to be their authentic selves. We strongly urge you to pass HB1875 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Policy Fellow

ACLU of Hawai'i

dalbano@acluhawaii.org

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



Hawaii Medical Association

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SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Date: April 7, 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 SD1 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, 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 health care services. (SD1)

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

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

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

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

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

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

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

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

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

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

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



IN OPPOSITION TO HB1875 – Relating to Health Care Providers

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii opposes HB1875. It explicitly expands the exact same statutory shield framework enacted in Act 2 (SLH 2023) to protect “lawful reproductive health care services.” That 2023 law was passed to shield providers and patients from out-of-state liability after Dobbs. This bill simply inserts “gender-affirming health care services” into the identical protections. It covers everything from malpractice immunity and insurance mandates to restrictions on record disclosure. It also adds new “protections against abusive litigation” that apply equally to both reproductive-health providers and gender-affirming-care providers.

We reject this on principle.

Bundling the two issues in this way is not neutral protection of bodily autonomy; it is the opposite. It uses the reproductive-care shield as a Trojan horse to grant one side of a separate, highly contested medical debate. It grants special immunity from market consequences, patient lawsuits, and parental oversight, especially when minors are involved. We do not support the government tilting the scales by carving out privileged classes of providers and procedures.

Libertarians champion individual liberty, bodily autonomy, and personal responsibility. Adults have the absolute right to make their own medical decisions. Parents have the fundamental right to direct the upbringing and medical care of their minor children. The government has no business inserting itself into the doctor-patient-parent relationship to grant one side special legal armor while leaving patients, families, and dissenting providers exposed.

HB1875 does exactly the opposite of protecting autonomy.

It distorts the private insurance market by forbidding carriers from underwriting risk according to their own actuarial judgment. It shields providers from legitimate malpractice claims, even when experimental or irreversible interventions are performed. Let science, ethics, and informed consent prevail.

We already support genuine bodily-autonomy legislation such as HB2512 and HB2199, which protect every individual’s right to refuse or choose medical interventions without coercion. HB1875 is not that bill. It is the opposite: it protects providers from patients.

The smallest minority on earth is the individual.

When the government begins carving out protected classes of providers and procedures, it ceases to be a neutral referee and becomes an active participant in harming the individuals it claims to “protect.” We have seen this pattern before. Special protections quickly become mandates, and mandates quickly become censorship of dissenting medical choices. For these reasons the Libertarian Party of Hawaii respectfully urges the Committee to KILL HB1875.

For liberty,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI



HIPHI Board

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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: April 2, 2026

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Support for HB 1875 HD2 SD1, Relating To Health Care

Hrg: April 7, 2026, at 10:15 AM, Conference Room 016

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute,¹ **supports HB 1875 HD2 SD1**, relating to health care. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Gender-Affirming Care Promotes Overall Wellness

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

Support from Health Organizations

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

Moreover, the American Psychological Association's (APA) Policy Statement on Affirming Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals, Addressing Misinformation, and the Role of Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals, Addressing

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

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

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

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



Misinformation, and the Role of Psychological Practice and Science asserts that “the APA underscores the necessity for access to comprehensive, gender-affirming healthcare for transgender, gender-diverse, and nonbinary children, adolescents, and adults.”⁵

Attorney General Statement

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

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

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

Mahalo,

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

Policy and Advocacy Associate

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

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

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



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TO: Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee
FROM: PFLAG O'ahu
Dr. Camaron Miyamoto and Ryna Yamada, Co-Presidents
DATE: April 7, 2026
RE: Strong Support of HB1875

Dear Chair, Vice Chair and members of the committee,

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.



To: Committee on Judiciary

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday April 7, 2026 10:15 am

Re: Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1875 HD2 SD1

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee

The Hawaii Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **supports HB 1875 HD 2 SD1** 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.

HHHRC'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.

HHHRC 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

HHHRC 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



HEARING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY (JDC)

April 7, 2026 | Conference Room 016/ Via Videoconference
Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875 HD2 SD1 – Relating to Health Care

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

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 the Stonewall Caucus in **strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1**.

HB1875 HD2 SD1 continues Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting access to essential health care by strengthening safeguards for both reproductive and gender-affirming care. These protections include preventing abusive litigation, safeguarding patient privacy, and ensuring that providers are not penalized for delivering lawful, evidence-based care.

Protecting Healthcare in Hawai‘i

This bill ensures that medical decisions remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai‘i law and established standards of care. It reinforces Hawai‘i’s constitutional commitment to privacy, liberty, and bodily autonomy.

Protecting Providers and Preventing Workforce Loss

Hawai‘i already faces significant healthcare workforce shortages. Without strong legal protections, providers may face pressure, legal risk, or retaliation simply for providing lawful care. This measure ensures providers are protected from adverse actions.

Protecting Patients and Families

This bill ensures that individuals accessing lawful care in Hawai‘i are not subjected to harassment, invasive investigations, or politically motivated litigation, preserving trust in the patient-provider relationship.

Preventing Out-of-State Overreach

HB1875 HD2 SD1 makes clear that Hawai‘i will not participate in or facilitate attempts by other states to interfere with lawful care provided here.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875 HD2 SD1

Support for Planned Parenthood Amendments

The Stonewall Caucus supports the amendments requested by Planned Parenthood to further strengthen this measure. These amendments clarify and reinforce the bill's intent.

In conclusion, HB1875 HD2 SD1 reflects Hawai'i's core values and ensures our state remains a place of safety, dignity, and access to care.

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, we respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair

Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



**Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15 A.M.
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference
By
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on HB1875 HD2 SD1

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee: The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) supports the intent of this measure and provides testimony in support related to Section 10 and 11 as it relates to nursing practice and patient safety.

This measure expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Section 10 and 11 in this measure enable the Hawai'i Board of Nursing to consider the context for which disciplinary action has been taken on nurses with licenses in other states who are applying for a license or who are already licensed in Hawai'i.

Protecting healthcare providers who perform legal, safe, evidence-based healthcare from out-of-state or interstate investigation due to political disagreements is an important action which aids in recruiting and retaining our local healthcare providers. This measure codifies statutes to be consistent with the current, evidence-based practice standards. In addition, this measure aims to protect patients' access to care that is established in law in Hawai'i, as well as protect the qualified healthcare providers who offer these healthcare services.

The Legislature is a critical part of ensuring our state has access to healthcare providers. States that have enacted supportive laws for healthcare providers see growth in the number of healthcare professionals in their state, particularly in rural and shortage areas.¹ Conversely, when states enact laws that impede a provider's ability to provide safe, timely, evidence-based healthcare, it can lead to healthcare "deserts" in which providers leave the practice, region, or state.² The impact is that patients lose access to care.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. HSCN appreciates the opportunity to comment on the content pertaining to nurses.

¹ [https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256\(17\)30176-X/fulltext](https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256(17)30176-X/fulltext)

² <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2024/04/05/idaho-is-losing-ob-gyns-after-strict-abortion-ban-but-health-exceptions-unlikely-this-year/>

The mission of the Hawai'i State Center for Nursing is to collaborate on fostering workplace conditions that support nurses to remain in a fulfilling profession.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

April 7, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1875 HD2 SD1**. This bill affirms Hawai'i's commitment to personal liberty, medical privacy, and the rule of law.

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.



Chair Rhoads
Vice Chair Gabbard
Senate Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, April 7, 2026
10:15 AM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2 SD1 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

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 SD1**.

HB1875 HD2 SD1 expands existing protections under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include patients, providers, and individuals who assist others in accessing gender-affirming health care services, shielding them from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions. Specifically, the measure ensures that Hawai‘i courts and state agencies do not cooperate with external abusive litigation—civil and criminal legal actions—targeting individuals for undertaking lawful health care services within our state. This clarification is necessary to prevent the adverse effect that interstate enforcement attempts, including subpoenas or civil liability claims, may have on both patients and providers.

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

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 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission
hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

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

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

³

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

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



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

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

DATE: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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

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

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

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai'i Section (ACOG Hawai'i), which represents physicians dedicated to providing evidence-based reproductive health care across our state, strongly supports HB1875 SD1. ACOG Hawai'i also supports the amendments as proposed by Planned Parenthood, which further clarify and strengthen the intent of this measure.

HB1875 SD1 builds upon Hawai'i's existing protections for reproductive health care by appropriately extending those protections to gender-affirming health care services that are lawful in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to ensuring that patients can continue to access medically indicated care and that health care providers can deliver that care without fear of retaliatory or abusive legal actions.

Importantly, HB1875 SD1 does not alter standards of medical practice. It does not mandate care, lower professional standards, or shield unlawful or negligent conduct. Rather, it affirms that when clinicians provide care consistent with generally accepted standards of practice and Hawai'i law, they should not face adverse actions such as:

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

The proposed amendments help ensure that these protections are clearly defined and appropriately applied. These protections are critical for maintaining the healthcare workforce in Hawai'i, where we already face provider shortages. Fear of legal or professional retaliation has a

chilling effect on medical practice and can limit access to care—particularly for patients who already experience barriers, including transgender and gender-diverse individuals.

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

ACOG Hawai'i strongly supports HB1875 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 SD1, with amendments proposed by Planned Parenthood.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



TMH, 501(c)(4)
April 3, 2026

Re: Support for HB 1875

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

My name is Catherine Nelson. I am the founder & director of the Transgender Military Hub (TMH) & am writing in support of HB 1875 on behalf of the organization. For some background: TMH works with transgender veterans around the nation, with a sizable portion in Hawai'i.

What this bill functionally does is keep the government out of the conversation between patients and their doctors. This drives right into the heart of what freedom is all about – the right to do what you see fit (within reasonable limits) to better the quality of your life. By enshrining protections for gender-affirming healthcare, you're enshrining basic individual liberty. We are not a free society if the apparatus of the state must give its consent for the medical procedures of The People.

To the **Republicans** on the Committee, this bill touches on inter-state protections that have not been needed since the era of Fugitive Slave Laws. Under this bill, out-of-state criminal charges for healthcare providers – simply for practicing medicine in a way that puts the interests of the patient over those of the government – would not stand, under this bill. I understand that there are concerns for children, that largely arise out of mis/disinformation. I could mention how minors are only permitted reversible puberty blockers; or that the youngest person to ever undergo “the surgery” was the famous singer, Kim Petras, and that when she was 16 she had to take her case to the German Federal Government for permission. But that's not important to you, and I understand that. Whatever your feelings on gender-affirming care for anyone – let alone minors – may be, there is a key point to note. *This bill would let parents do what's best for their families.* If their decision is not the decision you support, that's still their right. You, as the government, should have no more say in what they do than I do as an outsider. Family autonomy is threatened when an out-of-state court can extend its jurisdiction here. The Party of Lincoln once stood firmly against government over-reach of this very nature. Almost 200 years later, the exact language & intended subjects of these bills may have changed, but the fundamental legal question & principals remain the same. The question, this time, is: Will you take up the position of denying families autonomy? Of denying our state, sovereignty within its own borders?

To the **Democrats** on the Committee, trans rights are on the line here, but this is not likely to be the stopping point. Access to healthcare & basic bodily autonomy are two key tenets of a free society. We have seen the Trump administration systemically attack trans people at every possible opportunity. I, myself, have been on the receiving end of this more than once. Enough is enough. Gender-affirming healthcare saves lives. It saved mine. It saved the lives of dozens of my friends. Protecting those who provide it is paramount. Hawai'i has one of the nation's largest trans populations and a deep history of cultural inclusion. Failure to pass this bill would be failing the people of these islands. Score a win for your constituents; don't fall into complacency.

