



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,
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February 8, 2026

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM

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

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

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

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

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

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

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission **strongly supports House Bill 1875** 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.



February 8, 2026

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

To: Representatives Gregg Takayama and Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chairs
Representatives Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy and Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chairs
Members of the House Committees on Health, and Consumer Protection & Commerce

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

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329, State Capitol

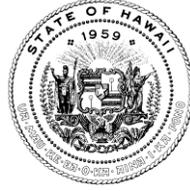
On behalf of the Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women, I would like to thank the committee for hearing this important bill. I would like to express our **strong support of HB1875** as it directly advances the Commission's mission to promote equality, health, and safety for women and girls in Hawaii. HB1875 **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 legal retaliation. The Commission recognizes that access to comprehensive reproductive and gender-affirming care is fundamental to gender equity, as barriers to such care disproportionately impact women, girls, and gender-diverse individuals, particularly those already facing systemic discrimination or violence.

The bill's provisions **protect local providers of lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care from out of state interference** and are aligned with best practices. Additionally, the measure's outlined protections help prevent the chilling effect that insurer actions can have on a provider's willingness to offer essential services, thereby safeguarding access for patients. Additionally, clarifying the permitted disclosures of protected health information in response to evolving federal regulations is **important for maintaining patient privacy, safety, and trust**.

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

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
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JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

NADINE Y. ANDO
DIRECTOR | KA LUNA HO'OKELE

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

Testimony of the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs

Before the
House Committees on Health
and
Consumer Protection & Commerce
Wednesday, February 11, 2026
2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 329 and via Videoconference

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

Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi and Members of the Committees:

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

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

The Department appreciates the bill's intent to shield Hawaii's health care providers from adverse actions and out-of-state litigation regarding services that are

legal within our jurisdiction. The Department's concerns with the bill are focused on the newly created section entitled "Medical malpractice insurance; prohibited actions", located on page 3, line 6 to page 4, line 2.

As written, this new section prohibits any medical malpractice insurer in Hawaii from taking "prohibited actions" against a provider solely because the provider offers lawful reproductive or gender-affirming care. Paragraph (4) defines a prohibited action to include "imposing any sanctions, fines, penalties, rate increases, or other type of unfavorable change." While this provision is well intentioned, the Department is concerned that it could have unintended consequences for the State's insurance marketplace.

Hawaii's Insurance Code requires insurance rates to be actuarially sound, meaning premiums must reasonably reflect the projected risk and cost of claims. Prohibiting insurers from adjusting premiums to reflect changes in a provider's risk profile may result in rates that are inadequate to cover expected losses. This undermines actuarial standards and raises concerns about insurer solvency and long-term market stability. Medical malpractice insurance is a highly specialized and limited market. If insurers are unable to price risk accurately in Hawaii, they may choose to withdraw from the market or cease offering medical malpractice coverage in the State. Fewer insurers would reduce competition and could ultimately increase costs or limit access to coverage for all physicians. Additionally, a statutory prohibition on rate increases tied to a specific category of medical services would be unprecedented in the Insurance Code. It may invite future legislation directing underwriting or pricing decisions for other medical specialties, potentially affecting the overall efficiency of the state's insurance regulatory structure.

By way of example, consider a provider who currently pays a relatively low premium based on a low-risk practice profile. If that provider later begins offering more complex reproductive or gender-affirming procedures, actuarial principles will typically indicate a higher risk exposure and justify a corresponding premium adjustment. Under the proposed language, however, the insurer may be prohibited from making this adjustment. The result is that the insurer would be required to provide coverage at a

rate that no longer reflects the actual risk. Over time, this unpriced risk could lead to insurer losses or force insurers to raise premiums for all other Hawaii physicians to offset the imbalance.

Finally, the Department notes that the phrase “another type of unfavorable change” is overly broad and would be difficult to enforce.

If the measure advances, the Department requests the following amendment to paragraph (b)(4) of the section in question:

- (4) Imposing any sanctions, fines, penalties, or rate increases *that are not based on sound actuarial principles.*, or another type of unfavorable change.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

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

To: House Committees on Consumer Protection & Commerce
and on Health

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 11, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 329

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

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

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

it is not limited to a situation in which the agency or employee furnishing information actually knows that the record request was made in connection with an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability. An agency providing records as required under the UIPA could thereby find itself in violation of section 323J-4, HRS.

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

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.



LATE

Chair Takayama
Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy
House Committee on Health

Chair Matayoshi
Vice Chair Grandinetti
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Wednesday, February 11, 2026
2:00 PM

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Health and Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

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**.

HB1875 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**.

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/>

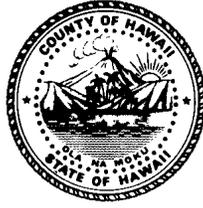
² <https://www.hrc.org/resources/attacks-on-gender-affirming-care-by-state-map>

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/>

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 10, 2026
TO: House Committee on Health
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB1875

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and esteemed Committee Members,

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

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Jenn Kagiwada



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

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

February 8, 2026

House’s Committee on Health, and Consumer Protection & Commerce
Hawai‘i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

Aloha Chair Takayama and Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Grandinetti, 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**.

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**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



February 8, 2026

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 2:00 PM

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

Aloha Chair Takayama and Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Grandinetti, 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**.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

In Solidarity,

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Dina Shek, JD

Medical-Legal Partnership

For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai

HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH

John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native

Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 8, 2026

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and
Commerce

RE: Support for HB 1875, Relating To Health Care

Hrg: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 329

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

Gender-Affirming Care Promotes Overall Wellness

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

Support from Health Organizations

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

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

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

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

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



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

Attorney General Statement

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

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

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

Mahalo,

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



FEBRUARY 11, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1875

CURRENT REFERRAL: HLT/CPC

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Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SB 1875, 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; and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

Everyone deserves access to the medical care they need. This includes gender-affirming care for transgender individuals. The Trump administration signed an executive order on January 28, 2025 that aims to block access to gender-affirming care for children and young adults. The order seeks to cut off federal funding from institutions that provide hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and surgical treatment for people under 19.

Since then, federal officials have continued to roll back access to gender-affirming care. In December 2025, the HHS announced plans to effectively ban transition-related care for minors nationwide by restricting Medicaid and Medicare funding to hospitals that provide puberty blockers, hormone therapy, or surgery to transgender patients under 18. The administration has officially characterized gender-affirming care for minors as "malpractice" and "not medicine," contrary to the consensus of major U.S. medical organizations.

Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota have filed lawsuits opposing the order. According to the three states, the order particularly targets medical care that is recommended for gender dysphoria, when a person's internal sense of gender identity conflicts with their sex assigned at birth. The lawsuit calls the order "cruel and baseless," and accuses the executive branch of "attempts to dictate medical care by executive fiat." The states argue that the order violates the Fifth Amendment's equal protection guarantee by singling out transgender individuals for discrimination.

On February 4, 2025, Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of fourteen attorneys general to reaffirm their pledge to protect access to gender-affirming care. The coalition released the following statement: “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.”

The World Medical Association (WMA), an international group representing physicians from 114 National Medical Associations, states: "The WMA emphasizes that everyone has the right to determine one’s own gender and recognizes the diversity of possibilities in this respect...The WMA urges that every effort be made to make individualized, multi-professional, interdisciplinary, and affordable transgender healthcare (including speech therapy, hormonal treatment, surgical interventions and mental healthcare) available to all people who experience gender incongruence in order to reduce or to prevent pronounced gender dysphoria.”

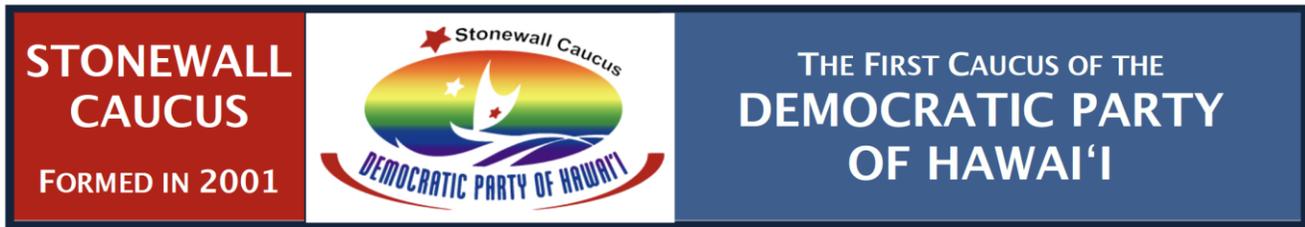
In a coordinated push led by national anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups, legislators across the country have overridden the views of the medical establishment and introduced hundreds of bills that target transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth’s access to age-appropriate, medically necessary care. By preventing doctors from providing care or threatening to take children away from parents who support their child in their transition, these efforts prevent transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth from accessing medically necessary, safe health care backed by decades of research and supported by every major medical association representing over 1.3 million US doctors, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

LGBTQ+ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ+ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, we have heard their stories hundreds of times. Eliminating access to gender-affirming care only worsens this cycle of alienation and abuse. On the other hand, enshrining access into state law is a step toward ensuring that transgender youth can receive the care they need to live meaningful, fulfilling, and healthy lives.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

HEARING OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND CONSUMER PROTECTION
& COMMERCE

February 9, 2026 | 2:00 PM | Conference Room 329 / Via Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Grandinetti, and Esteemed Members of the Committees:

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

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

Protecting Patients and Families

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

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

Protecting Providers

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

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1875

Shielding Hawai'i From Out-of-State Attacks

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

Impact on Our Community

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

Conclusion

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

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

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

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair

Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

stonewalldph@gmail.com



oahupflag@gmail.com
(808) 729-8609

pflag.org

TO: Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy. members of the Committee on Health; and Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Finance

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

DATE: Monday, February 11, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

RE: Strong Support of HB1875

Aloha members of the House Committee on Health and members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection and Finance,

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.



Hawaii Medical Association

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

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
Representative Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

Date: February 11, 2026 (previous February 9, 2026)
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee
Christina Marzo MD and Robert Carlisle MD, Vice Chairs, HMA Public Policy Committee

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

Position: Support

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

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

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

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team

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

2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

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

REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

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

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

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

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

2024 Hawaii Medical Association Officers

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Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

February 11, 2026

To the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committees:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1875**. 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. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiiidemocrats.org.



Committee: House Committees on Health & Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, at 2:00 P.M.
Place: Conference Room 329 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB1875: Relating to Health Care**

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) writes in **support of HB1875**, 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., Haitzuka, 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Donavan Kamakani Albano

Policy Fellow

ACLU of Hawai'i

dalbano@acluhawaii.org

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

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:58:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Hiill	'Iolani GSA	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Michelle Hill. I am an educator, parent, and GSA adviser who sees how GAC positively impacts my students to be themselves without discrimination. Please support HB1875.



Dedicated to safe, responsible, humane, and effective drug policies since 1993

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1875

TO: Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and HLT Committee
Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and CPC Committee

FROM: Nikos Leverenz, DPFH Board President

DATE: February 11, 2026 (2:00 P.M.)

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

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TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875

Relating to Gender-Affirming Health Care Services and Protections
House Committees on Health (HLT) and Consumer Protection & Commerce (CPC)
Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2026 – 2:00 p.m. – Room 329 (via videoconference)

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Peter Tui Silva, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1875** in my role as Chief Executive Officer of Kumukahi Health + Wellness. Kumukahi provides essential health services to people across Hawai'i, and we see a significant portion of our gender-affirming care patients living on the neighbor islands, where access to specialized, timely care is already limited by geography, workforce shortages, and transportation barriers.

HB1875 is needed now because it protects Hawai'i's ability to make our own health care decisions: decisions that should be made by patients, families, and licensed clinicians based on evidence and medical ethics, not by out-of-state political agendas. As threats and legal tactics intensify across the country, patients and providers are increasingly targeted through "legal bullying," harassment, and intimidation meant to chill lawful care. This is not hypothetical for us. Like many health care organizations in Hawai'i, our providers, staff, and agency are worried about legal repercussions simply because we provide gender-affirming care that is lawful and clinically appropriate.

For a community-based provider serving neighbor island patients, these fears have real consequences:

- **Patients delay or avoid care** due to fear their private medical information could be exposed or used against them.
- **Clinicians face increased anxiety and burnout**, and some may reconsider whether they can safely continue providing this care—especially when they have families, professional licenses, and personal security to protect.
- **Recruitment and retention become harder**, further reducing access on islands where options are already scarce. When care disappears on the neighbor islands, families are forced into expensive and burdensome travel, or they go without care altogether.

HB1875 addresses these urgent realities in several important ways.