To **both parties**, let's envision a future where this bill fails. Doctors will be hesitant to provide care. People will increase their risk of suicidality. Champions of Christian religious freedom will cheer, but ultimately feel no real impact on their everyday lives. They will be no more or less Christian than the day before. People will leave the state, either in an airplane or – God forbid – a casket, should the worst come to fruition. Across the country, we're

seeing the full power of the government at every level being wielded against an inherently disenfranchised demographic that makes up <1% of the national population.

I think we can all agree on the sanctity of life and the absolute blessing that is true liberty. As a veteran, and a representative of other veterans, we served with honor to protect your rights & liberties. The time has come for *you* to protect *ours*.

It is for these reasons that I urge you to vote in support of HB 1875. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Release the full, unredacted files.

Sincerely,

Catherine Nelson
Veteran – US Army
Founder/Director
TMH, 501(c)(4)
1411 Kapiolani Blvd. Ste. 1114 #861281, Honolulu, HI 96841
Email: admin.tmh@gmail.com



To: Senate Committees on Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15am
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 016 and videoconference
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of HB 1875 HD2 SD1

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") strongly supports HB 1875 HD2 SD1 and suggests several amendments to strengthen the bill. Fundamentally, providers and patients should not fear being investigated, jailed, or losing their license for providing or obtaining legal health care services.

Gender affirming care providers and patients need shield law protections

Gender affirming care providers and patients alike are living in fear of being criminally prosecuted by hostile states. In the last several years, we have seen numerous states ban gender affirming care for both minors and adults as well as 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, which the shield law guards against.

Similarly, HB 1875 HD2 SD1 ensures 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. Unfortunately, with gender affirming care bans for minors in place across the country, 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.

PPAA recommends the following amendments to improve HB 1875 HD 1 SD1

PPAA suggests the following amendments to HB 1875 to ensure the shield law is as protective as possible:

1. For consistency, amend the preamble the "abusive litigation" section:

- On Page 2, line 19, delete "medical necessity" and "and abuse" to read: *The legislature notes that the term "abusive litigation" is not intended to include standard health care actions or activities of a health payor regarding potential insurance disputes over coverage status, medical necessity, fraud, waste and abuse, or the recovery of overpayments lawful activities of a health payor to enforce its rights under a contract with a person or entity.*
- **Explanation:** This amendment revises the preamble to be consistent with the language around "abusive litigation" on page 5 of the bill.

2. Allow enhanced protections for non-Hawaii residents:

- On page 3, line 18 to page 4 line 3, amend subsection (a) to allow for civil actions by aggrieved persons to be brought in the circuit where they reside or where they accessed, received, provided or facilitated reproductive health care or gender affirming care: *(a) If a person or entity, whether or not acting under the color of law, engages in or attempts to engage in abusive litigation, or attempts to enforce any order or judgment issued in connection with any such abusive litigation, any aggrieved person may bring a civil action against that person or entity in the circuit court of the circuit in which the aggrieved person resides or in which the aggrieved person accessed, received, provided, facilitated, or attempted to access, receive, provide, or facilitate reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services. The civil action may be ~~against that person or entity~~ for: . . .*

- **Explanation:** This amendment clarifies that an aggrieved person (who is the subject of abusive litigation) can file their civil action in any circuit court where the person resides or accesses/receives/provides/facilitates care. This ensures that out-of-state providers who are licensed in Hawai'i and provide care in Hawai'i will still have protection even if they do not reside in Hawai'i.
3. **Clarify that “abusive litigation” does not involve standard health care actions:**
- On page 5, line 15, insert new subsection (d) to read as follows: (d) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the requirements set forth herein shall not apply to prohibit standard health care actions or activities of a health payor regarding insurance coverage status, fraud, waste, or the lawful activities of a health payor to enforce its rights under a contract with a person or entity.
 - **Explanation:** This amendment clarifies that "abusive litigation" does not include standard health care actions or activities of a health payor.
4. **Remove the reference to “standard of care” to ensure care is protected regardless of what happens at the federal level:**
- On page 7, line 11, delete reference to "standard of care" in the definition of "gender affirming care": *Gender-affirming health care services" means a service or product ~~with the standard of care, to~~ that supports and affirms an individual's actual gender identity.*
 - **Explanation:** Advocates are concerned that referencing the "standard of care" could open the door to weakening protections for patients. At the federal level, policymakers are attempting to exclude certain types of care for youth from the current medically accepted standard of care, despite extensive medical research to the contrary. If political redefining the standard of care is successful, it could defeat the intent of the protections in this bill.

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 SD1 to protect our providers and patients. Thank you for your consideration.



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2 SD1 Relating to Health Care

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee

The members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for hearing this measure. We strongly support HB1875 HD2 SD1 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 7, 2026

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: HB 1875 HD2 SD1– RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Hawaii Medical Service Association (HMSA) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB 1875 HD2 SD1, 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 appreciate the efforts of the legislature in addressing the input from stakeholders as this important subject is considered.

Thank you for the opportunity to offer comments on HB 1875 HD2 SD1.

Sincerely,

Walden Au
Director of Government Relations



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



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

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

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

April 6, 2026

Senate's Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:15 AM

RE: **Strong Support for House Bill 1875 HD 2 SD1 with Requested Amendments**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and fellow committee members,

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1875 HD 2 SD 1 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature to

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

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

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

Gender-affirming health care is not abstract or theoretical - **it saves lives**. For 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 SD 1

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

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

The Commission joins the other advocates in supporting the amendments listed on the attached document.

By passing House Bill 1875 with the requested amendments, 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 SD 1 with the requested amendments** and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

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

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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

[Inclusive LGBTQIA+ Glossary](#)

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

HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Support of HB 1875 HD 2 SD 1

REQUESTED AMENDMENTS

1. **Page 2, line 19:** delete "medical necessity" and "and abuse" to read:

The legislature notes that the term "abusive litigation" is not intended to include standard health care actions or activities of a health payor regarding potential insurance disputes over coverage status, medical necessity, fraud, waste and abuse, or the recovery of overpayments lawful activities of a health payor to enforce its rights under a contract with a person or entity.

2. **Page 3, line 18 to page 4 line 3:** amend subsection (a) to allow for civil actions by aggrieved persons to be brought in the circuit where they reside or where they accessed, received, provided or facilitated reproductive health care or gender affirming care:

(a) If a person or entity, whether or not acting under the color of law, engages in or attempts to engage in abusive litigation, or attempts to enforce any order or judgment issued in connection with any such abusive litigation, any aggrieved person may bring a civil action against that person or entity in the circuit court of the circuit in which the aggrieved person resides or in which the aggrieved person accessed, received, provided, facilitated, or attempted to access, receive, provide, or facilitate reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services. The civil action may be against that person or entity for: . . .

3. **Page 5, line 15:** insert new subsection (d) to read as follows:

(d) Notwithstanding any provision of this section, the requirements set forth herein shall not apply to prohibit standard health care actions or activities of a health payor regarding insurance coverage status, fraud, waste, or the lawful activities of a health payor to enforce its rights under a contract with a person or entity.

4. **Page 7, line 11:** delete reference to "standard of care" in the definition of "gender affirming care":

"Gender-affirming health care services" means a service or product ~~with the standard of care, to~~ that supports and affirms an individual's actual gender identity . . .



ALA MOANA – KAKA‘AKO NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 11

NEIGHBORHOOD COMMISSION • 925 DILLINGHAM BOULEVARD SUITE 160 • HONOLULU, HAWAII, 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 • FAX (808) 768-3711 • WEBSITE: <https://www.honolulu.gov/nconb11>

Tuesday, April 5, 2026

TO: the Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)

Hearing: Monday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.

FROM: The Ala Moana-Kaka‘ako Neighborhood Board No. 11

RE: Testimony IN SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice-Chair McKelvey, Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committees -

The Ala Moana-Kaka‘ako Neighborhood Board No.11 **strongly supports HB1875 HD2 SD1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

HB1875 HD2 SD1 helps to build upon Hawai‘i’s existing protections for individuals and providers who seek or provide lawful reproductive and gender-affirming healthcare. At a time when other states seek to go in the opposite direction and restrict the healthcare rights of their residents, our state needs to protect such rights from those who seek to restrict it from outside our state.

Health care decisions in Hawai‘i should be guided by our laws, our values, and the judgment of our licensed medical professionals, and not by out-of-state political agendas or enforcement efforts. HB1875 HD2 SD1 maintains that Hawai‘i will not allow external actors to dictate or interfere with lawful care provided here.

Out-of-state overreach is no longer hypothetical. Other jurisdictions are increasingly using subpoenas, civil actions, and similar tools to extend their laws beyond their borders, creating uncertainty for providers, limiting access to lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care, and eroding trust among patients and families. HB1875 HD2 SD1 is a necessary response that safeguards access to care and reinforces Hawai‘i’s authority to regulate its own medical practices.

We respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 HD2 SD1.

Dale VanderBrink

2nd Vice Chair, Ala Moana-Kaka‘ako Neighborhood Board No.11



TMH, 501(c)(4)
April 3, 2026

Re: Support for HB 1875

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

Lemkin Institute for Genocide Prevention & Human Security, founded by a holocaust survivor who coined the term 'genocide', just issued their THIRD red flag warning for this administration's anti-trans policies. Last year, 2025, was the sixth consecutive record breaking year for the number of anti-trans bills considered across the country. Hawaii's statehouse is not free from blame here, with HB257 being the most prominent. Shame.

Per Stanford Medicine, 27,715 transgender individuals were surveyed in 2015. Of those 27,715 people, 21,598 reported they wished to receive HRT. From the study-
"Compared with members of the control group, participants who underwent hormone treatment had lower odds of experiencing severe psychological distress during the previous month and lower odds of suicidal ideation in the previous year. Odds of severe psychological distress were reduced by 222%, 153% and 81% for those who began hormones in early adolescence, late adolescence, and adulthood, respectively. Odds of previous-year suicidal ideation were 135% lower in people who began hormones in early adolescence, 62% lower in those who began in late adolescence and 21% lower in those who began as adults, compared with the control group."
Access to gender affirming healthcare saves lives. I consider it unethical for a control group to exist when the topic was suicidality, so please take this research with a grain of salt. Kindly also note that all that minors get is a reversible puberty blocker, not cross-sex hormones.

According to the Williams Institute School of Law, there are an estimated 2.1 million transgender adults in America. Hawaii is home to about eight thousand.

I am one of those adults and the health-care you are voting on is essential for me to maintain a good quality of life. Before HRT, I was anemic, suffering from debilitating blood loss, and suffered mood swings to my self detriment. The birth control I was forced on to stop blood loss ruined a previous relationship and gave me anger flares. I am healthier, happier, and more productive with my HRT.

My mother and auntie take the same medicine I do, just in topical form for their menopause. My mother is a cisgendered woman whose testosterone prescription has significantly helped manage her anxiety. Living somewhere where HRT is difficult to acquire, she described her fear about being denied something as simple as getting *all* her hormone levels tested, let alone the prescription she needs to be happy and safe.

Medications affected by HRT bans include:

Estrogen

Can help with menopausal symptoms, osteoporosis, can increase blood flow for those with heart disease, and can help with prostate cancer (something my father-in-law just went through surgery for).

Spirolactone

This is a diuretic and can help with heart conditions including high blood pressure. Helps with liver and kidney problems. Can be used to help with acne, cis women struggling with hair loss, and suppresses testosterone levels.

Progesterone

This can help with menopause, irregular menstrual cycles, infertility, or even uterine bleeding.

Testosterone

Can address primary or secondary testicular failure whether it be from chemotherapy, trauma, or genetic. It helps older men suffering from ED. If I have to hear about one more ED medication on the public radio as the administration paints me out to be some monster I'm not, I may lose my marbles at the sheer hypocrisy of it all. Testosterone can improve energy and mood levels in those with chronic illness. It has helped my energy and mood levels.

Hormone Replacement Therapy is just medicine, best left between a doctor and their patient, not the government. If I don't have a right to my own body, do I have the right to anything at all?

Last year, we saw records of queer history stripped from websites and books pulled from shelves. How *vile* it is to have our history burned and then have the opposition claim we've never existed. We saw a similar measure to this one fail last session. How many genocide red flags warnings will be ignored? How many more lives need to be lost to Federal bullying? I am not a complacent sacrificial lamb. I feel like a canary in a coal mine because I've been seeing the signs for years. This is my life that I deserve to live and keep. I want to live. You have the lives of eight thousand individuals in your hands. When will enough be enough? Is my life enough?

It is for these reasons that I urge you to vote in support of HB 1875. Thank you for your time and for the opportunity to testify.

Release the full, unredacted files.

Sincerely,

Robin Nelson
Veteran – US Army

TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI PARSONS ON BEHALF OF ESSENTIAL ACCESS HEALTH IN SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2 SD1

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB1875 HD2 SD1. 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 the potential for out-of-state legal actions 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 added uncertainty associated with legal exposure further strains an already burdened workforce

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

Ensuring access to medically appropriate gender-affirming care remains an important component of a comprehensive health care system. This legislation supports patient autonomy and helps ensure that individuals can access care consistent with established medical standards.

We respectfully urge this Committee to **pass HB1875 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo,

Essential Access Health



April 6, 2026

Senate's Committee on Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:15 AM

RE: **Strong Support for House Bill 1875 HD 2 SD 1**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 Senate Draft 1**.

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

As an organization representing 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.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is proud to join the other advocates and support the amendments that have been requested by them.

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 SD 1 with requested amendments** and urges the Committee to pass this critical measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

In Solidarity,

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



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

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

April 6, 2026

Senate’s Committee on Judiciary
Hawai‘i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, at 10:15 AM

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1875 HD 2 SD 1 – Relating to RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard 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 Senate Draft 1**.

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

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

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

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

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

For these reasons, HOKU PAC **strongly urges passage of House Bill 1875 HD 2 SD 1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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

Hawaii Women's Coalition

April 5, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1875 HD2 SD1** with **COMMENTS**, Relating to Health Care

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1875 HD2 SD1** with **COMMENTS**, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016, 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 Committee for hearing this important bill. The Women's Coalition **supports HB1875 HD2 SD1**, 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 SD1 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.

The Coalition supports Planned Parenthood's suggested amendments and respectfully recommends that the Committee **pass HB1875 HD2 SD1 with amendments**, advancing health equity, patient privacy, and provider protections. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



April 6, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2 SD1 with COMMENTS, Relating to Health Care**

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1875 HD2 SD1 with COMMENTS, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016, State Capitol

On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important bill. I would like to express our **strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1** as it directly advances the Commission's mission to promote equality, health, and safety for women and girls in Hawaii. HB1875 HD2 SD1 **enables vital protections for those seeking and providing reproductive and gender-affirming health care**, areas that are central to bodily autonomy and the well-being of women and girls across the state.

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

The bill's provisions **protect local providers of lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care from out of state interference**. By clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information and shielding providers from adverse actions solely for delivering lawful care, **HB1875 HD2 SD1 aligns with best practices recommended by national health and human rights organizations**, and is **important for maintaining patient privacy, safety, and trust**. These safeguards help to ensure a stable provider workforce continues to offer essential, evidence-based care.

The Commission supports Planned Parenthood's suggested amendments and respectfully recommends that the Committee **pass HB1875 HD2 SD1 with amendments**, advancing health equity, patient privacy, and provider protections. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



Submitted Online: April 6, 2026

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

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

POSITION: Opposition to HB 1875 SD1 Relating to Healthcare

My name is Eva Andrade, and I serve as President of Hawai‘i Family Forum, a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. We respectfully oppose HB 1875 SD1.

HB 1875 SD1 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 significantly broadens the State’s legal posture by restricting cooperation with certain out-of-state legal actions, creating new civil liabilities related to “abusive litigation,” limiting disclosure of protected health information, and prohibiting certain actions by insurers and licensing bodies.

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 SD1 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 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 and investigations, including restricting subpoenas, enforcement of judgments, and the sharing of certain information. It also prohibits state agencies from assisting in investigations related to lawful care provided in Hawai‘i.

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. There are still many unanswered questions about how this will work across state lines, especially when states have different laws and legal systems, which could result in prolonged litigation.

Third, the bill significantly expands provisions related to so-called “abusive litigation,” creating a new cause of action with broad remedies, including damages, attorney’s fees, and punitive damages. The definition of “abusive litigation” includes a wide range of legal actions connected to accessing or providing covered services. While intended to deter improper lawsuits, these provisions may discourage legitimate concerns from being raised and make it harder for people to seek fair resolution through the court system.

Fourth, the bill restricts the disclosure of protected health information in connection with investigations into reproductive or gender-affirming care, even in certain civil, criminal, or administrative contexts. It also requires written attestations and imposes penalties for false statements. While privacy protections are important, these provisions may create barriers to lawful investigations and make it more difficult for different states to work together when needed.

Fifth, the bill limits the ability of licensing boards and insurers to take adverse action against providers based on their involvement in these services and restricts recognition of certain out-of-state disciplinary actions. This raises concerns about making sure there is consistent accountability and oversight, especially when providers practice outside of Hawai‘i.

Finally, although the bill does not explicitly alter Hawai‘i’s parental consent laws, it introduces additional 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 the expanded shield provisions. This creates the potential for multi-state legal conflicts that may take considerable time to resolve. 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 urge the Committee to oppose HB 1875 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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>



April 5, 2026

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

Re: H.B. 1875 HD2 SD1, Relating to Health Care

Hearing: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 AM Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

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

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in strong support of H.B. 1875 HD2 SD1, which would extend Hawaii's shield law framework to gender-affirming health care, clarify permitted disclosure of protected health information, establish guardrails against abusive litigation, and prohibit certain adverse actions against medical professionals solely for providing lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care.

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

The passage of H.B. 1875 HD1 would align Hawaii with a growing number of jurisdictions that have enacted similar measures³ to support providers, reduce the chilling effect of interstate enforcement actions, and ensure that patients may continue to access gender-affirming care without undue interference. This bill would support continued access to care in Hawaii and

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

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

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

provide protections against out-of-state interference with these essential health care services. By reinforcing statutory safeguards for reproductive and gender-affirming care, H.B. 1875 HD2 SD1 supports a clear legal framework that respects personal autonomy and promotes equal opportunities for all.

For the above reasons, we support H.B. 1875 HD2 SD1 and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure.

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



HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

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

April 7, 2026

The Thirty-Third Legislature
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary

SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1875 HD2 SD1 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the committees:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is in strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1 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.

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

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:51:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

The Indivisible Hawaii Healthcare Team strongly supports HB1875 HD2 SD1



April 7, 2026 at 10:15 am
Conference Room 016

Senate Committee on Judiciary

To: Chair Karl Rhoads
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

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

Re: **Testimony in Support**
HB 1875 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Health Care

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

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

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

Our members concur with the amendments proposed by Planned Parenthood and would respectfully request their adoption. Thank you for hearing this important measure and for considering our support on these critical issues.



LATE

‘Apelila 7, 2026
10:15 AM

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

Via Videoconference & Conference Room 16
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Re: HB1875 HD2 SD1- RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and honorable members of the committee:

The Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club (PKHCC) strongly **supports** HB1875 HD2 SD1, which extends ACT 2 protections to gender-affirming health care and shields providers from abusive interstate litigation and insurer or carrier retaliation for providing lawful reproductive or gender-affirming services.

The bill affirms Hawai‘i’s commitments to privacy, bodily autonomy, equality, and personal liberty by protecting residents and clinicians from being penalized under other states’ laws. Expanding the shield law to cover gender-affirming care honors Native Hawaiian cultural traditions—such as the role of māhū—and combats persistent discrimination against transgender and gender-diverse people. Māhū, transgender, and gender non-conforming people have deep roots in traditional Hawaiian society and remain a significant but often unacknowledged part of Hawai‘i’s community today; pre-colonial Hawaiian culture revered individuals such as aikāne and māhū and assigned them important community roles. Today, however, māhū and other gender-diverse people still face systemic discrimination that contradicts Hawai‘i’s cultural history and values, so protecting dignity, privacy, and access to lawful care is both a civil-rights and cultural-preservation imperative.

Robust evidence shows gender affirmation improves family relationships, school performance, and mental health for transgender youth and reduces risks of substance use, depression, and suicide; recent data document alarmingly high rates of depression and suicide attempts among transgender and questioning youth in Hawai‘i, underscoring the measure’s urgency for community well-being. Recent federal and private-sector actions have created new access barriers: some insurers have limited or ceased coverage for hormone therapies and

surgical procedures, and patients and providers face threats of disclosure, loss of coverage, or professional discipline. The State should not allow out-of-state laws to dictate or punish medical decisions made lawfully in Hawai‘i.

HB1875’s protections against abusive interstate litigation—including blocking enforcement of out-of-state judgments and subpoenas and allowing recovery of damages and legal fees for targeted parties—are necessary to prevent legal harassment and preserve Hawai‘i’s policy choices. Gender-affirming care is recognized as medically appropriate by major professional organizations (including the AMA, AAP, and APA) and is essential to protecting the health and lives of people in Hawai‘i. The bill appropriately focuses on governance protections rather than new coverage mandates: it prevents misuse of state resources for out-of-state investigations, limits improper disclosure of protected health information, and prohibits insurers and carriers from penalizing providers solely for offering lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care.

For constitutional, cultural, public-health, and administrative reasons, PKHCC urges the Committee to pass HB1875 HD2 SD1.

Founded in 1964, the Prince Kūhiō Hawaiian Civic Club was established to promote the education and social welfare of people of Hawaiian ancestry. Its objectives include supporting high ethical standards in business, industry, and professional fields.

Mahalo for your consideration of our position.

Me ke aloha,

Shauna Kahiapo, Esq.
Pelekikena

president@pkhcc.org



LATE

April 6, 2026

RE: HB1875

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 2:37:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:20:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1875.

This bill is about protecting health care providers so they can do their jobs without fear or interference. It is also about body autonomy and the right for people to make informed decisions about their own health care. Gender affirming care is real, evidence based, and life saving for people of all ages. These decisions are not made lightly, they are grounded in medical expertise, science, and careful guidance from providers and families.

I appreciate you taking the time to base your decisions on medical facts and science, rather than misinformation or fear. Protecting providers means protecting access to care, and ultimately protecting the health and well being of our communities.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

With Aloha,

Celine

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:21:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Christie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Amanda Christie

In SUPPORT of HB1875

The Senate Judiciary Committee

Senator Karl Rhoads

Dear Chair Rhoads and members of the Senate Judiciary Committee,

My name is Dr. Amanda Christie, and today I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875.

As an educator and a member of this community, I believe every teen deserves access to gender-affirming care without fear of political interference. This bill specifically protects trans and non-binary youth in a vital way. As a college and high-school instructor for more than fifteen years, I have observed first-hand the high mental cost to trans and non-binary teens who are not able to access gender-affirming care in young adulthood – often due to family and social factors. Multiple studies bear out the fact that gender-affirming care is vital to supporting young adults, as a Washington University Study found that transgender/non-binary youth (ages 13–20) who received gender-affirming hormones or blockers had 60% lower odds of depression and 73% lower odds of self-harm or suicidal thoughts ([link](#)). Additionally, a Stanford Medicine study concluded that starting gender-affirming hormone therapy as a teen leads to better mental health, with 135% lower odds of suicidal ideation in the past year compared to those who started later in adulthood ([link](#)). Finally, an NIH study indicated that access to gender-affirming care is a crucial factor in the well-being of young people facing high rates of mental health disparities ([link](#)).