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



KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

First, HB1875 protects patient privacy and safety. People who seek lawful gender-affirming care in Hawai'i should not have their personal health information disclosed or weaponized across state lines. For many of our patients—especially youth and families—privacy is not just a preference; it is a basic requirement for safety and continuity of care. This bill strengthens guardrails so that protected health information cannot be used to facilitate investigations or punish people for the mere act of seeking, obtaining, providing, or facilitating lawful care.

Second, HB1875 protects Hawai'i health care providers from harassment and intimidation. Providers should be able to deliver lawful, evidence-based care without fear of being dragged into retaliatory litigation from hostile jurisdictions. The bill's provisions limiting enforcement of certain out-of-state orders and creating protections against abusive legal actions are essential for stabilizing care access here. When providers fear that routine clinical work could trigger civil actions elsewhere, it creates a chilling effect that undermines our entire health system.

Third, HB1875 supports a stable and functioning health care system—especially for rural and neighbor island communities. Shield protections are not “special treatment.” They help ensure that Hawai'i can retain clinicians and keep doors open for patients seeking sensitive, medically necessary care. In practical terms, this bill helps us maintain services where the need is great and the workforce is thin.

Finally, HB1875 reflects Hawai'i values: bodily autonomy, family decision-making, and dignity. Our state should remain a place where residents, students, military families, and visitors can access lawful health care without fear of political retaliation. Protecting evidence-based care also signals to patients that Hawai'i will not cooperate with efforts to harm families for seeking medically appropriate treatment.

At Kumukahi Health + Wellness, we work every day to improve access to compassionate, patient-centered care. Gender-affirming care is health care. Our patients deserve continuity, privacy, and safety. Our providers deserve clarity and protection so they can practice within the scope of their licenses without fear of being punished for doing their jobs in accordance with Hawai'i law and accepted standards of care.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1875 and continue Hawai'i's leadership in protecting patients and safeguarding the medical professionals who serve them, especially on the neighbor islands, where access is fragile and the stakes are high.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Peter T. Silva
Chief Executive Officer
Kumukahi Health + Wellness

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:10:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Okika Shigeke Qinaau	Pilina Center for Wellbeing	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am a healthcare provider who has worked 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 to do what's pono. Mahalo for your contributions to Hawai`i's communities.

Dr. Jo Qina`au



February 11, 2026 at 2:00 pm
Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Chair Gregg Takayama
Vice Chair Sue L. Keohokapu Lee-Loy

House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

To: Chair Scot Z. Matayoshi
Vice Chair Tina Nakada Grandinetti

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

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

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

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

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

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:20:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Shiozaki	Kumukahi Health and Wellness; the KUPA’A Project. Also, self.	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair and Members of the Committee.

My name is Allison Shiozaki. I write to you now as a constituent on the island of Hawai'i, as someone who helps provide support and care to our māhū/lgbtqia+ youth, and someone who supports birth in Hawai'i Nei. I cannot urge you enough to support HB1875 and put in legal protections for providing reproductive and gender affirming care in these times.

The hateful ideologies of those occupying the White House and others across the continent comes at great toll to many, including our communities here in Hawai'i. The people need who provide life giving care to our communities need to know they are protected for doing the necessary, moral, and science-backed care needed for people who birth and our māhū/lgbtqia+ communities. The consequences of not formally protecting this kind of care is literally a matter of life and death. With aloha and 'Ohana as cultural values, the reasons to even need such laws so notably counter to values of care, I look to you that you will do everything possible to protect our communities. Mahalo for your time.

Me Ke aloha,

Allison Shiozaki

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1875, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE
HOUSE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & CONSUMER PROTECTION AND
COMMERCE**

Charles Brister, Chair, Hawai'i County Democrats

February 11, 2026

Aloha to the Chairs and members of the committees,

My name is Charles Brister. I'm a resident of Puna on the Big Island, and I've lived here more than 10 years. I'm a self-employed as an accountant, and I'm a father and grandfather. I'm an active volunteer in several non-profit groups, and I also serve as the Chair of the Hawai'i County Democratic Party.

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

Everyone in this country has equal rights. And it should go without saying - that includes equal rights when it comes to privacy and medical care.

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

Apparently, the federal government and some other states want to say they have equal rights for their people, but then carve out some crazy exception for people who are transgender. I say emphatically "no" to that idea. Equality means equal. It means everyone treated fairly. Treated the same.

Equality is not "everyone's equal except this one group that we don't agree with or understand." I realize some people still believe that gender is binary, just male and female. No other options. That's old school thinking, and it's based on ignorance of reality.

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

Mahalo for your time and the chance to express unequivocal support of HB 1875. I wish you wisdom and courage as you make decisions on this matter. ##

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:46:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus	Hawai'i State Democratic Women's Caucus	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the Committees on Health, Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Aloha Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair, Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair and members,

The Caucus has always supported the right to control one's own body, and therefore has also always supported the right to gender-affirming health care.

At this dark time in our nation's history the ongoing threat to transgender persons has become even more severe.

Therefore we are in strong support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion.

No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair HSDWC



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health and Committee on Consumer Protection
+ Commerce

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

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and members of the Committees,

The members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for hearing this measure. We strongly support HB1875 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 Hawai'i's core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom

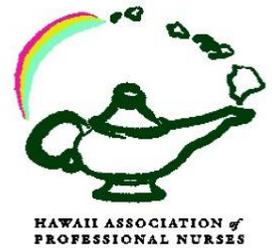
Please pass this measure so the patients can get the health care they need and the providers can provide the health care their patients need.

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.

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair, House Committee on Health (HLT)
To: The Honorable Representative Scot Matayoshi, Chair, House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce (CPC)
From: Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)
RE: HB1875 — Relating to Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Reproductive Health Care; Protections
Position: **Strong Support**
Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN) submits testimony in **strong support** of HB1875. This bill is important because it reinforces patient access to evidence-based health care and strengthens protections for both clinicians and patients in areas of care that have become highly politicized. In health care, stability matters. When laws create fear, uncertainty, or legal risk for providers, the impact is not theoretical—it shows up as fewer clinicians willing to provide services, fewer organizations willing to offer them, and more patients forced to delay care, travel, or go without. Patients lose access not because care is inappropriate, but because the system becomes harder—and riskier—to safely operate within.

Protecting access to care is the core issue

From HAPN's perspective, protecting reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care is fundamentally a health access issue. When access is disrupted, patients experience:

- delayed or fragmented care,
- disruption in continuity and treatment planning,
- increased stress and avoidable worsening of health conditions,
- and increased burdens on emergency departments and crisis services when preventable needs escalate.

These impacts fall hardest on those who already face barriers—patients in rural communities and neighbor islands, young people, low-income families, and those navigating stigma or discrimination.

Protecting clinicians protects patients

HAPN also views HB1875 as a workforce stability and patient safety measure. Hawai'i's health system is already operating in a shortage environment. Clinicians make decisions about where they practice and what services they offer based not only on clinical need, but also on whether the practice environment is stable, ethical, and legally safe.

When politically driven interference enters clinical decision-making, clinicians may step away from providing care—not because they lack competence or compassion, but because the environment becomes too uncertain. In those circumstances, the “chilling effect” is real:

- fewer providers offer services,
- fewer training sites are willing to teach students and residents,
- organizations narrow their service lines to reduce risk,
- recruitment and retention becomes harder.

HB1875 helps keep Hawai'i a place where clinicians can practice in alignment with established standards of care, professional ethics, and the patient-provider relationship.

Why this matters to nurses and APRNs

Nurses and APRNs are at the center of access: we triage, educate, counsel, coordinate referrals, provide ongoing follow-up, and often serve as the most consistent point of contact for patients navigating complex systems. Our members see what happens when care is delayed or denied—patients fall out of care, experience worsening symptoms, and lose trust in the system.

For reproductive and gender-affirming care in particular, patients often require longitudinal support and careful coordination. Disruptions do not occur in isolation; they affect mental health, family stability, school and work functioning, and overall well-being. Policies that protect continuity of care reduce downstream harm.

The broader system impact

HAPN also urges policymakers to consider systemwide effects. When patients cannot access care locally or in a timely way:

- waitlists increase for other providers,
- ER and urgent care utilization rises,
- specialty services get overloaded,
- and workforce strain accelerates across the system.

In a state where health workforce capacity is already fragile, Hawai'i cannot afford policy choices that destabilize care delivery and push clinicians away.

Conclusion

HB1875 supports a stable, ethical practice environment and helps ensure that patients can access medically appropriate, evidence-based care without politically driven interference. For these reasons, HAPN respectfully urges the Committees to pass HB1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



ALOHA CARE

To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair
The Honorable Sue Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair
House Committee on Health

The Honorable Scot Matayoshi, Chair
The Honorable Tina Grandinetti, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce

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

Hearing: Wednesday, February 11, 2026, 2:00pm, Conference Room 329

RE: **HB1875 Relating to Health Care**

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

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

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

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

1357 Kapi'olani Blvd., Suite G101, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814
Call: 808-973-0712 • Toll-free: 1-877-973-0712 • Fax: 808-973-0726 • www.AlohaCare.org



Rosalee Agas-Yuu, RN
President

1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100
Honolulu, HI 96815
Tel: (808) 531-1628
Fax: (808) 524-2760

In Support of HB 1875: Relating to Health Care

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee and Committee Members from the House Committee on Health; and Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Gradinetti and Committee Members from the House on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Rosalee Agas-Yuu, and I am the President of Hawai'i Nurses' Association, OPEIU Local 50 and a registered nurse in Hawai'i.

By increasing the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023 to include gender-affirming health care services, we safeguard transgender individuals, their families, and medical providers from punitive actions in our state. As nurses, we advocate for individuals having the right to make decisions about their health care that are in line with their values and preferences.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 1875.

Sincerely,

Rosalee Agas-Yuu

Rosalee Agas-Yuu

President

Hawai'i Nurses' Association, OPEIU Local 50

Name of addressee

Date

Page | 2

Name of addressee

Date

Page | 3

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:07:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing on behalf of Rainbow Family 808, and we strongly support House Bill 1875.

With the current federal administration's constant attacks on our fellow Americans, we must all do what we can to protect all of Hawai'i's residents.

Please pass this important piece of legislation.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.
Board Member
[Rainbow Family 808](#)



ACOG
The American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists

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

TO: Committee on Health
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
DATE: Monday, February 11th, 2026
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329
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.

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

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

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

HB1875 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.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:13:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Weltin	Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN)	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committees,

My name is Elizabeth Weltin, and I submit this written testimony in strong support of HB1875 on behalf of the Indivisible Hawai‘i Statewide Network (IHSN) and as a retired women’s health care provider. I had planned to join you via ZOOM on Monday but due to the rescheduling of the hearing, unfortunately, I am only able to submit written testimony.

In Hawai‘i, Indivisible has thirteen chapters across four islands, representing over a thousand engaged, pro-democracy residents committed to protecting democratic institutions and advancing progressive values. IHSN strongly supports HB1875 because it reflects Hawai‘i’s commitment to inclusion, personal liberty, and freedom from political intimidation.

As a former provider of women’s health care, I have seen firsthand how deeply personal and medically complex health care decisions can be. Care decisions must remain between patients, families, and qualified medical professionals — not legislators or out-of-state actors seeking to impose ideology through fear and punishment. During my many years in practice, protections like those proposed in HB1875 would have provided critical reassurance to both patients and providers navigating an increasingly hostile national climate.

HB1875 provides essential protections to providers and families involved in gender-affirming care that is lawful in our state. It prevents cooperation with out-of-state investigations and prosecutions, safeguards patient privacy, and protects providers from unjust professional discipline. These protections are not abstract — they are necessary to ensure that qualified clinicians can continue practicing ethical, evidence-based medicine without fear of retaliation.

At a time when gender-affirming care is under coordinated attack across the country, Hawai‘i has the opportunity to affirm its values of aloha, dignity, privacy, and compassion. HB1875 sends a clear message that our state will not be complicit in harming families, criminalizing health care, or driving providers away. Precious lives will be saved by enacting this bill.

On behalf of Indivisible Hawai‘i Statewide Network and as a retired health care professional, I respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 and stand on the right side of history, medicine, and human dignity.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully,
Elizabeth Weltin

VISIBILITY BRIGADE HONOLULU Rush Hour Resistance

Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1875

Aloha Respected Committee Members,

My name is Ben Lessard and I am one of the leads of Visibility Brigade Honolulu. My group members and I request that you support HB 1875 to protect healthcare access for all the people of Hawai'i. Gender affirming care is a right that should be afforded to the citizens that live in this state. Protections should also be provided to Healthcare providers, from litigation due to the never ending policy changes that are taking place. Please protect the Transgender community as well as all people who are associated with the LGBTQIA+ community.