Our trans and non-binary youth deserve a safe and joy-filled future. Thus, I strongly support HB1875. Shield laws help to ensure those providing necessary health care – including health care for trans and non-binary patients – can continue to do so without political interference. This legislation would block cooperation with out-of-state requests, protect medical records, and prevent license loss for those providing essential care. Currently, about half the states have already enacted some form of these protections. Hawai'i ought to do the same and send a clear

message that it will not accept a future where valuable, and in many cases life-saving, health care is criminalized and unavailable.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Best,

Amanda Christie

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:31:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1875. This bill will help save lives. Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Mike Golojuch, Sr

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:36:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Hawaii's Transgender Shield Bill

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for the transgender shield bill currently under consideration. This legislation represents a critical step forward in protecting the rights, safety, and dignity of transgender individuals and their families in Hawaii.

Why This Bill Matters

Shield laws protect transgender people and their healthcare providers from out-of-state legal actions that criminalize gender-affirming care. As other states pass laws restricting access to medically necessary healthcare, Hawaii has an opportunity to affirm its commitment to protecting vulnerable communities and respecting the doctor-patient relationship.

Key Reasons to Support This Bill

Medical Necessity: Gender-affirming care is recognized as medically necessary by every major medical organization, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Psychological Association. This care saves lives and dramatically improves mental health outcomes.

Protecting Families: Families should not live in fear of prosecution for seeking appropriate medical care for their loved ones. This bill ensures that Hawaii remains a safe haven where families can make healthcare decisions without interference from other states.

Healthcare Provider Protection: Doctors and healthcare providers should be able to practice medicine according to established medical standards without fear of legal retaliation from other jurisdictions.

Hawaii's Values: Hawaii has a proud history of protecting civil rights and embracing diversity. This bill aligns with our state's values of aloha, compassion, and respect for all people.

The Human Impact

Behind this legislation are real people—young people discovering who they are, parents supporting their children, and healthcare providers committed to their patients' wellbeing. Gender-affirming care is not controversial within the medical community; it is evidence-based treatment that improves and saves lives.

Conclusion

I urge you to support this transgender shield bill and stand with transgender individuals, their families, and their healthcare providers. Hawaii can lead the way in protecting human rights and ensuring that all people have access to the healthcare they need.

Thank you for your consideration and your service to our state.

Respectfully submitted,

Maddalynn Sesepasara, District 31

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:08:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas Pintor

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:51:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB1875.

This bill is essential to protecting the health care work force here in Hawai'i. As a state, Hawai'i has a right to exercise state sovereignty, which means protecting our health care providers from retaliatory, abusive litigation other states may want to bring to our health care workforce. Hawai'i is not governed by the laws of other states and, as such, should not be subject to the laws they inflict on their respective constituencies. We have seen a strong, litigious response from states pushing ideological agendas that have killed some patients and put countless others at risk. As other states redefine who deserves to live and die in their jurisdictions, we must not allow our providers to fall victim to these inhumane laws.

Thankfully, Hawai'i does not have the same belligerent laws on the books as others. This has allowed us to both promote the best possible patient care outcomes and has reinforced a commitment to our health care workforce. Passing this bill will ensure that our providers can confidently offer the life-saving care their patients deserve. When providers are criminalized for offering basic care, it profoundly impacts provider retention and patient outcomes.

Gender-affirming care has lately come under fire from states and ideologues who have vilified providers, trans people, and their allies. However, the data shows us how effective, safe, and necessary this care is, and the loudest voices are often not the people who need this care the most because they've been shamed in silence.

I implore you to make your decision based on evidence and a desire to protect patients and health care providers. **I strongly urge you to vote YES on HB1875.**

Mahalo Piha,

Kekoa Kealoha

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:37:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonya Boone	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 6:46:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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](#)). Texas has also issued civil investigative demands seeking records from out-of-state hospitals (including Seattle Children's Hospital) to identify if they provided gender-affirming care to Texas minors, asserting that Texas Law SB14 applies to residents even when they travel.

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.

Moreover, the most particularly pernicious out-of-state statutes actually **target adults. In Alabama and Nebraska, 19-year-olds and 18-year-olds are banned from receiving gender affirming care. These are legal adults, NOT minors. If students from those states come to Hawai'i for college (and intend to return to their home states afterwards, thus retaining their citizenship there) and seek those forms of care, Hawai'i's practitioners could be subject to their investigative probes.** For example, Alabama makes it a felony to provide puberty blockers or hormone therapy to trans youth under 19, punishable by up to 10 years in prison. If Alabama follows Texas and Florida and decides to pursue out-of-state investigations or litigation, very ugly and complex legal battles may arise. One way to assist local providers from being distracted from their important work is to pass this shield law.

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

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

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

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

Ultimately, this bill is about privacy, sovereignty, and safety. It is about protecting local rule. 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. Hawai'i should not be subjected to the whims of other state legislatures or the unforeseeable acts of the federal executive branch on this issue. 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:02:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight T. Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident, registered voter, and member of IndivisibleHawaii. I respectfully and strongly urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protects families and medical providers who are 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.

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:09:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zahava Zaidoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I stand in strong support of this measure.

As a queer person myself with transgender loved ones, AND as a therapist, trainer, and advocate, I cannot fully express the importance of passing this bill.

Gender non conforming folks, especially youth, are at a heightened risk for suicide. Especially during the climate today in the United States.

Your LGBTQIA+ constituents and community members need to know that you have our back.

Gender Affirming Care is life saving and we must protect any and all people who seek this medical care.

Mahalo for moving this Bill forward!

Zahava "Zee" Zaidoff

Ocean View, HI

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:15:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protects families and medical providers who are 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.

Mahalo for your consideration

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:15:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Protect medical privacy. Protect bodily autonomy.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:43:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I respectfully request that you support this bill in order to protect healthcare access for all in our state. This bill will protect the doctor-patient relationship by ensuring healthcare decisions remain private and free of outside interference.

Mahalo,

Sarah Delgadillo

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:46:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:30:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:35:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nanea marston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Nanea Marston, and I am a parent from Kaua‘i of a transgender child. I am writing in strong support of HB1875.

This bill is not abstract to me—it is personal. As a parent, my deepest responsibility is to ensure my child is safe, supported, and able to access the care they need to live a healthy and whole life. The care my child receives is guided by medical professionals and grounded in evidence—not politics.

HB1875 protects families like mine. It ensures that māhū, transgender, and gender-diverse people in Hawai‘i can continue to access medically necessary, EVIDENCE BASED care with dignity and without interference. Removing or restricting this care would not protect children—it would harm them.

Please stand with families, with doctors, and listen directly to and from the community that this actually impacts. No one should be making decisions for them. Please hear and listen to them.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nanea Marston

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:35:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

in support

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:13:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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, and life-threatening harm. Expanding gender-affirming care for folks, will be lifesaving and keep our communities healthier. Mahalo,

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:13:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Finnegan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe gender-affirming care should be protected because at its core, this is about human dignity, mental health, and the fundamental right for people to live as their authentic selves.

This issue is deeply personal to me. I have people in my life who I love dearly who would directly benefit from access to gender-affirming care. I have seen how important it is not just for their physical well-being, but for their emotional safety, their sense of belonging, and their ability to move through the world without constant internal conflict. When you care about someone, you want them to be safe. You want them to feel whole. You want them to have access to the same opportunities for health and happiness that everyone deserves.

Gender-affirming care is not cosmetic or optional in the way some try to frame it. For many, it is evidence-based, medically necessary care that reduces depression, anxiety, and suicide risk. It gives people a chance not just to survive, but to truly live. And I believe everyone deserves that chance.

We talk often about protecting mental health, about preventing suicide, about creating a world where people feel seen and supported. Protecting gender-affirming care is one of the ways we put those words into action. It is a way of saying: your life matters, your identity matters, and you deserve care that reflects who you are.

To me, this is also about basic human rights. Health care should not be politicized when it comes to whether someone gets to feel safe in their own body. The ability to access appropriate medical and psychological care should not depend on where someone lives or whether others understand their experience. Compassion should not be conditional.

I also believe protecting this care reflects the kind of society we want to be: one rooted in empathy, science, and respect for human complexity. A society that listens to medical professionals. A society that protects vulnerable people. A society that understands that belonging is not something we should have to earn.

Most of all, I support protecting gender-affirming care because love has taught me to. When someone you care about trusts you enough to share who they truly are, you realize very quickly that this is not abstract. This is not theoretical. This is about real people, real families, and real lives.

And if we have the ability to reduce suffering, to support mental health, and to help people live with greater peace and authenticity, I believe we have a responsibility to do so. That is not just good policy. That is humanity.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:25:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee E McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1875. Aloha means protecting our most vulnerable.

Than you,

AM

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:09:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

member, Indivisible

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:03:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please support our ohana with this very important bill

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

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

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

Mahalo for your consideration,
- Breanna Zoey (she/they)

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 7:37:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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, PsyD

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:06:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawai'i has long been a model for diversity, respect for others, and keeping the government out of personal health decisions. The State needs to continue this history.

Please support the passage of this Bill.

M. Elaine Lee

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:22:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am a healthcare provider who works with transgender patients. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support. As a retired physician, I know this is already a very difficult situation for many. I feel my role is to DO NO HARM. I listen and provide care to the best of my abilities. My place is NOT TO JUDGE.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:38:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristie Matsumoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristie Matsumoto and I am writing to ask that you vote YES for HB1875HD2 SD1. 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. Voting YES for this bill 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 SD1.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:38:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:52:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Sua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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.

Tiare Sua

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:02:09 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee,

As a public health professional and concerned citizen, I write in strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1. 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 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.

Please pass HB1875 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:12:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

In addition to being a citizen, voter, and Oahu resident, I am an ordained United Methodist minister. I am deeply concerned about national legislation wrongfully using Christianity to deny evidence-based healthcare to local people. From my personal experience of close friends receiving this treatment, I know that gender affirming care is necessary and life saving.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:20:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A shield law for gender-affirming care is essential to protect patients, families, and medical providers from harassment, legal threats, or prosecution for seeking or providing medically recognized treatments. This law ensures that individuals can access necessary care safely and privately, supporting their health, well-being, and civil rights without fear of retaliation or interference.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:32:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a parent and resident of Hawai‘i, I believe our state laws should reflect current best practices grounded in peer-reviewed medical research. I support HB 1875 because it aligns with evidence-based standards of care and prioritizes the health and well-being of children. Policies affecting children should be informed by established medical expertise and evolving scientific consensus, and this bill reflects that commitment.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:54:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Brooks-Jeffiers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for taking the time to read my testimony.

My name is Zoe and I strongly support HB 1875. This bill absolutely crucial to ensure that māhū, transgender, and gender-diverse people can continue to access medically necessary, evidence-based care without political interference. In Hawai‘i people take care of one another. Historically, māhū have been revered as healers, teachers, and keepers of knowledge. It is our duty as a community to protect our neighbors that bring abundance of love, knowledge and wisdom to our communities. Everyone deserves healthcare. Everyone deserves to feel protected. Medical care is not something that should be earned or be easily stripped from someone. It is an inherent right. I strongly urge you to support this bill and vote yes for your daughters, your sons, your nieces, your nephews, your sisters, your brothers, your cousins, your neighbors. Vote yes to save lives and allow the people of Hawai‘i to continue to be safe, healthy, and loved.

I am looking forward to seeing you uplift the people of Hawai‘i and protect the rights of so many of our neighbors, family, and friends. Mahalo nui loa for your time and for supporting this crucial bill.

-Zoe

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:03:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:05:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing you in strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1.

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,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:56:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skyler Riela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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.

Skyler Riela

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 11:45:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha means protecting our most vulnerable! I strongly support HB1875.

Mahalo,

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 12:03:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1875 HD2 SD1.