All of the people of this state need protections and we implore this body to act on behalf of the people that are the most vulnerable in Hawai'i. Our Mahu community is strong and has far reaching allies who will stand besides them to support equality for all. We support constitutional rights, non discriminatory laws and protections for all people of this state. This community does no harm to others and is just simply trying to exist. We ask that this body keep the power with our state and vote in Support HB 1875.

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

Ben Lessard

Visibility Brigade Honolulu

visibilitybrigadehonolulu@gmail.com

#VISIBILITYBRIGADE
HONOLULU

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:48:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Kua'ana Project	Support	In Person

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.

Mahalo nui,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

Kua'ana Project Manager



Written Testimony in Support of House Bill 1875

Aloha Distinguished Committee Members,

My name is Tara Nash and I am the lead of Indivisible Leeward Oahu. My members and I humbly request that you support HB1875 to ensure that the state of Hawai'i responds appropriately to the federal regulatory shifts in regards to gender affirming care amongst other things. It's imperative that safeguards are established to protect those who rely on medications and proper access to care as they are the most vulnerable among us. Hawai'i is the aloha state and it is important that it remains a safe, inclusive space for all people that honors the different cultures that reside here. Legislative protection matters, as it shields the population of this state from undue harm, specifically those that are LGBTQIA+. This bill aims to protect local health care providers, insurers and patients from undue litigation which is absolutely necessary given the current federal climate and federal regulations changes.

HB1875 protects patient privacy which must be maintained. It is pertinent that all Hawai'i residents feel protected and safe. No one should be fearful about receiving gender affirming care. No person should ever be made to feel that their personal health or safety is at risk. We humbly ask this body to protect all Hawai'i residents from abusive targeted practices towards transgender individuals by out of state parties.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tara Nash

Indivisible Leeward Oahu

indivisibleleewardoahu@gmail.com

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:32:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Hogue	A touch of class	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Crystal Hogue



Submitted Online: February 10, 2026

TO: House Committee on Health
Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair

House Committee on Consumer Protection & Health
Representative Scot Matayoshi, Chair
Representative Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

POSITION: Opposition to HB 1875 Relating to Healthcare

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

While HB 1875 is framed as a measure to protect access to health care, it goes much further by expanding Hawai‘i’s existing “shield law” framework in ways that insulate abortion and gender-related medical interventions from professional oversight, accountability, and investigation. Although the bill does not explicitly authorize new medical procedures, it assumes the legality of medical and surgical interventions and then places broad legal protections around them — even when children are involved.

As an organization dedicated to protecting vulnerable keiki, we are deeply concerned about public policies that normalize or shield irreversible medical interventions for minors. Children lack the developmental maturity and life experience necessary to give informed consent to medical decisions that carry permanent, life-altering consequences.

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

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



HB 1875 moves Hawai‘i in the opposite direction. By restricting professional discipline, limiting cooperation with investigations, and discouraging transparency, this bill weakens the very safeguards that exist to protect patients, families, and public trust in medicine. Medical licensing boards are charged with upholding ethical standards and protecting patients; placing any category of medical practice beyond meaningful review sets a dangerous precedent.

HB 1875 also undermines the role of parents. Parents — not the government, courts, or medical ideology — should be the primary decision-makers for their children, especially in matters involving permanent medical consequences. Public policy should strengthen families, not sideline them.

In closing, compassion must be rooted in truth, humility, and accountability. Protecting children requires us to proceed with caution, especially when the science is unsettled and the consequences are irreversible. HB 1875 fails that test.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to oppose HB 1875.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

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

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

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:50:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashliana Hawelu	Kulia Na Mamo	Support	In Person

Comments:

I Ashliana Hawelu am in support of HB 1875 that continues to provide Gender affirming care to all transgendered persons residing in the State of Hawai'i and within its jurisdictions. As a minority group transgendered persons face challenges and struggle when accessing vital healthcare services that depend on their very existence.



To: House Committees on Health & Consumer Protection and Commerce
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 2pm
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 329 and videoconference
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of HB 1875

Chairs Takayama and Matayoshi and Members of the Committees,

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

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

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

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



LATE

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [HB1875](#)

House Committee on Health
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
February 10th, 2025

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committees,

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

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

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

Please support HB1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

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

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:48:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn M Golojuch	Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since 2013, Rainbow Family 808 has stoodup for Civil Rights and Social Justice! It is imparitive that we provide Health Care for all citizens. Please pass HB1875 ASAP. Hawaii is bound by our US Constitution to provide equal Health Care for We the People.

Thank you,

Carolyn Martinez Golojuch, MSW

Semi-Retired Social Worker

President/Founder Rainbow Family 808



February 10, 2026

RE: HB1875

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

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 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. I have seen my patients come into my office full of despair, and through providing them with gender affirming care, I have witnessed them transform into who they truly are. Since the federal executive order threatening to ban gender affirming care, I have seen my patient's mental health deteriorate, with concerns if I will still be here to provide 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/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 people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

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

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 9:41:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marley Alexandra Kalikopuanoheaokalani Aiu	Na Maka ?EkoLu; Evolve Health; Hui Ku Like Kakou	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875.

As a hawaiian, māhū, bakla, and transgender 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 communities who now, more than ever, need your support. HB1875 is one of the many significant ways to stand by, serve, and ensure our trans and gender-diverse communities so they may thrive.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:04:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support shielding health care providers that provide gendee affirming healthcare. Freedom of personal choice for patient and provider

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:21:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill. Protect our keiki from surgical experiments. This is not a righteous bill. Do not pass please.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:23:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
?Auli?i Nathaniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

We have trans youth in our family and their safety is our number 1 priority. Gender affirming care is lifesaving and our kids deserve to grow up in a Hawai'i that cares about and protects our kids from outside threats. I strongly support HB1875. Please keep Hawai'i a safe place for mahu - kids and adults - and pass this bill. Mahalo nui!

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:29:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley Greenlee	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My family and I gave up everything, spent most of our life savings, and accumulated \$20,000 of debt to move to Hawai'i from Texas in order to keep our trans daughter safe from the same kind of perverse politics and lawmaking that pervades among the current federal administration. If Hawai'i's protections fail us, we cannot afford to move, again. Please vote in favor of HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:41:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Matiyoshi and Takayama, Vice Chairs Grandinetti and Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and all the members of both committees,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1875. Gender affirming care is safe and legal in Hawai'i. However, much as with abortion and other reproductive health care, 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 many Representatives on the committees who drafted and submitted this legislation in response to the ongoing attacks on evidence-based health care. Your support helps me, my family, and my friends feel supported by their community, and it keeps them safe. We are grateful for your care.

With aloha,

Alissa Nelson, LMSW, MPH

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:13:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:42:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members:

I am a pediatrician on Maui. Practicing medicine in Hawai'i can be difficult, whether its 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. I strongly urge your support.

Regards,

Gerald Montano, DO

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:52:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a family member of a trans man I fully support gender affirming Care and the protections around it for both healthcare professionals and patients alike. Please take the numbers into consideration and make a decision like any other healthcare decision - putting the patient and family at the center of that decision making. GAC saves lives. Trans children should not have to view themselves as unworthy of being heard. Parents of trans children should not have to explain to their children why their government does not acknowledge their suffering as real or worthy of intervention. There may be cases where trans adults regret the decisions that they made. Please follow the science and look at the numbers. The amount of outliers who regret their decisions outweigh the amount of trans children GAC has helped. A recent study cites less than 1% or less (mtf v ftm) had such regrets. As long as parents and children are given the facts, they should be able to make their own decisions - as this does not negatively impact others health and happiness. Regret after Gender-affirmation Surgery: A Systematic Review and Meta-analysis of Prevalence - PMC <https://share.google/FKt9gEodEuUy6VYwr>

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:02:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Gill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In 2026, the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons conclude](#)d that there is **insufficient evidence** to support gender-related surgical interventions for children and adolescents and **recommends delaying such surgeries until at least age 19**. HB 1875 ignores this growing medical caution and instead locks in legal protections prematurely.

HB 1875 will harm both children and parents.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:08:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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 (GAC) 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 reproductive care is secure and remains available here in our state. No one should be forced to leave Hawai'i to receive basic health services.

Additionally, as a member of my school's GSA, I help fellow educators focus on creating a safe, inclusive, and effective learning environment for all students. HB1875 is crucial in supporting this environment by expanding protections for GAC. This medically necessary care ensures that our transgender and gender-diverse students have the stability and support required to focus on their academic and personal development. When students feel affirmed and their health needs are met, they are better able to thrive, attend school consistently, and fully participate in their educational journey, reaching their full potential.

I urge the committee to consider the positive impact this legislation will have on the educational outcomes and mental health of a vulnerable student population. By protecting access to GAC, Hawai'i affirms its commitment to the holistic well-being of every student.

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:43:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Matayoshi 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.

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

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

The bill also amends multiple professional licensing statutes—covering physicians, nurses, psychologists, marriage and family therapists, mental health counselors, and pharmacists—to prohibit Hawaii's boards from denying, revoking, or conditioning licenses based on out-of-state convictions or disciplinary actions when those actions were "based on" the provision of reproductive or gender-affirming services that would be lawful in Hawai'i. It further blocks boards from imposing added conditions on applicants where another jurisdiction disciplined the

provider over such services. This severs Hawai'i from the national ecosystem of professional self-regulation. If another state, after due process, finds that a practitioner's conduct with respect to gender-affirming interventions was unsafe, unethical, or harmful, Hawaii's boards would be instructed to treat that as essentially irrelevant so long as Hawai'i law would have allowed the same conduct. This invites "discipline shopping," encouraging providers who have lost standing elsewhere for controversial practices to relocate to Hawai'i, where discipline tied to those practices must be ignored. It singles out abortion and gender transition for extraordinary insulation from the normal oversight that protects patients in every other domain, when at minimum Hawai'i boards should retain full discretion to consider out-of-state discipline on its merits.

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

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

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:54:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Balangitao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi chair and committee members I'm writing to you in strong support of this bill. Everyone should have access to health care no matter what. Thank you , Jasmine Balangitao of Kaimuki

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:55:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Puppione	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:15:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is

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

My name is Jason Robert "Ulumoku" Geldmacher, and I am writing in strong support of HB1875.

As a community leader, advocate, and longtime resident of Hawai'i, I have seen firsthand how policies impact the health, safety, and dignity of our people. HB1875 represents an important step toward creating a more equitable, compassionate, and responsible system that prioritizes the well-being of our communities.

This measure recognizes that real solutions require thoughtful, evidence-based approaches that address root causes rather than relying on outdated or harmful practices. By supporting HB1875, the Legislature affirms its commitment to public health, social responsibility, and community-centered care.

In my work with nonprofit organizations, local businesses, and community groups, I regularly encounter individuals and families who are directly affected by gaps in services and support systems. HB1875 would help close those gaps and provide meaningful resources that empower people to rebuild, thrive, and contribute positively to society.

Additionally, this bill reflects Hawai‘i’s core values of aloha, kuleana, and mālama — caring for one another and ensuring that no one is left behind. Our state has always led with compassion and innovation, and HB1875 continues that proud tradition.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 and demonstrate your commitment to a healthier, safer, and more just Hawai‘i for all.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued service to our community.

Sincerely,

Jason Robert "Ulumoku" Geldmacher

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:16:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I write in strong SUPPORT of HB 1875. This is a critical expansion of protections for healthcare providers to include gender-affirming health care services. It also provides access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference, something we all deserve and need to be healthy. Please stand with all members of our community and support this bill.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of HB 1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:21:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristie Matsumoto and I am writing to ask that you vote YES for HB1875. As a parent of a young adult who identifies as non-binary I am intimately aware of the struggles, both physical and emotional, of someone who experiences a disconnect between the sex they were assigned at birth and the sex they know they truly are. Passage of HB1875 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 HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:21:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose. HB 1875’s expansion of Hawai‘i’s “shield law” framework goes too far by prioritizing ideological protection over patient safety, transparency, and accountability. By broadly insulating abortion and so-called “gender-affirming” medical interventions from professional oversight, disciplinary review, and lawful cooperation with out-of-state investigations, the bill weakens long-standing safeguards that exist to protect patients—especially minors—from harm, malpractice, or coercion. A law that preemptively shields providers simply because a procedure is deemed lawful in Hawai‘i risks eroding medical standards, undermining informed consent, and silencing legitimate concerns from families, regulators, and other states acting within their own legal authority. Hawai‘i should not become a jurisdiction where accountability is selectively suspended; true compassion and good governance require robust oversight, ethical consistency, and respect for the rule of law—not blanket legal immunity.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:22:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quinn Goo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Quinn and I am writing in strong support of HB 1875. I am a transgender young adult who transitioned in the state of Hawaii. I am alive today because of transgender healthcare.

Transgender or gender affirming healthcare saves lives. In this state of incresing uncertainty about what our lives may look like as transgender people, I have a duty to trans youth to protect them-to protect their futures. Nobody deserves to go without healthcare, without feeling free and comfortable in their bodies.

Gender affirming healthcare also supports the lives of cisgender people. Many cisgender people obtain hormones and surgeries to help the feel comfortable in their bodies. Therefore this would also help protect their bodily autonomy.

My doctor today is a strong advocate for transgender rights. I am so grateful to her and the work she does. I remember her tearing up one day in our appointment saying that she is consistently in awe of the strength and bravery of transgender folks. She deserves to be protected. She deserves to have a career caring for our population.

Mahalo for your for your time and considerations

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:26:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Williams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Lauren Williams and I am writing to support HB 1875 which is being heard on Monday. HB 1875 would provide life-saving protections for people accessing Gender Affirming Care and the clinicians who provide it. This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, i support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you"

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:43:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

My name is Ryan Mandado and I am writing in strong support of HB 1875.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions & strengthens protections for reproductive health care.

No one should have to live in fear. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Ryan Mandado

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:56:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Berg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Be who and what you want to be when you turn 18, be a cat, be a gender you create- no one gives a damn.

Until then, Democrats need to keep their creepy pedofile hands off minors.

This bill is laden with some sick stuff and whomever votes for it needs serious counseling and to be monitored for imbecile syndrome and encouraged to have a talk with God.

If you support this bill, your brain stem ain't attached.

The name of this bill should be, "Democrats crave ways to make kiddie porn come alive with Frankenstein tactics."

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:21:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As an educator and ally, I strongly support HB 1875 because it protects the safety, dignity, and well-being of students, families, and the health care providers who serve them. By expanding Act 2 to include gender-affirming health care, clarifying patient privacy protections, and guarding against abusive litigation, this bill ensures that lawful, evidence-based care remains accessible in Hawai‘i. HB 1875 also prevents insurers from penalizing providers for doing their jobs ethically and legally. These protections help create a more stable, inclusive, and compassionate community where all people can thrive.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:33:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875 Relating to Health Care.**

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.

Additionally, I support this measure because gender-affirming care is evidence-based, and medically necessary. Gender-affirming care is supported by every major medical association in the United States, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics.

Finally, gender affirming care should be treated as private, confidential information between the patient and medical provider. Interference with medical care impacts an individual's liberty and life.

For these reasons, I urge this Committee to pass HB1875.

Sincerely,

Carrie Ann Shirota, Esq.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:02:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mareva Minerbi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee on Health,

I write in support of HB1875 because access to gender-affirming health care is essential to the health, dignity, and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse people.

Mareva Minerbi

Jamie D. Agapoff M.D, M.S. (she/her)
Email: jamie@jamieagapoff.com

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing in strong support of HB1875. I am a Board Certified Psychiatrist and a World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) GEI SOC8 Certified Member, who trained locally, is licensed in the state, and continues to teach, mentor, and collaborate on research with local providers.

Right now, the bodily autonomy and rights of transgender people across the U.S. are being threatened or limited in frightening ways. In the last few years, hundreds of bills have been proposed or made into law. This is happening despite strong evidence that supporting transgender people and providing them access to gender affirming care saves lives and improves mental health outcomes [1]. For example, research from the Family Acceptance Project show that LGBTQ youth who experience low family acceptance of their LGBTQ identity report higher levels of depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts [2]. Conversely, a large national sample of LGBTQ youth found that being respectful of a youth's gender identity was associated with just over 40% lower odds of them attempting suicide in the past year [3]. The measures outlined in HB1875 would help safeguard Hawai'i's transgender community.

In 2023, the State of Hawaii's Department of Health released a statement on rights and public health, acknowledging that all TGD persons "...should have an equitable opportunity to achieve their optimal state of health and well-being." It recognized the unique contributions of māhūwahine, māhūkāne, transgender, gender diverse people, and other populations to the diversity of Hawai'i, and the importance of protecting them from discrimination. HB1875 will help.

This legislation ensures that Hawaii remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. It expands Hawai'i's existing Shield Law to explicitly include gender-affirming care. It protects patient privacy and limits improper disclosure of medical information. It prevents frivolous or retaliatory lawsuits targeting providers or families. It prohibits insurers from penalizing providers for offering lawful care. And, it affirms that gender-affirming care is legitimate, medically necessary health care.

HB1875 is just good governance.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care. As a physician who provides gender affirming care, I believe HB1875 is essential to protect TGD persons and their families.

Sincerely,

Jamie D. Agapoff M.D., M.S.
WPATH GEI SOC8 Certified Member

References:

1) Coleman, Eli, et al. "Standards of care for the health of transgender and gender diverse people, version 8." *International Journal of Transgender Health* 23.sup1 (2022): S1-S259.
<https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>

2) Ryan, Caitlin, et al. "Family acceptance in adolescence and the health of LGBT young adults." *Journal of child and adolescent psychiatric nursing* 23.4 (2010): 205-213.
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-6171.2010.00246.x>

3) The Trevor Project. Behaviors of Supportive Parents and Caregivers for LGBTQ Youth. (2022)
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/>

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:57:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

please support this important bill

this bill is pono and and shows aloha for our ohana,

you have read the bill and know the critics are not telling the truth about ot

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:54:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I ask that you please support HB1875 to protect gender affirming care and reproductive health care in Hawaii.

This type of care is life saving, and in fact saved the life of my son. He was depressed and suicidal, spending weeks in the hospital prior to his transition. Once he received gender affirming care, he changed completely. He is now a confident young man, getting his bachelors and masters degrees so that he can help others.

Gender affirming care is not always surgery. It includes hormones and hormone blockers. Access to gender affirming care is already quite challenging, and we should not make it any harder for the people in our state.

Gender affirming care is HEALTH CARE and should be accessible to all. Individuals and families, along with their doctors, should determine what care is best for them. Not the broad population, speaking for a small set of people who they actually know very little about. Please protect our rights, and save the lives of people who need this health care.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Wood

Kalaheo, HI 96741

808-221-7229

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:14:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Gender-affirming care is health care and must be protected in Hawaii from potential outside attacks. In Hawaii, traditionally there was great respect for mahu individuals. This respect must be continued and protected, and people must have access to care. Mahalo.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:16:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support expanding the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:25:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
S Henderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose HB 1875 and respectfully request that you vote against it for the following reasons:

1. It removes protections from patients, including keiki, in favor of protections for medical personnel performing irreversible and controversial procedures on patients which have the potential for the need of life-long medical care. Your job is to protect citizens of this state, especially our keiki, from harm from special interest groups who stand to gain financially from their actions, even in the name of "medical intervention."
2. The [American Society of Plastic Surgeons concluded](#) that there is insufficient evidence to support gender-related surgical interventions for children and adolescents and recommends delaying such surgeries until at least age 19. These gender-related surgical interventions are often irreversible, and we are already hearing of a number of individuals who, as adults, attempt to detransition with great difficulty and expense. We need to protect keiki: Delay (rather than facilitate) life-altering and often irreversible procedures until individuals are mature enough to make informed decisions affecting the rest of their lives.
3. This law shifts authority for major medical decisions away from parents and legal guardians and strengthens state authority. This seems very communist, authoritarian in nature. I believe the family is the foundation of a healthy society, and your duty is to protect parental rights rather than strip them away in favor of governmental control.

Please do not allow HB 1875 to proceed. Mahalo.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:48:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kunane Dreier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Kunane Dreier

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:56:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Manayan	Individual	Support	In Person

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.

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 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 helps ensure that qualified, ethical providers

are not pushed out of practice simply for serving patients whose care has become politically contentious.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Olivia Manayan, MD MPH

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:08:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keana Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Unfortunately, especially since the overturn of Roe, incidents of violence have continuously increased. This includes vandalism, assault and battery, threats of harm or death threats, stalking, harassment, and in the most extreme cases, murder of individual abortion providers.

We are asking the state legislature to enhance protections for health care facilities — including patients and providers — from protestors by giving law enforcement the tools they need to intervene.

Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

HB-1875

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

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:31:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Higa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jade Higa. I am an educator who sees how gender-affirming care positively impacts both my students and my larger community. Maintaining consistent and easy access to GAC is key to the mental and physical health of Hawai'i's residents. Please support HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:35:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleilani P Degracia	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kokua for testimony

HB 1875 Relating To Healthcare

Kokua for your testimony is needed immediately! By Sunday 01/08/26

The Gender Affirming Care shield law (HB 1875) is scheduled for Monday 2pm.

Position

SUPPORT

ONLINE TESTIMONY

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Kaleilani Degracia

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:37:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:57:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Prellberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members,

I strongly support **HB 1875** because it recognizes our kuleana to provide safe healthcare—not just as a general right, but with special care and protection for those facing the most difficult medical decisions.

This bill is about protection of:

- **Privacy:** It keeps our medical info safe from outside interference.
- **Safety:** It creates a shield for our doctors and patients against legal attacks from the mainland.
- **Compassion:** It ensures that gender-affirming and reproductive care remain safe and legal in our islands.

Hawai‘i should be a place of safety, not a target for out-of-state attacks. Pass HB 1875 to strengthen the protections for our doctors and patients. Let’s keep our healthcare decisions here at home.

Mahalo,

Stacy Prellberg

Kailua, Hawaii

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:30:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:34:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my support for HB1875. I am a resident of Pahoia HI my name is Bo Breda and I support HB1875. It is my belief that no one has a right to control what happens to another person's body. There are numerous genetic situations (as I understand it over 40) where the body is not definitively Male or Female. About 2% of the population is born with genetic anomalies and if they have access to gender affirming care then they should not be denied that access. Gender dysphoria is a psychological condition that is quite debilitating and if someone feels that way no other person but their doctor should have a right to do anything to that person.

Thanks you for this opportunity speak to the legislature.

Bo Breda

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:36:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my support for HB1875. I am a resident of Pahoia HI my name is Peter Wilson and I support HB1875. It is my belief that no one has a right to control what happens to another person's body. There are numerous genetic situations (as I understand it over 40) where the body is not definitively Male or Female. About 2% of the population is born with genetic anomalies and if they have access to gender affirming care then they should not be denied that access. Gender dysphoria is a psychological condition that is quite debilitating and if someone feels that way no other person but their doctor should have a right to do anything to that person.

Thanks you for this opportunity speak to the legislature.

Peter Wilson

Committee on Health
Chair Gregg Takayama Vice-Chair Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy
and Committee Members

Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce
Chair Scott Matayoshi Vice-chair Tine Nakada Grandinetti
and Committee Members

HB1875 Relating to Health Care

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

My name is Rita Kama-Kimura and I stand in strong opposition to this bill.

No, bill having to do with health care issues should have a blanket shield for any health care provider, with an objective to protect them from accountability.

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

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

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

Note the following case, possibly the first of many to come.

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

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

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

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

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY
HB1875 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Good Afternoon, Committee Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to House Bill 1875.

The Bill attempts to insulate health care providers from being penalized by insurance companies for performing gender-altering procedures on minors.

I am vehemently opposed to these procedures for minors to begin with. Puberty is a mentally challenging and vulnerable time. Combine the common experience of gender dysphoria with the fact that these procedures are huge money-makers for the medical profession and you have a situation ripe for abuse.

We are seeing it now. Many “de-transitioners” and their parents realize that they were manipulated and duped into accepting irreversible gender mutilation. They now face a lifetime of regret.

I’m sure you are aware of the recent case in which a woman who underwent a **double mastectomy** at age 16 as part of a gender transition has won \$2 million in damages against her medical providers. There are many other cases in the pipeline.

The American Society of Plastic Surgeons recently stated their position that doctors should delay gender-related surgeries until age 19, citing “insufficient evidence” that benefits outweigh risks. After that, the American Medical Association also endorsed Restrictions on Gender-Related Surgery for Minors.

Other professional positions are likely to follow. Thus passing a bill to protect these ill-advised practices and force insurance providers to keep malpractice coverage in place would fall to certain subsequent litigation.

The writing is on the wall. Kill this bill.