Hawai‘i State Legislature Senate Committees on Judiciary
Testimony in Support of HB 1875, HD2 SD1
April 7, 2026

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I write in strong support of HB 1875 HD2 SD1 which protects access to gender-affirming and reproductive health care services, and I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

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

It is especially important that HB 1875 HD2 SD1 establishes protections against abusive litigation. Across the country, politically motivated lawsuits have been used to intimidate providers, patients, and even family members, regardless of the medical appropriateness of care. Such litigation drives providers out of practice, discourages hospitals from offering lawful services, and creates a chilling effect that places patients at real risk. By shielding lawful care from bad-faith legal actions, this bill preserves access, supports medical professionals, and upholds the integrity of Hawai‘i’s health care system.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony. I respectfully ask the Committee to support and advance this bill.

Sincerely,

Joe Wilson

North Shore O‘ahu
Senate District 23
House District 47

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 12:53:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Chan, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support for HB1875 SD1 (with amendments)

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

I am an OBGYN in Hawai'i, specializing in Complex Family Planning, and I support HB1875 SD1, including the amendments proposed by Planned Parenthood. This measure strengthens protections for patients and providers by ensuring continued access to lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care services, while safeguarding providers from abusive litigation and inappropriate penalties. The proposed amendments appropriately clarify the bill's intent, preserve standard health care operations, and expand protections to better reflect Hawai'i's diverse patient population and care settings. I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Elaine Chan, MD

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1875 HD2 SD1, 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,

Michael Paul

HB-1875-SD-1

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

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 4:40:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Rockett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protects families and medical providers who are 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 5:12:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhodes, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee,

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 SD1 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:58:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist in Hawai‘i and I support HB1875 SD1, including the amendments proposed by Planned Parenthood. This measure strengthens protections for patients and providers by ensuring continued access to lawful reproductive and gender-affirming health care services, while safeguarding providers from abusive litigation and inappropriate penalties. The proposed amendments appropriately clarify the bill’s intent, preserve standard health care operations, and expand protections to better reflect Hawai‘i’s diverse patient population and care settings. I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sara C Harris, MD

Aloha to The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair; The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair; and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony In Support of HB 1875

Date: April 7, 2026

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

My name is Gem Kyla Galapon and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Mānoa, residing in Honolulu. My views on this topic are of my own and are not representative of the school I am attending. I am testifying in favor of HB1875, as a **strong advocate** for the right to privacy and liberty related to gender affirming care for gender non-conforming individuals and its relevance to their behavioral mental health. Considering the overwhelming national shift in the approaches to gender affirming care, these new policies directly impact the mental health of the LGBTQ+ community, so there is a vital need for state legislatures to combat these federal actions against a marginalized population.

According to UCLA's Williams Institute School of Law, Hawai'i is the highest per-capita population of transgender people in the country, with 3.6% of Hawai'i youth and 0.7% of Hawai'i adults identifying as transgender, highlighting a need for the protection of gender-affirming care within the State. Furthermore, Act 39, or the Gender Affirming Treatment Act, enacted in 2022, allowed for the protection of transgender individuals from facing discrimination from health insurance providers, as these individuals are at increased risk of committing suicide and developing symptoms of depression without this medically necessary healthcare. This bill would build on this act by ensuring strict regulations regarding sensitive Protected Health Information. This is a formal recognition from the State to affirm the individual's freedom to make health care decisions regarding their body and prevent litigation from out-of-state law enforcement.

Therefore, for these reasons, I believe it is incredibly critical for the state to solidify shield laws such as this bill, to ensure protection of LGBTQ+ affirming providers and families from federal and out-of-state interference. Additionally, this bill would safeguard Hawaii as a sanctuary state for gender-affirming interventions that are considered lawful within the State. Enacting this bill reinforces the State's duty to protect a vulnerable population from facing barriers to an essential health service.

Thank you for your consideration,

Gem Kyla Galapon

Social Work Student

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:55:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

To the Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of this legislation which seeks to protect our gender minority neighbors and ensure they can receive the healthcare they seek. Bodily autonomy is a bedrock civil right, and the state should do everything in its power to protect it at all costs. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball

Waiialae-Kahala

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:22:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karolynn Cevidanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Cevi. I am a veteran, a University of Hawai'i at Mānoa alum, and an advocate for Planned Parenthood. I am here in strong support of HB1875.

Access to healthcare is not just a policy issue for me, it is deeply personal. I have relied on Planned Parenthood since my late teens, at a time when I was navigating life on my own without the knowledge or financial means to access care elsewhere. They provided me with essential, compassionate, and judgment-free healthcare when I needed it most.

Even as a veteran with access to military healthcare, I found that Planned Parenthood was able to provide care that I could not receive through those systems. That experience reinforced for me how critical it is to protect and expand access to trusted providers in our communities.

I also want to clarify a common misconception. Gender-affirming care is often framed as something that only impacts transgender individuals, but that is not the full picture. Many treatments that fall under this category are also used by cisgender people every day. For example, I personally experienced early symptoms of perimenopause and required hormonal treatment, care that is not all that different from what is prescribed in other gender-affirming contexts. These are standard, medically necessary treatments that support people's health, well-being, and quality of life.

HB1875 is about ensuring that individuals can access necessary healthcare safely, privately, and without political interference. Medical decisions should remain between a patient and their provider. This is especially important for communities that have historically faced barriers to care, including young people, low-income individuals, and members of the LGBTQ+ community.

As someone who is part of that community, I feel a responsibility to speak up. Protecting access to care is about protecting dignity, autonomy, and basic human rights for all people.

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:27:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madison Mizon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- Gender-affirming care remains legal in Hawai‘i. However, some mainland states are attempting to reach beyond their borders to target providers, patients, and even family members and friends who support someone seeking care.
- That’s not right. Decisions about health care in Hawai‘i should be made in Hawai‘i. Protect our sovereignty.

Thank you for your attention.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:35:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 1:41:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Lisa Pollak, and I am a resident of Kaua‘i and the proud parent of a transgender young adult who was born and raised here in Hawai‘i. I am writing in strong support of HB 1875.

Raising my child in Hawai‘i has always meant teaching them the values of aloha, respect, and belonging. These islands shaped who they are today. As they’ve grown into adulthood, my hope has remained the same—that they can live safely, authentically, and with dignity in the place they call home. Access to gender-affirming healthcare continues to be an essential part of their well-being.

This bill matters deeply to my family. Even as an adult, my child deserves the freedom to make personal healthcare decisions with trusted providers, without fear of interference from laws or politics outside of Hawai‘i. No family should have to worry that accessing legal, evidence-based care here could put their loved one or their doctor at risk.

HB 1875 also safeguards patient privacy, which is vital for maintaining trust between individuals and their healthcare providers. That trust is especially important for transgender people, who already face significant barriers to care.

I support this measure because I want my child—and all transgender people in Hawai‘i—to know that they belong here, that they are valued, and that their health and autonomy are protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this important legislation. I respectfully urge the committee to pass HB 1875.

Mahalo nui loa,
Lisa Pollak
Kaua‘i

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:14:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:37:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taurie Kinoshita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1875 HD2 SD1.

This bill would protect patients, providers, and those who help people access gender affirming care from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions.

Out of state investigators and the federal government have no right to prosecute people for medical care. The fact that they are doing this is incredibly disturbing and horrific. I am so proud of our state for our compassion and aloha spirit, and the fact that we are kinder, as a whole.

Please pass this crucial bill which will protect doctors and patients.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

lifelong voter and resident!

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:42:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Berry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Janice Berry, and I submit this testimony **in strong support of HB1875** as an individual who deeply cares about human rights, reproductive rights, mental health, and suicide prevention.

Access to lawful, evidence-based health care — including reproductive and gender-affirming care — is a fundamental part of personal autonomy, safety, and dignity. Policies that protect patients’ privacy and ensure that providers can offer care without fear of retaliation or abusive legal action help create a safer, more compassionate health care environment for everyone in Hawai‘i.

When individuals feel unsafe seeking care or fear that their private health information could be exposed, it can create significant emotional distress and barriers to treatment. These barriers do not only impact physical health — they also affect mental health, increasing stress, anxiety, isolation, and a sense of hopelessness for people already navigating deeply personal decisions. Ensuring safe access to care is an important part of building communities that support well-being and help prevent further harm.

HB1875 reflects Hawai‘i’s commitment to protecting human rights and ensuring that people can access care with dignity and without fear. By strengthening protections for both patients and providers, this measure helps foster a health care system rooted in compassion, safety, and respect.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB1875**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janice Berry

Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 5:05:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1875 - shield law for gender affirming care

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 6:18:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KEALA FUNG	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Keala Fung and I support HB 1875.

As the federal government and hostile states increase attacks on gender affirming care, this bill would protect patients, providers, and those who help people access gender affirming care from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions. Please support HB1875

Mahalo,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 8:21:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Bagwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is home to the highest proportion of trans and gender non-conforming people in the United States, and I am among that population. While so much of the rest of the country is waging a war against trans and GNC people, Hawai'i has the opportunity to show that we are a welcoming, tolerant society that embodies the aloha spirit rather than embracing hatred.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 9:40:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku Stormcrow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

I am writing today in **strong support of HB 1875** which would expand protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, and expand protections against abusive litigation. It would also 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 health care services.

This bill will save lives. Full stop.

With the degradation of 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 for the opportunity to testify,

Kaleiheana Stormcrow

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 10:14:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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. All humans deserve respect and care.

Thank you, Jane Aquino, Indivisible

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:45:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 2:10:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inam Rahman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: HB 1875 HD2 SD1 — RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Position: Support with Amendments

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

My name is Dr Inam Rahman, MD, a physician and resident of West O‘ahu. I respectfully offer support with amendments for HB 1875 HD2 SD1.

This measure takes an important step in protecting access to legally provided health care in Hawai‘i by shielding patients and providers from out-of-state legal actions. At a time when healthcare delivery is increasingly influenced by differing laws across states, ensuring that physicians can provide care consistent with Hawai‘i law—without fear of external penalties—is essential for maintaining a stable and accessible healthcare system.

At the same time, given the complexity and sensitivity of the services addressed in this bill, it is equally important that we strengthen safeguards to ensure patient safety, transparency, and public trust.

Suggested Amendments

1. Clarify Standards of Care

Explicitly require that all protected services adhere to widely accepted, evidence-based clinical guidelines and recognized professional standards. This reinforces that protections apply to responsible, medically appropriate care.

2. Strengthen Informed Consent Protections

Ensure robust informed consent processes, particularly for minors, including:

- Age-appropriate counseling
- Documentation of risks, benefits, and alternatives
- Encouragement of family involvement when appropriate and safe

3. Preserve Reasonable Oversight

Clarify that the bill does not limit the authority of Hawai‘i licensing boards to investigate or discipline providers for negligence, misconduct, or deviation from accepted standards of care.

4. Data Transparency and Outcomes Monitoring

Consider requiring de-identified data collection to monitor outcomes, access, and safety. This will support evidence-based policymaking and ongoing public confidence.

5. Balanced Approach to Liability Protections

Ensure that protections against “abusive litigation” do not unintentionally create blanket immunity, and that legitimate malpractice claims within Hawai‘i remain fully actionable.

6. Clarify Scope Regarding Minors and Guardianship

Provide clearer statutory language regarding parental/guardian involvement, consistent with existing Hawai‘i law, to reduce ambiguity and potential conflict.

Conclusion

HB 1875 HD2 SD1 addresses a real and evolving challenge in modern healthcare—how to protect patients and providers within Hawai‘i’s legal framework while navigating interstate differences.

With targeted amendments to strengthen safeguards, this bill can achieve a balanced approach that:

- Protects access to care
- Supports physicians
- Ensures accountability and patient safety
- Maintains public trust

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support with amendments.