Conversely, I urge you to pass legislation to OUTLAW life-changing gender-transition procedures. Legislators have a moral duty to protect the physical and mental well-being of children in our communities.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:06:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Stewart Sloan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Hawai‘i living in Kapa‘a. As a transgender person, I wholeheartedly support legislation that protects access to gender-affirming health care for transgender individuals, their families, and the dedicated health care providers who serve them. These protections are especially vital now, as many states across the country—and even at the federal level—are enacting policies that make life increasingly difficult for transgender people.

HB 1875 strengthens these protections by ensuring that patients and providers are shielded from harmful legal and insurance practices that could limit access to essential care. By safeguarding gender-affirming treatments, this bill helps preserve the dignity, health, and well-being of transgender individuals in our community.

I urge you to support HB 1875 and stand with Hawai‘i’s transgender community in affirming their right to compassionate, respectful, and accessible health care. Mahalo for your consideration and commitment to justice and care for all.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:20:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support!

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:23:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am submitting testimony in strongest possible support of HB1875. As a 72 year old married cis man , I have NEVER been inconvenienced or taken aback by any trans members of our communities. It just doesn't matter to me and shouldn't matter to anyone! We should all have the EXACT same rights and benefits of any member of our communities. This bill in particular reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. Hawai'i has a chance to be a beacon for trans rights and human decency to others in our once great nation. Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

Mahalo nui loa for all you do.

DeWaine Tollefsrud

Kea'au, HI 96749

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:26:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff Andrews	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have worked as an educator for over 18 years, currently at the `Iolani school but before in New York State. What I know and have experienced in every instance with a student or friend transitioning is that it is not easy at any age. The stigma, alone, is difficult, let alone the painful surgery and follow up care necessary. People never go lightly into this process, and usually spend years and years before ever getting any of this care. The right to a healthy life is a fundamental right. Mental illness continues to be a major deterrent to practicing that fundamental right. If we as a society can help in this process, it is our duty as empathetic citizens.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:46:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel M. Willey, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee on Health,

I'm writing to you to respectfully urge your support of HB1875. I'm an OBGYN physician practicing in Hawai'i for over 15 years. Thank you so much for all that you do.

Angel M. Willey MD

OBGYN Kaiser Honolulu

ACOG Hawai'i Immediate Past Chair

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:50:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Llanes	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. It is especially important to protect the Trans community at this time. Two of my friends have shared with me the difficulties of obtaining care while they were transitioning this past year and have considered leaving HAWAII to receive the care they need. They should be able to receive essential care right here in their home.

This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:57:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. This bill reflects Hawai‘i’s values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare.

Please protect our trans community and pass HB1875.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:02:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Shafer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying in support of HB1875.

It is clear that it is up to individual states to protect their citizens from federal level discrimination and abuse, and this bill clearly intends to expand protections for all Hawai'i residents who receive gender affirming care, regardless if that person is cisgender or transgender. While the federal government weaponizes litigation and holds funding hostage, it is critical that Hawai'i, a state with one of the highest percentages of trans people, hold the line against abuse of power. Trans people have, and always will exist. Many indigenous peoples across the United States have had their language for gender non-conforming and trans people (as understood through a western lense) stolen and largely forgotten, making the survival of Māhū a feat worth continuing and celebrating through legal protection and recognition.

Thank you for your time.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:11:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Empeno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testifying in strong support of this measure.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:46:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Rep Takayama, Chair, and Rep Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair, and the Committee on Health and Rep Matayoshi, Chair, and Rep Grandinetti, Vice Chair, and the Committee on Consumer Protection and Commerce,

Please support and pass HB1875.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Colleen F Inouye MD FACHE FAAPL FACOG

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:58:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Suesue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Licensed Clinical Social Worker and a member of Indivisible Hawaii. We must pass legislation to protect health care providers so that we may continue to use scientifically supported, best practice methods. Thank you for supporting this bill.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:15:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Tjoeng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, & all the committee members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB1875. More than ever, it is extremely important that we support people who need gender-affirming healthcare. Hawai'i has often led many important healthcare reforms. Please continue this legacy with this important legislation. Please support HB1875.

Mahalo,

Rachel Tjoeng

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:23:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I submitted testimony in favor of HB1875 previously — the hearing was postponed thanks to our latest storm and, incredibly, written testimony does not carry forth.

I am certain that I said something about my being part of the affected community, the current national political situation, and the need for our islands to lead morally. All of that stands. Pass this bill, that we are one of two blue states in the U.S. that hasn't put a measure like this on the books is shameful.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:24:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB1875. Gender affirming care is under attack in this country in so many different ways, and we must help keep such attacks at bay. Please pass this measure to help ensure our health care providers have a little additional protection from bad-intentioned outsiders, and so that our providers can more confidently continue providing gender affirming care to our people who need it.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:40:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha! HB1875 is on gender affirming care (and it is flora's boss's project. Testimony due tomorrow. Here's my basic one cuz no time

Aloha e Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, & all the committee members,

I am testifying in strong support of HB1875. More than ever, it is extremely important that we support people who need gender-affirming healthcare. Hawai'i has often led many important healthcare reforms. Please continue this legacy with this important legislation. Please support HB1875.

Mahalo,

Rita Ryan, MA, RDH

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:51:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1875 both as an individual and as a member of Indivisibles Hawaii.

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**

Mahalo for all you do

Karen Valasek

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:53:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
(Rev.) Cloudia Charters	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha greetings,

It is sad that this legislation is necessary but it clearly is to protect our families and healthcare providers from ideologically driven punishments that are shockingly being established in this country.

Malama Pono

2/9/26

Testimony in Support of HB1875 regarding Gender Affirming Healthcare Services

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD. I am a pediatrician in Maui where I have worked for almost 12 years, and I am writing representing myself in support of HB1875. During these uncertain times the best course of action is to protect our transgender community and those who care for them. Transgender care is life saving care and 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 your support,

Dr. Casandra Simonson

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:59:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I respectfully submit my testimony in SUPPORT of this bill. Our LGBTQ+ community is under attack and we need state-level protections now more than ever. Please continue doing what is pono and protect ALL of Hawai'i's residents and visitors.

Mahalo!

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:08:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB1875 ensures that Hawai‘i remains a safe place where medical decisions are made by patients, families, and healthcare professionals — not politicians. I fully support HB1875 to protect our rights to safe and dignified healthcare for transgender folks.

Thank You,

Amy Jindra

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:10:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Karjala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of HB1875. It is imperative that we not limit gender-affirming healthcare, and continue to keep Hawai'i at the forefront of affirmative care. Remember, this also includes care for affirming one's OWN gender!

Please continue to support this important legislation.

Mahalo,

Patrick Karjala
Mililani, HI

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:15:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am reaching out to you to ask for your support of **House Bill 1875** – Related to Health Care that is being heard on **Wednesday, Feb 11th at 2:00 PM**. I fully support HB1875 because protecting access to gender affirming care and reproductive health care because, frankly, it saves lives. Denying or limiting access to gender affirming care and reproductive health care causes significant harm to public health and greatly increases the risk for suicide. As suicide is already one of the top leading causes of fatal injuries here in our state, it is more important now than ever to advocate for protections that affect our most marginalized communities.

Mahalo for your time and hopefully your support on Wednesday.

Amanda Martinez, MPH

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:57:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha.

My name is June Perry. I am a resident of the state of Hawai'i.

Like many people, I rely on hormonal medication to live comfortably and happily.

The federal government and conservative politicians are attempting to criminalize and restrict access to these proven medications.

Please protect me, and people like me, from the threat of having our health care outlawed.

My endocrine system is not a political plaything. I'm simply a person who needs a basic medication.

Mahalo for your time and support.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:01:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Matayoshi and Committee Members,

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

As direct of a community-based queer history project that works to illuminate and honor gender and sexual diversity across the multicultural landscape of these islands, I have seen countless examples of persecution against gender and sexual minorities at different times in Hawai‘i’s history, always rooted in a meanspirited ideology aimed at dividing communities and denying the humanity of individuals who are simply trying to live their best lives. But in these examples, I have also seen the inspiration that emerges when good people rise to say no, not here, not now, not in our name.

I hope that you and all your committee members will support HB 1875 as well, ensuring that Hawai‘i’s longstanding commitment to inclusion, compassion, and aloha prevails in efforts to protect vulnerable members of our communities against the bigotry and hatred now rippling across the U.S. and around the world.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring that Hawai‘i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to necessary care without fear.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration,

Joe Wilson

Aloha Chair and Committee Members. As a family member of a transgender child, I urge you to recommend passage of this bill and do all that you can to get it passed. Access to affirming medical care has been a godsend to our family. I have seen first hand the help it provides to allow such children to become happy, thriving children. Things were very different before my grandchild was able to receive informed and appropriate care.

I have also seen and experienced first hand the lack of understanding, rejection and intolerance that transgender children experience from people who have not taken the time to understand gender dysphoria. Believe me, this is extremely painful for such children and their families.

You will no doubt receive testimony opposing this bill. I ask that you please carefully consider the opinions of families who are actually dealing with this first hand and any testimony you receive from medical providers who are experienced in treating gender dysphoria. Please let that information guide you. We need this bill to pass. Please do not let us down.

Diana Van De Car

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:02:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:01:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Cairns	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Members of the House

I am writing in strong support of HB1875 relating to health care and expanding the protections of Act 2, SLH 2023. This past year we have seen how our transgender brothers and sisters have been vilified by the current federal administration despite being less than 1% of the population. Trans people deserve to receive gender-affirming care as they themselves see fit and they also deserve to live without the fear of retaliation from criminal or civil courts in other states. We have seen how the courts can be utilized to punish women for seeking life-saving reproductive treatment as is the case for the 200+ women who have been arrested for seeking reproductive care since Roe v. Wade was overturned. Transgender individuals are 19x more likely to die by suicide due to the stigma that they face and increased access to gender-affirming care is strongly believed to lower rates of suicidality within the transgender community. Passing this bill will allow for our transgender neighbors to receive gender-affirming care, including mental health services, with peace of mind knowing that they cannot be persecuted simply for being who they are and seeking the care they need. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:12:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Healthcare decisions belong to patients and doctors, not politicians. This shield bill is important to allow trans families on island to feel at ease knowing their healthcare will be protected.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:24:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this Bill.

Why are we protecting the physicians and medical practitioners that want to kill or mutilate our children instead of protecting our children from these medical practitioners?

In Support of HB 1875

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee members:

I write in support of HB 1875, to expand protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, protections against abusive litigation, and protections for health care providers who provide legally-authorized reproductive health care and/or gender-affirming care services, including medical and mental health care.

Growing up in Hawai'i, I never questioned variances in gender expression and sexual orientation. To me, the term "mahu"¹ didn't carry any negative connotations. As an adult, I learned about gender dysphoria, which a person experiences when they do not solely identify with the gender assigned to them at birth; or feel that they are supposed to be a person of the opposite gender.

I think many of us can relate to the feeling of *not being able to be your authentic self*.

I worked with previously dismissed college students in my professional roles at three different types of institutions. Many felt that they were not in control of their own career path as younger adults, leading to school failure and frustrated parents. When returning to college, these same students were now aligned with their *own* purpose, forming their own career identity.

As a practitioner in higher education, I believe that college students have more positive well-being and do better academically when their major aligns with their idea of their future selves. I do not live with the fear that I may be sued – or attacked – for acknowledging a students' choice and providing them with the tools to pursue their lives as they see fit.

This is just a small example of what happens when people are leading their lives based on someone else's agenda or their perception of society's expectations of them.

For some transgender and non-binary people who additionally experience discrimination and bullying for *just being themselves*, gender-affirming care can be life saving.

According to a 2023 report on the U.S. Transgender Population Health Study² by the UCLA Williams School of Law³, when compared to adults who identify with their gender given at birth, transgender adults were:

- *7x more likely* to contemplate suicide
- *4x more likely* to attempt suicide; and
- *8x more likely* to engage in non-suicidal self-injury.

¹ "Dual male and female mind, body, heart, and spirit," as described in <https://kapaemahu.com/legend/>

² <http://www.transpop.org/>

³ <https://williamsinstitute.law.ucla.edu/press/transpop-suicide-press-release>

A 2022 article⁴ using a U.S. database of transgender and non-binary youth between the ages of 6 and 20 concludes that:

- Gender dysphoria was associated with hospitalization for suicidality and self-harm.
- Racial minorities and low-income youth were likely under-reported because of *lack of access to gender-affirming care*.
- The child's context matters. Children in Southern states were *less likely to identify as transgender or non-binary* than children in other areas of the U.S.
 - This could be due to *clinicians not being prepared* to provide gender-affirming care in those states;
 - Or worse, discrimination among those communities that prevents youth from self-identifying.

The last conclusion from this report, that “structural and provider-level interventions are needed to reduce discrimination and improve access to gender-affirming care to prevent adverse outcomes,” is being addressed by this bill.

Not surprisingly, women who are not able to get pregnant and are actively seeking medical assistance *also have a higher risk* of major depression⁵ and suicidality^{6 7} than other women.

As legislators, you are in the position of enacting public policy that will affect the well-being of everyone in the state of Hawai'i. For who among us has not been affected by suicide?

The voice of the community is represented when you decide on any measure. Please vote to approve these protections for providers who provide lawful reproductive health care and/or gender-affirming care services. By supporting these providers, the state of Hawai'i shows its commitment to providing access to physical and mental health care for all of us, regardless of our gender identities, and our ability to have children with or without medical intervention.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Angela Coloretti McGough
Kāne'ohe, HI

⁴ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9746123/#S17>

⁵ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC5216278/>

⁶ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9566938>

⁷ <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/27084991>

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:55:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee.

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

I believe every trans and non-binary young adult deserves access to gender-affirming care without fear of political interference. This bill protects trans and non-binary youth in a life-saving 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 essential for reducing depression and suicide and supporting our youth. A Washington University study found that transgender/nonbinary 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 and high suicide risk ([link](#)).

Our trans and 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 folks – 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 providing care lawful where given. Currently, about half the states already enact 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 C.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:04:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Ogata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1875 as an individual who has spent time alongside people navigating the health care system and has seen how deeply access, or lack of access, shapes their lives. **This issue matters to me because I have witnessed both the relief that comes when care is accessible and affirming, and the fear that sets in when that care feels uncertain or under threat.**

HB1875 helps protect patients and providers who are seeking or delivering gender-affirming and reproductive health care that is already legal in Hawai‘i. Across the country, political pressure and legal actions are being used to interfere with deeply personal health care decisions. Even when those efforts come from outside our state, the impact is felt here. I have seen how quickly uncertainty can create stress, hesitation, and harm for people who are simply trying to take care of themselves or those they love.

Health care works best when it is rooted in trust. Decisions about someone’s body and well-being should be made in confidential, respectful spaces between patients and their medical providers. This bill helps protect that trust by strengthening privacy protections and guarding against discrimination based on the type of care a person needs.

For transgender and gender-diverse people in particular, gender-affirming care can be life-stabilizing. I have seen how access to this care supports mental health, confidence, and the ability to move through the world with a sense of safety and dignity. **When that care is delayed, denied, or questioned, the harm is real and lasting.**

HB1875 reflects the Hawai‘i I believe in: one that leads with compassion, protects personal dignity, and stands up for people’s right to make their own health care decisions. I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share my testimony and for your thoughtful consideration.

With gratitude,

Andrew Ogata

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:05:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Opposition Testimony: Strongly Oppose HB 1875 – Relating to Health Care (Gender-Affirming Care Services)

Submitted by: Sheila Medeiros, Kapolei, Hawaii

Date: February 9, 2026

Dear Chair and Members of the Committees,

I strongly oppose HB 1875, which expands protections for gender-affirming health care services, shields providers from adverse insurer or malpractice actions for providing such care, and clarifies protected health information disclosures. This bill entrenches interventions—including for minors—despite weak evidence and growing professional caution.

On February 3, 2026, the American Society of Plastic Surgeons (ASPS)—the leading U.S. organization for plastic surgeons—issued a position statement recommending that gender-related surgeries (breast/chest, genital, facial) be delayed until at least age 19. Citing low-certainty evidence, insufficient proof of favorable risk-benefit ratios, potential long-term harms, and the irreversible nature of procedures in developmentally vulnerable youth, ASPS urges deferral to protect minors. This aligns with broader concerns from systematic reviews (e.g., Cass Review, HHS analyses) showing low-quality data and risks like infertility, bone issues, and regret.

Major plastic surgery centers and professionals are adopting cautious policies, halting or deferring irreversible gender-affirming procedures on minors amid these evidence gaps. HB 1875 would shield and incentivize such practices despite these warnings.

Minors undergo critical brain and identity development into their 20s, with full decision-making maturity often around age 25. Irreversible interventions risk interfering with natural maturation. No gender-affirming medical or surgical care should occur on minors—puberty suppression or alteration carries permanent risks without proven long-term benefits. Support should focus on therapy, watchful waiting, and addressing co-occurring mental health needs, allowing natural resolution in most cases.

HB 1875 prioritizes provider protections over child safeguarding, ignoring evolving evidence and professional guidance urging delay until adulthood.

I urge rejection of HB 1875. Hawaii should prioritize non-invasive support for minors, defer irreversible steps to maturity (typically age 25), and ensure evidence-based, informed consent.

Thank you. I am available for questions.

Respectfully,
Sheila Medeiros
Kapolei, Hawaii

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:23:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Health care for ALL matters.

Judith White, Psy.D.

Kapaa

Member, Kauai Indivisible

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:44:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:47:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymen Laupola	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support H.B. 1875 because Hawai‘i has a clear responsibility to protect patients and providers who are acting lawfully under state law from abusive litigation and out-of-state political interference. This bill reinforces medical privacy, professional integrity, and access to lawful health care by ensuring that fear of retaliation does not dictate medical decisions. It affirms Hawai‘i’s commitment to personal autonomy, due process, and the rule of law.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:12:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1875 related to health care. The time is now to protect access to gender affirming care. Our vulnerable community members are consistently under attack and at risk of losing life-saving care.

I humbly ask that you pass this measure out to your committee so we can finally pass it into law.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lynn Robinson-Onderko, Ewa Beach

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:17:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1875. 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

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:20:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:25:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you! I'm a member of Indivisible Hawai'i.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:30:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Rivers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of shielding providers of gender affirming health care. These health practioners have been medically trained and have the single most important goal of doing the best thing for their patients. Gender affirming care is essential to the well-being of the individual seeking it and in many cases is life or death. Not allowing the providers to support them goes against all of their oaths.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:53:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

As a nurse I support this legislation. Thank you.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:55:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:01:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

H

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

My name is Joseph Christopher Guerra, and I respectfully submit this testimony in strong support of HB1875.

As a community leader, advocate, and longtime resident of Hawai‘i, I work closely with LGBTQIA+ individuals, families, and allies who rely on access to safe, ethical, and affirming health care. For many in our community, gender-affirming and reproductive health services are not optional they are essential to physical health, mental well-being, and personal dignity.

HB1875 provides critical protections for patients, providers, and covered entities who offer lawful, medically necessary care. By shielding them from abusive and politically motivated litigation, this bill ensures that medical decisions remain where they belong. Between patients and qualified health care professionals.

This measure also strengthens privacy protections for sensitive health information. In an era where personal medical decisions are increasingly politicized, safeguarding confidential patient data is vital to maintaining trust in our health care system.

As someone deeply involved in community service and leadership, I have witnessed how fear, stigma, and legal uncertainty can prevent people from seeking the care they need. HB1875 helps

remove those barriers by affirming that Hawai'i is a place where individuals can access comprehensive, evidence-based health services without intimidation or interference.

Additionally, by addressing medical malpractice insurance and health carrier obligations, this bill supports the stability of our health care workforce and infrastructure. Providers should not be forced to leave our state or limit services due to hostile legal environments. Our communities deserve continuity of care and access to skilled professionals.

Hawai'i has long stood for compassion, inclusivity, and respect for individual autonomy. HB1875 reflects these values by protecting the right of every person to make personal health decisions free from discrimination and coercion.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB1875 and reaffirm Hawai'i's commitment to justice, privacy, and equitable health care for all.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and service.

Sincerely,

Joseph Christopher Guerra

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:23:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celina Macadangdang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a community Family Medicine physician who works with transgender and gender-diverse patients. I am writing in strong support of HB1875, which expands Hawai'i's Shield Law to explicitly protect gender-affirming care. This legislation is essential to protect both patients and providers from politically motivated interference and to ensure we can continue to practice evidence-based, ethical medicine.

Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, evidence-based, and lifesaving. Multiple major medical organizations—including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Endocrine Society, and World Professional Association for Transgender Health—recognize gender-affirming care as medically necessary treatment.[\[1\]](#)[\[2\]](#)[\[3\]](#)

The evidence demonstrates that gender-affirming care significantly improves mental health outcomes and saves lives:

Reduction in Depression and Anxiety: A landmark 2-year prospective study published in the New England Journal of Medicine followed over 300 transgender and nonbinary youth receiving gender-affirming hormones and found significant decreases in depression and anxiety symptoms, along with increases in positive affect and life satisfaction.[\[4\]](#) **These improvements were sustained over the full 2-year follow-up period. A 2022 JAMA Network Open study found that youth who initiated puberty blockers or gender-affirming hormones had 60% lower odds of depression compared to those who wanted but did not receive treatment.**[\[5\]](#)

Dramatic Reduction in Suicidality: The same JAMA study demonstrated that transgender and nonbinary youth who received gender-affirming medical

interventions had 73% lower odds of suicidality over 12 months compared to those who did not receive treatment.[\[5\]](#) Among youth with suicidal ideation at baseline, 60% had no suicidal thoughts at follow-up after receiving care.[\[5\]](#) A 2022 study of over 11,000 transgender youth found that access to gender-affirming hormone therapy was associated with lower odds of seriously considering suicide, and for youth under 18, it was associated with lower odds of suicide attempts.[\[6\]](#)

Improved Quality of Life and Functioning: Research consistently shows that gender-affirming care improves appearance congruence—the alignment between gender identity and physical appearance—which is strongly associated with better psychosocial functioning.[\[4\]](#) Studies in adults demonstrate similar benefits, with recent research showing significant reductions in depressive symptoms and suicidal ideation following hormone therapy initiation.[\[7\]\[8\]](#)

The Safety Profile is Well-Established: Gender-affirming care has been provided for decades with well-documented safety profiles. The medications used are common and can be safely prescribed by family physicians, internists, obstetrician-gynecologists, and other trained clinicians.[\[2\]](#) While all medical treatments carry some risks, the evidence is clear that the benefits of gender-affirming care far outweigh the risks, and that withholding treatment causes significant harm.[\[9\]\[10\]](#)

Without these protections, transgender and gender-diverse patients in Hawai'i face increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. The evidence shows that delays in accessing care put transgender individuals at risk for negative mental health outcomes, increased socioeconomic distress, and increased exposure to violence.[\[11\]](#) As physicians, we have an ethical obligation to provide evidence-based care that improves our patients' health and saves lives.

I strongly urge your support of HB1875 to protect both the patients who need this care and the providers who deliver it.

Mahalo for your consideration.

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HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:30:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Eckstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB1875 to protect reproductive and gender affirming care. All of our citizens of all genders deserve access to the health care they need.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:32:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Sara Harris, and I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

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

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

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

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Sara C Harris, MD

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:37:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I feel it is more urgent now that our state acts to protect its vulnerable trans citizens from discrimination and erasure by the Federal Government and Republicans cruel campaign of hatred. Please support this bill and demonstrate your empathy.

Sarah Delgadillo

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:16:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1875 as an imperative measure to protect access to gender affirming care.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:16:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What is Medical Provider Shield Law?

Medical provider shield laws are state-level legal protections for healthcare providers (and sometimes patients/supporters) offering reproductive and gender-affirming care that's legal in their state, shielding them from out-of-state investigations, civil/criminal penalties, and professional discipline, particularly in states with bans. Enact strong shield legislation to block cooperation with out-of-state requests, protect medical records, and prevent license loss for providing care lawful where given, with about half the states enacting some form of these protections.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care service.

Who else has Shield Law for Gender-Affirming Care Providers?

As of July 2025, 18 states and Washington DC have shield laws for gender-affirming care providers.

(Source: <https://www.kff.org/state-health-policy-data/state-indicator/shield-laws/>)

Why is Shield Law for Gender-Affirming Care important for Hawaii?

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

Thank you, Jane Aquino Hawaii J20

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:21:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reni Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

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. 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 their obligations 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 fall of Roe v Wade. 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.

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.

Mahalo

Reni Soon, MD MPH

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:35:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a registered Hawai'i voter living in Honolulu and a member of IndivisibleHawaii. I strongly support this measure to protect care givers and families who are providing/seeking care as allowed by law. We need to ensure access to gender-affirming care for all who need it; protect families from unjust legal actions and custody disputes; shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions and disciplinary actions; and uphold Hawai'i's core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:47:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Chen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Andrew Chen, and I am submitting testimony **in opposition to HB1875**.