Warm regards,

Dr Inam Rahman, MD

West O‘ahu Resident

Physician & Community Advocate

Past President Hawaii Medical Association

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 2:23:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Cain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators,

Please vote for HB1875 HD2 SD!. Health care decisions need to be left to the patients and medical personnel, not subject to political biases.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain, Honolulu

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

HEARING:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15 am
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HB 1875, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

My name is Christine Andrews, and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of HB 1875, HD2, SD1**, 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 faith community and I was taught about how important support for transgender people is and how at risk they are of severe mental health issues related to lack of acceptance. Over the course of the past five years, I have come to have several transgender youth within my extended family. I have learned through these experiences that transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families do better in school, feel safer in their communities, establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, and are better equipped to plan for their future.

Tragically, denying them this support increases their likelihood of dropping out of school, increases their risk for substance use and suicide, and worsens symptoms of depression and anxiety. According to the 2024 Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minorities Health Summary¹,

- Less than half (45%) of transgender youth have an adult outside of school or teacher they can talk to.
- More than 1 in 3 transgender or unsure gender youth have attempted suicide in the past year.
- Cisgender youth are 3 times more likely than transgender or unsure gender youth to feel that they will complete a post-high school program.

I have witnessed how positive support, acceptance, and access to gender affirming care has improved the quality of life, confidence, and overall wellbeing of my family members who identify as transgender. As a family member, community member, and ally, I request that you support this vulnerable population by protecting their access to what can be life-saving healthcare by voting in **support of HB 1875, HD2**.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

¹ 2024 Hawai'i Sexual and Gender Minorities Health Summary
<https://health.hawaii.gov/harmreduction/files/2024/03/Presentation-SGM-Youth-in-HI-2017-2019-FINAL-VERSION-2-3-4-2024.pdf>

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:49:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

- Gender-affirming care remains legal in Hawai‘i. However, some mainland states are attempting to reach beyond their borders to target providers, patients, and even family members and friends who support someone seeking care.
- That’s not right. Decisions about health care in Hawai‘i should be made in Hawai‘i.
- HB 1875 protects local providers from losing their licenses or facing out-of-state investigations simply for doing their jobs. It also ensures patients and the people who support them can access care without fear of being targeted by hostile states.
- This bill is about keeping Hawai‘i a safe place to receive legal, essential health care — and giving patients and providers the peace of mind they deserve.

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau‘i

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 7:34:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Humphrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Licensed Clinical Psychologist, and Gender Affirming Care provider, I have witnessed first hand the immense healing experienced by those undergoing gender affirming care. There are people who want to prevent others from accessing care by punishing providers. This committee has the opportunity to protect providers like myself from frivolous lawsuits as we attempt to provide care aligned with best practices. Per the APA ethics code, we must act in the best interest of our patients. The research clearly shows that acting in the best interest of our patients includes supporting their authentic gender expression through careful, considerate decision making.

Mahalo,

Dr. Amy Humphrey

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 10:18:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Laura Schauben and I live in Kaneohe. I strongly support HB1875. I know several trans youth including one who is a family member. I also work for a youth serving organization. I have seen trans youth who are suicidal, failing school, and/or struggling with severe anxiety and depression have their lives turned around by one caring adult who accepts them for who they know they are and by gender affirming care. Gender affirming care, such as hormones, allows youth to be themselves, be safer, and thrive. Research shows acceptance and gender affirming care reduces trans youth suicide risk by 40%. People acting from ignorance or hate should not have the right to contradict science or tell parents what kind of evidence based care they can access for their children. Please protect our youth from people more obsessed with their genitals than their wellbeing. Support gender affirming care!

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 10:30:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Johansen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support hb1875 in order that our families, our neighbors, and all citizens can get the needed healthcare that they all deserve.

Currently there are national effort to take this basic right away from trans people. Please protect our citizens from this attack.

Please support hb1875.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 11:06:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

This bill helps protect healthcare access in Hawai'i, supports patients, families, and providers acting within Hawai'i law, and protects our community from out-of-state political interference.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 6:23:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

As a nurse and community member I believe all people should be able to access necessary healthcare, and healthcare providers should be able to provide care, without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends and loved ones.
Please pass this bill.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:34:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

I submit this testimony in strong support of HB1875, Relating to Health Care. This critical bill expands protections for essential health care services and shields providers who offer both reproductive care and gender-affirming care from adverse legal actions. Healthcare decisions should be made by patients and their doctors, free from political interference.

By protecting the providers of these services, HB1875 ensures that my access, and the access of countless others, to medically necessary care is secure and remains available here in our state. No one should be forced to leave Hawai'i to receive health services deemed necessary by trained professionals.

As Hawai'i continues to see healthcare worker shortages, it is even more crucial to protect providers as an incentive to stay. This bill would ensure protections for those who choose to stay or relocate here and keep well-trained expertise in the islands. We need that!

Please vote Yes on HB1875 to protect our community, uphold Hawai'i's values of aloha and compassion, and ensure access to essential health care for everyone.

Thank you,

Mecca Monson-Gere

Wednesday, April 7, 2026 10:15 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Joey Badua

In SUPPORT of HB1875

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary

My name is Joey Badua, and I appreciate the opportunity to testify as this bill affects me. I am an openly trans individual and an attorney who cares for the community and future generations of Hawai'i.

I strongly support this bill because gender affirming care is vital to overall health. I appreciate the aloha from your other colleagues who introduced and seriously considered the impacts this bill has on our day-to-day lives. Having been a person who transitioned later in life because of religious and societal pressures, I can attest to the stringent protocols my medical providers adhere to in the journey of gender affirming care. Because of my care for the community as a whole, I am also a member of Parents and Friends of Lesbians and Gays (PFLAG) O'ahu, as well as national organizations that fundraise for LGBTQIA+ students like the National Filipino American Lawyers Association, the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association and Lavender Law. I have attended conferences that discuss the intersection of health in this regard to how people live their lives in an authentic manner. I have respect for the youth that I have met who already know who they are, see the hate and challenges, but still cannot see any other way of living out their childhood. Let us help them grow into their adulthood so that they can fulfill their life's purpose and benefit all of us when we are kupuna and need help in the later stages of our lives.

They say after every storm comes a rainbow, and I am a believer that you will see the future we are trying to create. Mahalo and aloha!

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:32:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

“Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

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.

Jill Guillermo-Togawa

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 1:53:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I continue to strongly support HB1875 because this is our best opportunity to ensure that patients, families, and providers in Hawai‘i are protected from out-of-state attacks and political interference.

Gender-affirming healthcare is recognized by major medical associations as evidence-based and medically necessary. Research consistently shows it improves mental health and reduces suicide risk. This is life-saving medical treatment, grounded in science, not ideology.

I have firsthand experience supporting loved ones as they navigate gender-affirming care. Even here in Hawai‘i, where this care is lawful, access already requires significant time, coordination, emotional energy, and persistence. It is not casual. It is not rushed. It is careful, deliberate, and often difficult to obtain. Protecting the providers and families involved in that process is the least we can do.

Our māhū residents are our neighbors, our family members, and our loved ones. They deserve stability in their health care, not uncertainty driven by political agendas elsewhere.

If providers here are exposed to out-of-state legal actions, insurance retaliation, or efforts to weaponize private medical information, access will shrink. In a geographically isolated state, even small disruptions in provider availability have outsized consequences.

HB1875 safeguards lawful, evidence-based care in Hawai‘i and ensures that decisions about health remain between patients and their providers, free from external political interference.

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

Mahalo,

Allison DeYenno

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 4:31:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am a primary care nurse practitioner writing in strong support of HB1875, which safeguards access to lawful health care in Hawai‘i and protects patients and providers from harmful governmental overreach. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, a healthcare provider, and a 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 lifesaving; for most, it is life-changing. "Maria" had been nearly paralyzed with anxiety and depression, but a year after beginning gender affirming hormone treatment, she felt so much better that she was able to return to work and resume a tenuous relationship with her family. After gender affirming care allowed him to be seen by others as his authentic gender, "John" finally had the confidence to finish school and start a career.

I have never had a patient thank me in tears for managing their diabetes. I have, however, sat with patients in tears of relief and gratitude—people who never believed they would be accepted by a healthcare provider or given the chance to align their bodies with who they are.

Most gender-affirming care looks like routine primary care and mental health treatment. During these appointments, I also address gout, diabetes, anxiety, depression, and other common conditions. HB1875 helps ensure I can continue to provide appropriate, guideline-focused, evidence-based, ethical care without fear that political pressure from other states will interfere with my ability to do my job or avoid criminal prosecution.

Hawai‘i already struggles to recruit and retain healthcare 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 both personally and professionally. Many of my patients and loved ones have told me they do not feel valued or protected in the State of Hawai‘i. Passing HB1875 would send a clear message that Hawai‘i stands with them and defends their right to receive lawful medical care. It is unacceptable that anyone should be denied care that addresses their specific health needs—everyone deserves access to good healthcare.

Medical decisions belong with patients, families, and trained healthcare professionals—not politicians. Criminalizing providers for delivering standard, evidence-based care is harmful to patients and destabilizing to the entire healthcare system. While providers may differ in approach, medical care should not be dictated by the federal government.

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 5:25:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nico Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Nico Martin. I am testifying in strong support of HB1875. I am a 21 year old transgender man and I have been receiving gender affirming care in the form of testosterone hormone replacement therapy for just over 6 months. I can't overstate how lifechanging HRT has been for me. I've known I was trans since I was a kid and I socially transitioned when I was 17. My transition has been difficult and unsupported by family, any gender affirming care I've gotten (haircuts, clothes, social) has been something I've had to fight for.

Things often seemed hopeless to me when I was a teenager, I thought I would be stuck like that forever. Just the knowledge that I would have access to gender affirming care as an adult carried me through my darkest moments as a beacon of light. I'm here now living the happiest I've ever been because of HRT. Knowing I would have access to it as a teenager saved me just as much as getting it did as an adult.

I'm testifying to protect ongoing access to HRT and other gender affirming care for myself and other trans adults. But more crucially I'm testifying to protect access to gender affirming care so that trans kids in Hawai'i can know that they have a future to fight for. I don't know what would've happened to me if I didn't have that beacon to look toward. I probably wouldn't be here today. Trans kids' lives are so beautiful and valuable, and they deserve every chance at joy as any cis kid. They deserve to not have to worry about whether or not they can access necessary, life saving medical treatment.

In such a terrifying time in the world, let trans people in Hawai'i breathe a sigh of relief knowing our rights are protected. Let Hawai'i stand as a beacon of hope for trans people on the mainland as a government that sees, hears, and protects their constituents.

Mahalo for your time, vote YES to HB1875

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 8:15:04 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 9:12:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am an individual and member of the community testifying in **strong support** of HB1875.

I've been lucky to have many amazing trans people in my life and I've seen firsthand how important gender-affirming care has been for them to live full lives. However, the politically-motivated attacks on access to gender-affirming care in other states has had me worried for their ability to continue to access this vital healthcare.

Transitioning is a deeply personal journey, one that politicians and politics (especially those half an ocean away) shouldn't have a say in. Please support HB1875 to allow trans people the safety and dignity to navigate their care on their own terms and to protect the care providers who are there to assist them in that journey.