I am concerned that this bill may make it harder to hold providers accountable when patients, especially minors, later believe they were harmed by gender-affirming care. There are growing numbers of public accounts from individuals who regret medical transition and describe long-lasting or irreversible impacts, including concerns about fertility. Some also report that they did not receive meaningful informed consent and felt steered toward one path without full discussion of alternatives and risks.

Regardless of one's views on gender-affirming care, **patients must retain clear access to medical records, expert review, and the courts when malpractice is alleged**. The law should not create additional barriers that discourage legitimate claims or make accountability harder to pursue.

For these reasons, I respectfully **oppose HB1875**.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Andrew Chen

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 11:35:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the Committees,

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

D Dangaran

Assistant Professor of Law

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:33:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This legislation is a necessary & compassionate response to the escalating attacks on gender affirming & 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 & custody disputes

Shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions & disciplinary actions

uphold Hawai'i's core values of inclusion, privacy & medical freedom

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:47:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Lawrence Frank	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The House Committee on Health & Consumer Protection and Commerce

From: Lawrence Frank Jr., PhD

Date: 2/09/2026

Subject: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 – Relating to Gender-Affirming Health Care

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

My name is Dr. Frank, and I am writing to express my **strong support for HB1875**. This bill is a vital step in ensuring that Hawai‘i remains a sanctuary for evidence-based medical care and a defender of bodily autonomy.

HB1875 is necessary for several key reasons:

- **Legal Protection:** By expanding the existing Shield Law to include gender-affirming care, we protect our local providers and visiting patients from the overreach of extremist out-of-state litigation.
- **Privacy Rights:** It reinforces the sanctity of the patient-provider relationship by limiting the improper disclosure of sensitive medical information.
- **Medical Necessity:** It codifies what major medical associations already recognize: gender-affirming care is legitimate, lifesaving, and medically necessary.

Healthcare decisions should be made in a doctor's office, guided by science and compassion—not in a courtroom or a legislative session thousands of miles away. I urge the committee to **pass HB1875** to protect the rights and safety of all Hawaii residents.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:04:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jace Kawano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to the chairs, vice chairs, and members of the committees. My name is Ruby Kawano, and although I currently work in the House of Representatives under my legal name of Jace Kawano, my testimony is not in any way tied to the representative I work under.

I am writing in strong support of this bill. Part of the reason why I am able to identify as my preferred gender is due in large part to Hawaii's strong commitment to protecting gender queer individuals. The protections provided in this bill are an amazing reflection of that commitment and a wonderful shield for everybody who seeks gender affirming services against an increasingly hostile political environment.

In addition, I would like to respectfully propose a clarifying amendment to the bill. As currently drafted, the bill repeatedly relies on the phrase “...*lawful under the laws of this State.*” without specifying when legality is assessed. I would like to politely urge the joint Committees to amend this language to read “...*lawful under the laws of this State at the time care or treatment was administered.*” If not this exact language, then something similar.

I am not an expert on policy and do not wish to affect the overall intent of the bill. Only to clarify legislative intent and clarify what could be a critical ambiguity that might undermine the bill’s protections. Without this clarification, the statute could be interpreted to measure legality based on current or future law, rather than the law in effect when the care was actually provided. Hawai’i has always been incredibly stalwart in their protections for gender affirming care and those who need it, but nobody knows what the future holds. If the worst is to come, it is my hope that this bill may help prevent patients and providers from retroactive punishment for what was lawful conduct at the time. It will also provide certainty for providers who may be worried about providing gender affirming care in this political environment.

Mahalo.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:32:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Patrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

As an individual citizen and as a member of Indivisible West Oahu, I support this Bill.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:32:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 1875 for these reasons:

HB 1875 Shields Controversial Medical Practices from Accountability

The Bill Assumes the Legality of Irreversible Interventions — Then Insulates Them

Children Are Not Protected by This Bill

Leading Medical Authorities Urge Caution — This Bill Does Not

HB 1875 Undermines Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

Medical Ethics Should Not Be Replaced by Ideology

Compassion Requires Truth, Caution, and Accountability

Please stop this bill for the sake of our keiki's healthy choice.

Mahalo,

Linda

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:39:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB1875, which safeguards access to lawful health care in Hawai‘i and protects patients and providers from harmful governmental overreach. As both a nurse practitioner and a member of this community, I see firsthand how important it is that Hawai‘i act now to shield health care decisions from out-of-state political interference.

Access to reproductive healthcare is life-saving. Women who have the ability to delay pregnancy have better career and socioeconomic outcomes as well as healthier babies when they get pregnant.

In my clinical practice, I care for many transgender and gender-diverse patients who are simply trying to live healthy, stable lives. Nearly all major medical and psychological organizations recognize gender-affirming care as evidence-based and essential. I have personally seen how this care improves mental health, reduces distress, and helps patients function at school, at work, and within their families. For some patients, this care is truly lifesaving, and for most, it is life-changing. I have never had a patient thank me in tears for managing their diabetes. I *have*, however, found myself in tears alongside patients who expressed overwhelming gratitude—who never believed they would be accepted by a healthcare provider or given the chance to align their bodies with who they truly are inside.

Most gender-affirming care looks like routine primary care and mental health treatment — addressing gout, diabetes, anxiety, depression, and other common conditions. HB1875 helps ensure I can continue to provide appropriate, ethical care without fear that political pressure from other states will interfere with my ability to do my job.

Hawai‘i already struggles to recruit and retain health care professionals. As someone working in this system, I am deeply concerned that without protections like those in HB1875, more providers will choose to practice elsewhere. That would mean longer wait times, fewer options, and worse outcomes for patients across our islands.

This issue is personal for me. I have close friends and family members who are transgender. Access to safe, affirming health care matters to me not just professionally, but personally. Many of my patients and friends have told me they are not valued or protected in the State of Hawaii.

Passing HB1875 would send a powerful message that Hawai'i will stand with them and defend their right to receive lawful medical care.

Medical decisions belong with patients, families, and trained health care professionals — not politicians. Criminalizing providers for delivering standard, evidence-based care is frightening and harmful to the entire health care system. While I may disagree with another provider's approach to a patient's treatment, I absolutely do not want the federal government to dictate care.

HB1875 will help ensure that Hawai'i remains a place that respects bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and compassionate, evidence-based care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in protecting patients, providers, and human rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I would be happy to provide additional information or speak further about what I see in my practice and the research supporting this care.

Shanda Brack, APRN

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:41:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawai'i MUST shield providers of gender affirming health care!

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:42:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1875

I do not support abortions nor gender affirmative care to be performed in the state of Hawaii. It's just another way for us taxpayers to pay for others choice lifestyles. I do not support this bill.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 7:43:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of HB1875
Relating to Gender-Affirming Health Care and Reproductive Health Care**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ronnie Texeira, MD, and I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Hawai‘i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

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

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

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

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Ronnie Texeira, MD
Obstetrician-Gynecologist
Kaneohe, Hawaii

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:01:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Joie Yonamine, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875, which expands Hawai‘i’s existing medical provider shield protections to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving minors receiving such care.

Across the country, we are witnessing an unprecedented wave of legislation targeting both reproductive health care and gender-affirming care. These attacks have created a climate of fear for families seeking medically necessary treatment and for the providers who care for them. Hawai‘i has already taken an important step with Act 2, SLH 2023, which protects providers of reproductive health services. This bill builds on that foundation by extending the same essential protections to gender-affirming care.

Medical provider shield laws ensure that health care professionals acting lawfully in their own state are not subjected to out-of-state investigations, civil or criminal penalties, or professional discipline for providing evidence-based care. As of July 2025, 18 states and Washington, D.C. have enacted shield laws for gender-affirming care providers. Hawai‘i has the opportunity to join this growing coalition of states committed to safeguarding medical freedom, patient privacy, and the integrity of the provider-patient relationship.

Gender-affirming care is recognized by every major medical association as safe, effective, and often lifesaving. Families who seek this care deserve stability, not fear. Providers who offer this care deserve clarity, not legal uncertainty. And Hawai‘i, a state that has long stood for aloha and human rights, deserves laws that reflect our commitment to protecting all who call these islands home.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending compassionate, evidence-based health care.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:01:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your continued support for trans families. Healthcare decisions belong to patients and doctors, not politicians. Please support HB 1875 so ALL Hawaii residents have access to, and the dignity for, personal freedoms, and choices. Thank you!

☒

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:04:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryna Yamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in Strong Support of HOUSE Bill 1875, which seeks to protect gender-affirming healthcare in Hawaii.

As a parent that has a child that belongs to the LGBTQ+ community, passing this bill help my child thrive to be a contributing person to our State.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:08:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:37:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denize Machit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every person in this country have rights. Sometimes, because some people are racist and bigots, we must give special consideration to those who are being persecuted by our own citizens. That is why I support this bill. We must protect our people from those of us ourselves, until we achieve a level of societal equality for all our people.

Indivisible member,

Denize Machit

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:39:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Lee	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Members,

I am a member of the community and I am testifying in strong support of HB1875. I am lucky to have many amazing trans individuals in my life and I've seen firsthand how necessary gender-affirming care is for them be able to live full lives. Transitioning is a deeply personal journey and one that politics and politicians should have no say in. Please support this bill and protect trans people and their families.

Mahalo.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:47:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Sincerely,

Erin Furuichi

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:50:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People who transition don't do it because they are depraved or think it's a good idea to be different. They do it because God made them different. Just because you or your family might have been lucky enough to be born with certain genes that are the "norm", doesn't mean that those who are different are actually choosing that. Let's love each other and help them with the affirming care they are entitled to.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:50:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Shirts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill. I am a member of Indivisible.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:56:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am an Adolescent Medicine physician at Kapi'olani Medical Center for Women and Children. I take care of children and adolescents with gender medical care needs. I provide gender-affirming health care as it is medically sound and needed. It is evidence-based and is life-changing for the health and well-being of our keiki and the 'ohana. Not having a good understanding of the mental and medical healthcare needs, as well as the science behind gender medicine, is what makes people apprehensive about gender affirming care.

HB1875 protects healthcare providers and will ensure sound healthcare provision to the children and adolescents of Hawai'i.

Medical care is sacred between the patient and the provider. In this case, the children and the families are guided by their healthcare provider. Political interference is hurting this relationship. I strongly urge your support for HB1875.

Mahalo and I look forward to your leadership!

Respectfully yours,

Pia Francisco-Natanauan, MD

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:57:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1875

TO: Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, & HLT Committee Members
Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, & CPC Committee Members

FROM: Michael Paul, Resident of House District 27

DATE: February 9, 2026 (2:00pm)

I am writing in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HB 1875, and I humbly and urgently request that you pass this bill.

Reproductive health care and gender affirming care are under attack in many parts of our country, even by the federal government. It is important that we do what we can to safeguard people's access to both, here in Hawai'i. This bill will have the effect of guaranteeing everyone's right to make their own medical decisions and strengthen protections for reproductive health care. This bill ensures privacy in access to medical care and prohibits state officials from complying with out-of-state investigations or subpoenas. This bill, if passed, keeps medical decision making where it belongs, between the patient and their medical provider, as well as guardian when applicable.

All other states in the West Coast Health Alliance have passed similar legislation. In all, 14 states and Washington, DC have similar protections. We should join them. Please pass HB 1875, the lives and well-being of the most important people in my life depend on it.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:00:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BARBARA Anneken-Nall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1875 for many reasons, primarily for the protection of our children from the state and greedy medical professionals.

Their brains are not developed enough to make life changing, irreversable decisions like gender surgery.