Mahalo.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:07:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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 legal 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:17:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators:

Please reject the harmful practice of "gender change" treatments whcih attempt to fight against healthy body parts, by mutilating healthy organs, wasting precious resources and promoting such atrocious practices and harboring those who profit on human trauma. The Supreme Court rejected "gender affirming care" by giving an oppportunity to parents and counsellors helping young children during the confusion years of early puberty when the hormones are at their highest activity. May you have commonsense to keep reason over harmful and permanently harmful "treatments". Please listen to the many european countries who rejected such practices as harmful. Why do irreparable damage that can not ever be recovered once taken out. The "gnosticism" that my body is not important and my mind is more important (feeling, emotions, etc) is not a good indicator of right and wrong. Don't allow harm to the healthy bodies of children and adults and don't protect those who are doing regular business of harming perfectly healthy bodies. Please oppose this harmful pracrtice from being acceptable "treatment" for anyone in Hawaii or coming from outside Hawaii.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:33:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonia Blackiston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1875 which will protect patients, providers and those who help people access gender affirming care from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions. Everyone deserves access to health care, free from intimidation and harrassment.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:09:13 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

it is important for all people to have access to the medical care they require for a happy and fulfilling life

the government should be protecting the people and helping them but hurting them by taking away access to medical care

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:30:57 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1875. It is important that Hawai'i continue to provide gender affirming care and reproductive healthcare. In a time when so many states have chosen to withdraw this basic healthcare to it's citizens, Hawaii needs to stand strong and continue to support its people.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:45:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members,

As a pediatrician who believes strongly in the importance of protecting the physician patient relationship and ensuring that patients have access to appropriate, evidence-based gender-affirming and reproductive healthcare without interference from the government, I strongly support this bill. The protections against "abusive litigation" and malpractice claims are essential for pediatricians and other clinicians in Hawaii to continue providing the best care we can to patients who deserve nothing less. The bill's privacy protections will help to ensure that patients and families feel safe seeking care and that healthcare workers feel safe providing it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

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

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, 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-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:08:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1875. Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Over the past several years, many states, and most recently, the federal government, have begun targeting access to gender-affirming care. Many patients, providers, and those who help people access care are having to contend with hostile states and bad actors seeking to criminalize them, for the basic function of seeking evidence-based health care.

We are asking the legislature to pass a shield law that would protect patients who seek, professionals who provide, and people who help patients obtain gender-affirming care.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:19:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Micaela Hines, I am a community organizer and a resident of Kalihi Valley. I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

Gender Affirming Care is already a legal, medically backed and life saving area of medical healthcare provided in the state of Hawai'i. This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai'i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and preserve the already fragile medical industrial complex within our state. Medical decisions should remain between patients and their providers, consistent with Hawai'i law and established standards of care.

Mahalo for your consideration. Please support this bill.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:32:42 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Winston Reeves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully urge you to support HB1875.

Mahalo,

Winston Reeves

Kahului, HI

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:39:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:55:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna-Kaelle Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric resident physician, I strongly support HB1875 HD1SD1, which provides essential protections to healthcare workers providing lawful and evidence-based reproductive and gender-affirming care. Specifically, the protections against "abusive litigation" and ideologically-motivated adverse actions by malpractice insurers and/or health carriers, are essential for pediatricians in Hawai'i to continue providing appropriate care to young people in our community. Additionally, in today's environment, the enhanced privacy protections that this bill provides are much needed. I strongly urge you to vote in favor of this bill.

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:55:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, I strongly support this measure

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:58:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Rhoads 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 SD1.

This bill greatly expands Hawaii's 2023 shield law far beyond its original intent. It does not just protect access to care; it creates a broad, complicated legal framework around abortion and gender-affirming services that affects lawsuits, investigations, and professional oversight, even across state lines. As someone trained to think about clear rules, accountability, and chain of command, I am deeply concerned by how HB-1875 HD2 SD1 blurs these lines.

HB-1875 HD2 SD1 creates new legal penalties for what it calls "abusive litigation," including damages and attorney's fees. On paper, this sounds like a way to stop harmful lawsuits, but in reality it can intimidate ordinary citizens, families, and even other professionals from raising legitimate concerns. People may hesitate to seek legal resolution, even in situations where serious questions exist, because they fear being punished for simply going to court.

The bill also limits cooperation with other states. In the military, we understand the importance of coordination and mutual support. HB-1875 HD2 SD1 instead pushes Hawai'i into the middle of growing legal conflicts between states by restricting when our courts and agencies can assist out-of-state investigations or legal actions. When families and providers are involved in more than one state, this will make it harder, not easier, to resolve cases fairly and efficiently.

Another major concern is how HB-1875 HD2 SD1 restricts access to protected health information in investigations. It adds extra layers of attestations and conditions before information can be shared. While privacy matters, this can slow or block legitimate investigations and make it harder for agencies to respond quickly when real problems arise. Veterans know that timely and accurate information saves lives and prevents harm; tying investigators' hands is not wise policy.

The bill also reduces oversight of medical providers by limiting when licensing boards and insurers can act based on certain services. Accountability and standards are crucial in any

high-risk profession, especially medicine. Weakening oversight, especially across state lines, creates more risk that serious issues or negligence will go unchecked.

HB-1875 HD2 SD1 deliberately expands legal conflicts between states by preventing enforcement of certain out-of-state laws and judgments related to these services. As more states adopt very different policies, families, patients, and providers could end up trapped in long, confusing legal battles. As a veteran, I have seen how prolonged conflicts, of any kind, hurt ordinary people the most.

Finally, this bill raises serious concerns for families and parents. Even if it does not directly rewrite parental consent statutes, it complicates situations where parents disagree about care, or where a family is split between different states. In sensitive cases involving minors, access to information and legal clarity is essential. Parents must be able to understand what is happening with their children and to seek help if something goes wrong. HB-1875 HD2 SD1 moves us in the opposite direction.

Those of us who have served understand duty, chain of command, and accountability. This bill undermines all three: it weakens oversight, discourages legitimate legal action, and entangles Hawai'i in unnecessary interstate conflicts.

For the protection of families, parents, children, and the integrity of our legal system, I respectfully but firmly urge you to vote NO on HB-1875 HD2 SD1.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis
U.S. Navy (Retired)

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:06:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Hull	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Distinguished Representatives and Senators-

My name is Noah Hull. I am a local pianist and Volunteer with Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates.

I am writing in support of HB1875 relating to Health Care. The bill is meant to enforce a shield law for gender affirming care.

Healthcare is an essential part of Hawaii 's ecosystem- it is a mandated part of State of Hawaii Law. Protection of this is also mandated within Hawaii 's laws and statutes. Given the changing landscape of Healthcare, and perception of Healthcare, it is vital to ensure access is also protected.

HB1875 would protect providers and patients from being investigated by out of state entities for providing care. Hawaii is considered an island for more than one reason - it is a stronghold for access to affirming care. Many states are trying to curtail rights of those that seek out of state care not legal within their jurisdiction. This is meant to target any citizen who seeks care out of state.

This practice is draconic on a number of levels. What it does is make the provider and patient, who are not within that investigators jurisdiction, targets for attacks. For example, if a patient in Idaho were to receive care in Hawaii, they, and the provider would be at risk of violation of a

law that is for a completely different state, and not one that the provider and patient are currently in.

Additionally, allowing these types of attacks on healthcare will pave the way for other types of attacks. It represents philosophically that people are bound to the rights of the states they are citizens of, instead of the one where they may be residing. It would essentially turn other states into enforcers of other state's laws. As the United States is a Republic, which has different governing entities, it is an infringement on state sovereignty to essentially attack a provider and patient in a different states.

By passing this shield law, it also sends a clear legal message to other states thinking of doing similar acts. It can allow Hawaii to be the leader and trailblazer on gender affirming care.

Mahalo Nui

Loa,

Noah Hull

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:16:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE HB1875 HD2 SD1

MAJOR Issue: No Protection of Minors!!! Many states truly care about minors, & have enacted laws for their protection, especially from the harmful procedures of abortion & sex-change, which can scar & damage them for life!!! Minors are very vulnerable to manipulation & coercion--this measure offers No Safeguards to protect them!!!

Please change the age that allows these procedures to at least 18 years or older!

Vote NO on this measure & Amend it to explicitly PROTECT MINORS!!!

Mahalo

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:16:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie J.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and member of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is in opposition to HB1875, HD2, SD1. Due to its complexity and broad effects, this measure merits further discussion. For example, this measure expands Hawaii's shield law beyond its original scope and across state lines, limiting cooperation with other states in resolving issues clearly and effectively. This measure also interferes with access to information required for legitimate investigations and raises concerns for families, parents, and professional providers. Please defer this measure. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:30:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Schultz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -

HB1875 SD1 significantly expands Hawai'i's existing shield law by creating new legal protections, limiting cooperation with other states, and introducing new civil liabilities. While protecting access to care is important, this bill raises concerns about legal complexity, reduced accountability, and unintended consequences for families and the broader community.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:36:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

Please accept my testimony in strong support for HB1875 relating to health care. Gender affirming care is safe, medically necessary, life-saving care that has been under attack, not out of legitimate concern, but to feed dangerous political narratives. Expanding patient-provider protections is crucial to getting our critical care to some of the most vulnerable in our communities.

I implore you to pass this measure.

Respectfully,

Lynn Robinson-Onderko, Ewa Beach

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:36:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Agnes Tauyan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB1961 and HB1875. These bills raise serious concerns about freedom, parental rights, and unintended legal consequences for individuals in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration.

Thank you,

Agnes Tauyan

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:46:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reni Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair, vice chair and committee members -

I am a double board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist who has been serving the communities of Hawai'i for over 20 years, and I strongly support HB 1875 with amendments (provided by Planned Parenthood).

I provide evidence-based medical care, and that includes reproductive care and gender affirming care. Discussions and decisions around the medical care I provide are between me and my patient (and maybe whoever else in their family they want to involve). That patient-physician relationship is sacred and foundational.

While we are fortunate in Hawai'i to have lawmakers who recognize and value that covenant, several states have chosen to violate the patient-physician relationship and mandate that providers breach the obligation they hold to provide their patients with the healthcare they need. States are passing restrictions, fines, and outright bans on providing healthcare that we know, based on decades of research, is essential for well-being and in many cases life-saving. Those states should not be able to mandate how we are caring for our communities in Hawai'i, and the medical care that we are able to provide.

I am so thankful that our legislature passed a shield law for reproductive health care in 2023, a move that was needed to protect Hawai'i's healthcare providers after the Roe was overturned. HB 1875 is simply adding gender affirming care to that shield law, and would be adding Hawaii to the growing number of states (14 states + DC - https://www.lgbtmap.org/equality-maps/healthcare/trans_shield_laws) passing gender affirming care shield laws. HB 1875 changes nothing about the health care or medical care that is already being provided legally in Hawaii.

The patient-physician relationship is sacred. Gender affirming care is healthcare. Protect Hawai'i's healthcare providers from out-of-state overreach. Please pass HB 1875 HD2 SD1.

I support amendments provided by Planned Parenthood for this measure.

Mahalo

Reni Soon, MD MPH

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:53:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damien Waikoloa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1875 because it strengthens protections for patient privacy and ensures that individuals can seek lawful health care in Hawai'i without fear that their personal medical information will be used against them. Patients deserve confidence that their sensitive health data will remain private and not be disclosed for out-of-state investigations or legal actions related to care that is legal here.

This bill is also critical to protecting our health care providers. Hawai'i already faces a shortage of health care workers, and without clear legal protections, providers may be discouraged from offering essential services due to fear of liability, professional discipline, or harassment from other states. By safeguarding providers who deliver lawful care, HB1875 helps maintain access to services and supports the stability of our health care system. I urge you to pass this measure.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:25:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill!

Tina Marie Even

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:47:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Stewart Sloan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully urge you to vote in favor of HB1872. As a parent who raised two daughters, I deeply understand the desire to provide unwavering support and protection for one's children. As a transgender person myself, I also recognize how vital it is for children and young people questioning their gender identity to receive that same support. I cannot imagine the pain parents of transgender children must feel when their government prevents them from doing what they know is best for their children. The government should have no role in interfering with parents' decisions to provide care and love for their transgender children.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:10:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Olivia Manayan. I am a board-certified OB/GYN and a provider of gender-affirming care on O‘ahu. I write to you today in strong support of HB1875 HD 2 SD1, with the recommended amendments put forward by the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and Planned Parenthood Hawai‘i.

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 SD1 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 SD1 helps ensure that qualified, ethical providers are not pushed out of practice simply for serving patients whose care has become politically contentious.

The proposed amendments, as put forth by ACOG and Planned Parenthood, ensure that care provided is not guided by political leanings, but rather by evidence-based, high-quality medicine. 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 SD1, with recommended amendments, reinforces Hawai‘i’s longstanding commitment to equity, dignity, and good health.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Most sincerely,

Olivia Manayan, MD MPH
University of Hawai‘i OB/GYN

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:40:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Expands Hawai‘i’s Shield Law Beyond Its Original Scope

HB1875 expands Hawai‘i’s 2023 shield law to include gender-affirming health care services and adds multiple new legal protections. This bill goes beyond protecting access to care. It builds a much broader legal framework that affects how lawsuits, investigations, and professional oversight are handled—not just in Hawai‘i, but across state lines.

Creates New Legal Penalties for “Abusive Litigation”

The bill allows lawsuits against individuals or entities for what is defined as “abusive litigation,” including damages and attorney’s fees. While intended to stop harmful lawsuits, this could also discourage legitimate concerns from being raised. It may make people think twice before seeking legal resolution, even in situations where questions or disputes are reasonable.

Limits Cooperation with Other States

HB1875 restricts Hawai‘i courts, agencies, and officials from cooperating with certain out-of-state investigations or legal actions. This could place Hawai‘i in the middle of growing legal conflicts between states. When families, providers, or cases involve more than one state, it may become more difficult to resolve issues clearly and efficiently.

Restricts Access to Health Information in Investigations

The bill limits when protected health information can be shared in certain investigations and requires written attestations before disclosure. While privacy is important, this may make it harder for legitimate investigations to move forward and could slow down coordination between agencies when concerns arise.

Reduces Oversight of Medical Providers

HB1875 limits when licensing boards and insurers can take action against providers based on certain services. This raises concerns about maintaining consistent accountability and

professional standards—especially when providers operate across state lines or when serious questions about care arise.

Raises Concerns for Families and Parents

While the bill does not directly change parental consent laws, it may complicate situations involving families across different states or disagreements about care. Access to information and legal clarity may become more difficult in these situations, especially in sensitive cases involving minors.

Expands Legal Conflicts Between States

The bill prevents enforcement of certain out-of-state laws and legal actions related to these services. As more states adopt very different policies, this could lead to more legal disputes that take years to resolve—leaving families, patients, and providers caught in the middle.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:36:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Kulaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha JDC committee,

My name is Emily and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and also president of Planned Parenthood Generation Action. We are a student group that fights for reproductive justice and access to healthcare.

I am in strong support of HB1875 HD1. I believe every should have access to the healthcare that they need. Access to gender affirming is life saving care, as nearly half of all nonbinary/transgender youth seriously consider suicide, with access to trustworthy care greatly reducing this risk.

As a lifesaving public health measure, I strongly urge the Committee to PASS HB1875 HD1 to create a better future for the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

- Emily Kulaga

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:58:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB 1875 HD1

Expands Hawai'i's Shield Law Beyond Its Original Scope

Creates New Legal Penalties for "Abusive Litigation"

Limits Cooperation with Other States

Restricts Access to Health Information in Investigations

Reduces Oversight of Medical Providers

Expands Legal Conflicts Between States

Raises Concerns for Families and Parents

It raises serious questions about parental rights, interstate legal conflicts, and the long-term implications for children and families.

Mahalo for voting NO on HB1875 HD1,

Linda

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:16:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:08:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karlee Palms	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning/Afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karlee Palms and I live in Honolulu.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875.

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

Please support HB 1875.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:50:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michaela Alcaraz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning/Afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

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

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875.

My hope with the passing of this bill is that our community will not be forced to be haunted with unfortunate tales of people who end up worse off in life (or even losing their life) just because they were denied access to receiving and/or practicing healthcare from unpeaceful, violent, and aggressive people who disagree with others' choices for their health.

This bill protects patients and providers by preventing things such as out-of-state investigations that threaten providers with a loss of their license, interference with health care facilities, and targeting by hostile states and people. Every person deserves to access the health care they need without fear of harassment or threats.

Please support HB 1875.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:55:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Crystal Quezada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:08:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carm Akim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Senators,

HB1875 poses significant concerns for families and parents. While the bill does not explicitly change parental consent laws, it could introduce complexities for families navigating care across state lines or those facing disagreements. This may hinder access to crucial information and legal clarity, particularly in sensitive situations involving minors. As parents, we deserve a straightforward framework that ensures the best outcomes for our children.

Thank you for your dedication to the families of Hawai'i.

Carm Akim

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:28:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine E Rossi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of HB1875 - gender affirming care includes care that helps cancer survivors, those born with birth defects, and people with gender related trauma.

As the federal government and hostile states increase attacks on gender affirming care, this bill would protect patients, providers, and those who help people access gender affirming care from out-of-state investigations and prosecutions.

Mahalo for voting yes on this bill

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:28:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1875. This is not about health, it's about money. To mutilate a human being even a child will put money in the pockets of the surgeons and "doctors". The Health Department are activists. They don't care of anyone's health. When people died of the Experimental Injection (Covid Clot Shot) they didn't give a damn. There are all evil and should be in jail like the rest of the politicians who harm children. The love of money is the root of all evil. I hate money and that's why I can't be bought off or bribed. Politicians and activists are in love with money and don't care of health, that's why it's called organized CRIME. MONEY, MONEY, MONEY!!!!

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:43:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abram Moreno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1875. We are all obligated to protect minor children. Sex change operations for minor children is evil. The damage done is irreversible and minor. Children tend to change their mind. Please protect the children and do not allow HP 1875 to pass.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:48:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I continue to oppose HB1875 HD2 SD1.

Both abortion and gender mutilations ("gender affirming care") have physical, emotional, and psychological negative side effects. No one should be free of liability for providing those services. If they cause damage/harm, they are responsible. No insurance company should be forced to provide insurance coverage for individuals who provide these procedures since we know that there have been successful lawsuits against those who have provided these "services".

It is time Hawaii awakens to the dangers of these medical interventions. The Supreme Court recently decided a case overruling a Colorado law that banned care for individuals who had unwanted same sex attractions - similar to a Hawaii law (which needs to be repealed). According to a November 24, 2025 Daily Signal article titled, "Rank-and-File Doctors Oppose "Gender Affirming Care for Minors, Contrary to Medical Associations, New Study Finds".

Stop passing bills that harm our residents.

Do not pass HB1875 HD2 SD1.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:13:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Berg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You know this is not right. Let's examine ACT13 (SB270 HSL2018) - "Conversion Therapy." You folks passed a unconstitutional law. The United States Supreme Court overturned ACT13 and made it illegal to do what you did- court had to intervene and correct you on March 31, 2026- they corrected your illegal action.

This bill HB1875 is the same- illegal/unconstitutional on all fronts.

Please stop wasting our tax dollars on foolish bills that are similar to what a King would do, what a fascist would do, and what DEMS call what a Nazi would do....who is the party of squashing free speech, and passing laws a dictator would pass? Answer- those who supported ACT13 and now this.

This bill attempts to legalize pedophilia - for those obsessed with the gonads of little kids....who want to pry and meddle in the affairs of those who need mental treatment to get help for their gender dysphoria.

Please- for the sake of the children, leave the kids alone! No one is born is the wrong body!

I made a video for you all:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=SgzVAzfre0k>

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:04:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valor Grimm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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.

Valor Grimm

(808) 358-9473

Valor@uncommonpaths.org

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:23:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Grave	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Emily Grave, and I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawai‘i. I write in strong support of HB 1875.

HB 1875 is a critical step in ensuring that the protections Hawai‘i has already established for reproductive health care are extended to include gender-affirming care. At its core, this bill is about safeguarding access to medically necessary, evidence-based care and ensuring that patients and providers in our state are not subjected to political interference or out-of-state legal threats.

Gender-affirming care is not experimental or frivolous—it is widely recognized by major medical organizations as safe, evidence-based, and often life-saving. Patients who seek this care do so after careful, often lengthy processes guided by medical professionals. This bill does not change standards of care; rather, it ensures that those standards can be upheld without fear of retaliation, intimidation, or loss of professional standing.

Importantly, HB 1875 protects local providers from abusive litigation and prevents insurers from penalizing them simply for providing lawful care. Without these protections, Hawai‘i risks losing qualified, compassionate healthcare providers who may be unwilling to practice under threat of legal or financial consequences. This would directly harm patients, families, and communities across our state.

Hawai‘i has long been a place that values dignity, inclusion, and the health and well-being of all people. At a time when access to gender-affirming care is being restricted in other parts of the country, this bill affirms our commitment to protecting patients and providers alike.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Emily Grave, Honolulu

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:48:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Croul	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Natalie and I am a Community Outreach Educator who teaches sex education to the community and I respectfully urge you to support HB1875. Chair Rhodes, I am also a constituent of yours, living in Nu‘uanu.

This bill helps protect healthcare in Hawai‘i, protect families and medical providers who are following our laws, and protect Hawai‘i 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 sometimes teach queer and trans-specific sex ed and cannot overstate the importance of access to gender-affirming care. For many trans folks, it can be the difference between life and death. Gender dysphoria is a clinically significant distress caused by a mismatch between a person’s experienced gender and their assigned sex at birth and can take a huge toll on someone's mental health. I recently taught sex ed to a group of queer and trans students here on Oahu and specifically remember one student's eyes lighting up whenever I used her name or her correct pronouns. It was such a small gesture that appeared to make a really big difference for her. We can only imagine how happy that young woman would be to live in a state where gender affirming care is not only accessible to her, but is a safe haven to her trans brothers and sisters. That is a priceless gift to give our trans and gender expansive community and a vital precedent to set for other states to hopefully follow suit.

Mahalo for your consideration. Please pass HB1875 for our beautiful māhū community and beyond.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:59:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob McDermott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my old colleagues,

Aside from being unconstitutional, this measure is harmful to children. Period. It hurts kids. Kids change their mind. After 18, their business.

Of course, I expect the committee to barf out another unconstitutional (conversion therapy).ban.

Pump children full of cross sex hormones, put them on behaviour modification drugs, is not medicine, what could possibly go wrong? Chole Cole anyone? Anyone?

With Aloha,

Bob McDermott

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:31:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1875 HD2 SD1 as it raises serious concerns about freedom, parental rights, and unintended legal consequences for individuals in Hawaii.

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:31:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Flannery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have seen, through friends and family members, the life changing affects of gender-affirming surgery as well as the devastating financial costs. Please expand access so folks can live their authentic lives, without being financially underwater.

Mahalo,

Melanie Flannery

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:35:07 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1875. This bill raises serious questions about parental rights, interstate legal conflicts, and the long term implications for children and families.

LATE

April 6, 2026

RE: HB1875

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

I am in support of HB1875. It protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows them to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support. This care is vital for reducing gender dysphoria, improving mental health outcomes, and fostering well-being by providing a respectful environment that respects their unique, non-binary cultural roles. This bill would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received or provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state, where such care may be unlawful.

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Patricia Wong

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:38:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

As I previously testified, there is no reason that my LGBTQ community should face the vitriol directed at us by the Trump administration. Being from this place I know that we in Hawai'i rise up to defend those facing persecution; we've done so repeatedly to protect the rights of the queer community, often enough facing the vitriol of our neighbors who have come to regret their opposition to such basic rights as the right to marry who we please. I am glad that my home islands are seeking to be, again, on the right side of history. Pass this bill!

LATE

HB-1875-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:15:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1875 because the very nature of the bill demonstrates that gender-alteration procedutes on minors is so evil that our legislature has to propose a bill that protects the acitivity from those who view it as destructive.

Mahalo,

Alfred Hagen