Parents and government should protect them from such life changing decisions until they are mature enough to make this decision on their own.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:03:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Kealoha	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, Chairs Takayama and Keohokapu-Lee Loy of HLT and aloha chairs Matayoshi and Grandinetti of CPC,

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

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:15:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pononui Cabrinha	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Pononui Cabrinha

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:24:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liang-Yu Chi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of the Big Island, legislation like this helps to ensure that our rights and responsibilities around health care are equal for all, including queer and transgender individuals. Our communities feel strongest and we are able to most completely live our values of caring for each other in community when no one is singled out with unfair treatment. This bill is in alignment with the best practices we know from medical and public health practice, and helps Hawaii positively assert that it holds all members of community in care and esteem. Our queer friends and neighbors deserve the same access, and we become a stronger people for caring for all.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:28:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalani Placencia	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Shalani Placencia

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:36:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Health care decisions should be made in conversations between patients and their doctors. Doctors should not fear providing the care they believe is best. Transgender care is no different from other healthcare. If doctors are afraid to offer care, the trans community will suffer. People are being discriminated against because of their identities. This is an exercise in scapegoating that will not stop with transgender Americans. We need to support the most vulnerable in our communities.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:38:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keira Nash	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1875 because I am against discrimination and believe that the LGBTQIA+ community should have access to gender affirming care.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:49:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bejana Mehr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1875. I support protecting access to healthcare for all of the people who live in Hawai'i. It is important that we protect ourselves from mainland overstep and help keep healthcare available for all people. Please vote in support of HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:53:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Fujinaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Dylan Fujinaka

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:54:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for a chance to express strong support for this humane and necessary bill. It would be outrageous if backward repressive states could threaten our medical people for providing this compassionate care for Hawaiian people.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:57:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Kapua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Cathy Kapua and I strongly support HB 1875 which is being heard. HB 1875 would provide life-saving protections for people accessing Gender Affirming Care and the clinicians who provide it. This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. Thank you

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:23:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1875

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:25:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Tiare Sua

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:28:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalei Eleneke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kokua for testimony

HB 1875 Relating To Healthcare

Kokua for your testimony is needed immediately! By Sunday 01/08/26

The Gender Affirming Care shield law (HB 1875) is scheduled for Monday 2pm.

Position

SUPPORT

ONLINE TESTIMONY

1. Register for an Account:
 - Visit the Hawai'i State Capitol website.
 - Click "Register" in the top-right corner to create an account with your email.
 - Confirm your account via the verification email.
2. Locate the Bill/Hearing:
 - Log in to your account.
 - Enter the bill number (e.g., HB1, SB1) in the "Measure Status" box.

- Note: Testimony can only be submitted for bills scheduled for a hearing.
3. Submit Testimony:
- Click "Submit Testimony" in the top-right corner.
 - Fill in the required information (name, position: Pro/Con/Comments).
 - Upload document or type directly into the text box.
 - Select whether you will testify via Zoom or only written.
 - Click "Submit".

DEADLINE FOR ONLINE TESTIMONY

Sunday, February 8, 2pm

SAMPLE TESTIMONY

Copy and paste: 



Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

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

[Your Name]Shalei Eleneke

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:39:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brachelle Nueku	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members. I am a healthcare provider who works with transgender youth. Gender-affirming care provides safe medical treatment, mental health resources and support for our keiki to thrive as the people they have envisioned themselves to be. Restricting their care may force our transgender community to seek more dangerous and less regulated methods of transitioning, placing this community at risk. I ask you to support HB1875 and protect us physicians as we protect and provide ethical healthcare to our transgender community in Hawai'i.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:39:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthone Sanchez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Anthone Sanchez, and I am a proud queer man writing in strong support of HB1875.

I am a healthcare worker and a leader within our LGBTQ+ community here in Hawai‘i. I am speaking up and standing up for those who are unable to do so themselves due to the constant and growing threats facing the queer community. From my lived experience and my work within our community, I can say with certainty that members of our transgender community continue to face barriers when it comes to accessing gender-affirming healthcare.

Trained medical professionals should not be burdened by the political climate, rhetoric, or fear of current or future administrations, nor by the threat of litigation, when providing evidence-based, lifesaving medical care. This principle applies equally to reproductive healthcare and the rights of women to access that care.

HB1875 ensures that critical gaps in existing protections are filled so that healthcare professionals can focus on what they are trained to do: provide care. This bill helps prevent Hawai‘i from following the dangerous path seen in other states, where extreme abortion bans and political interference in medicine have created real healthcare crises and put lives at risk.

By passing HB1875, Hawai‘i reaffirms its commitment to protecting patients, supporting healthcare workers, and ensuring that medical decisions remain between patients and their providers. I strongly urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:41:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Fisher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1875 for the following reasons and so should you as our representative;

1. HB 1875 Shields Controversial Medical Practices from Accountability

HB 1875 does not merely protect access to health care — it **creates sweeping legal shields** that prevent professional boards, courts, and agencies from holding providers accountable when abortion or gender-related medical interventions are involved. No area of medicine should be placed above ethical review or oversight.

2. The Bill Assumes the Legality of Irreversible Interventions — Then Insulates Them

While HB 1875 does not explicitly authorize surgery, it **assumes the legality of medical and surgical interventions** and then builds broad protections around them. Once permitted under Hawai‘i law, even **irreversible procedures** are insulated from investigation, discipline, and scrutiny.

3. Children Are Not Protected by This Bill

HB 1875 fails to provide meaningful safeguards for minors. Children lack the maturity to consent to life-altering medical decisions, yet this bill discourages transparency and accountability when minors are involved. Public policy should err on the side of protecting vulnerable keiki — not shielding controversial practices.

4. Leading Medical Authorities Urge Caution — This Bill Does Not

In 2026, the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons concluded](#) that there is **insufficient evidence** to support gender-related surgical interventions for children and adolescents and **recommends delaying such surgeries until at least age 19**. HB 1875 ignores this growing medical caution and instead locks in legal protections prematurely.

5. HB 1875 Undermines Parents' Rights and Responsibilities

Parents are the primary caregivers and decision-makers for their children. HB 1875 shifts authority away from families by prioritizing state-protected access over parental involvement, informed consent, and family discernment — especially in deeply personal and irreversible matters.

6. Medical Ethics Should Not Be Replaced by Ideology

Medical licensing boards exist to protect patients and uphold ethical standards. HB 1875 weakens those protections by preventing boards from acting when abortion or gender-affirming care is involved. This sets a dangerous precedent where ideology overrides patient safety and professional ethics.

7. Compassion Requires Truth, Caution, and Accountability

True compassion does not silence questions, shield disputed practices from scrutiny, or rush vulnerable people into permanent decisions. Good public policy should protect life, respect families, and ensure that medicine remains ethical, evidence-based, and accountable.

Thank you for voting no on HB1875.

Sincerely,

Shannon Fisher

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:48:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika K Aresta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:52:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Snyder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB1875 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. My name is Jacob Snyder, and I am a third-year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. As a Queer and Trans+ person, HB1875 will ensure that I can receive reproductive health care and gender-affirming care services without the fear of discriminatory actions from health carriers.

As a relative of someone who passed during the United States AIDS Epidemic, I understand the horrors that result from the systemic oppression of LGBTQIA+ people through this country’s healthcare complex. For these reasons, **I support HB1875** in protecting these essential, life-saving healthcare services and strongly urge you to pass it.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:53:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanna Anolani Alegado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB1875 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. My name is Rosie Alegado and I am a resident of Kahalu‘u O‘ahu. As an ally of the Queer and Trans+ community, HB1875 will ensure that my friends can receive reproductive health care and gender-affirming care services without the fear of discriminatory actions from health carriers.

I support HB1875 in protecting these essential, life-saving healthcare services and strongly urge you to pass it.

me ke aloha,

Rosie Alegado

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:03:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jozie Valasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-LeeLoy, I am writing in strong support of HB1875. I respectfully urge you to support HB1875. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:16:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Committee members,

I strongly oppose HB1875.

This bill ignores recommendations that suggest waiting for children to mature around 19 years of age before receiving gender affirming care which may involve life changing, irreversible procedures.

This bill puts gender affirming care at the forefront and is being pushed as the ideal healthcare solution, while taking away parental rights and intervention, along with other safer and less intrusive avenues of intervention. Every effort of intervention should be considered and tried during their fragile, developmental years.

This bill dangerously safeguards those providing gender affirming care resulting in less accountability.

I oppose HB1875 for these and many other reasons.

Chair and Committee members, please oppose this bill.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:19:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members.

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875.

While I am 100% an advocate and ally for ALL LGBTQ friends and family receiving the care they need and deserve free of judgement or threat of legal action, I am also writing to you as a straight/cis person who wants MY rights protected. As a woman who has survived multiple miscarriages, had three successful births, and participated in surrogacy through IVF, I want MY privacy and reproductive/gender-affirming care options protected and available. There is a huge amount of overlap between IVF/HRT and other medicines and procedures that may be considered "reproductive" or "gender-affirming" care that impact people of all genders and backgrounds. Please protect ALL of our rights to receive the healthcare we need and remember while our trans friends may be the most impacted by the vile rhetoric and misinformation and discrimination occurring on this subject, these decisions impact all of our privacy and our access to life-saving healthcare.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:24:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Sanga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875. And I respectfully urge you to support HB 1875 as well.

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

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

I have worked in the community and understand now important health care service such as gender affirming care is important and needs to be protected. No one needs to be affaid of receving the health care or having their fear that their rights are being attacked.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Darren Sanga

TO: Committee on Health
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 329
FROM: Elaine Chan, MD

**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:

I am a physician providing reproductive health care across our state, and I am urging you to support HB1875.

HB1875 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 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.
- HB1875 enables our healthcare providers to have some recourse against abusive out-of-state litigation.

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

For these reasons, I respectfully urge your support of HB1875.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Elaine Chan, MD

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:34:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rabbi CJ Mays	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.

My name is Rabbi CJ Mays, and I serve Temple Emanu-El here in Honolulu. I write you as a faith leader, a community builder, and someone who believes deeply that protecting human dignity is a sacred responsibility. Every day in my work I sit with people in moments of hope, vulnerability, fear, and healing. That experience shapes why I feel compelled to speak out.

Jewish tradition teaches that every human being is created b'tzelem Elohim — in the Divine image. This teaching is foundational to how we understand human worth. It tells us that dignity is not earned. It is inherent. It cannot be taken away by politics, by social stigma, or by misunderstanding. And it places a moral obligation on us: we must create communities where people can live safely, authentically, and with dignity.

For me, protecting that dignity is not political. It is a religious obligation. It is an ethical mandate rooted in centuries of Jewish moral teaching. It calls us to honor people as they are, to safeguard their wellbeing, and to ensure that our institutions, including our healthcare systems, are places of compassion rather than fear.

Gender-affirming care is recognized by major medical organizations as essential healthcare for many transgender and gender diverse people. Research consistently shows that access to this care reduces depression, anxiety, and suicide risk. In other words, this is not abstract or theoretical. This is life-saving medicine.

When access to that care is threatened, the consequences ripple outward. Individuals experience fear and isolation. Families worry about the safety and wellbeing of their loved ones. Young people question whether they have a future where they will be accepted. Healthcare providers — people who entered their profession to heal — face uncertainty about whether they can continue practicing according to established medical standards without legal or professional risk.

As a rabbi, I have walked alongside congregants, families, and community members navigating gender identity. I have seen the relief, stability, and renewed hope that affirming care can bring. I have also witnessed the deep pain that comes when people are denied dignity, denied appropriate care, or made to feel unsafe simply for being who they are. Those experiences stay with you. They remind you that policy decisions are never just policy. They shape real lives.

This bill matters because it protects both patients and providers. It ensures that medical professionals can offer evidence-based care without fear of legal retaliation or professional jeopardy. It affirms that Hawai'i values compassion, scientific integrity, and the wellbeing of all its residents. And it signals clearly that our state will not allow fear or stigma to interfere with healthcare decisions best made by patients, families, and qualified medical professionals.

I also want to speak directly to the question of faith, because sometimes religion is invoked in ways that suggest opposition to this kind of care. Supporting gender-affirming care is not in conflict with religious values. For many of us, certainly within Judaism, it flows directly from them.

In Jewish tradition we hold the principle of *pikuach nefesh*, the obligation to preserve life, as paramount. It overrides nearly every other commandment. When care exists that protects life, reduces suffering, and promotes wellbeing, our tradition urges us to support it, not restrict it. Caring for life and affirming human dignity are core responsibilities.

Hawai'i has long sought to embody the values of *aloha*—care, respect, mutual responsibility, and recognition of our shared humanity. Protecting access to gender-affirming care and protecting the professionals who provide it reflects those values. It says we are a community that leads with compassion rather than exclusion.

I urge you to support this bill. Not only as policymakers, but as fellow human beings entrusted with the wellbeing of the people of this state. Your decision has the power to reduce fear, strengthen trust in healthcare, and affirm the dignity of some of our most vulnerable neighbors.

Mahalo for your time, for your service, and for the thoughtful consideration you bring to this important issue.

Rabbi CJ Mays

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:39:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To: The Committee on Health and Human Services / The Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian

February 9, 2026

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1875 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

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

As a parent, my primary job is to keep my child safe, healthy, and loved. In Hawai‘i, we are fortunate to have access to healthcare that allows my child to thrive. However, looking at the mainland, it is terrifying to see states passing laws that would label my support for my child as “child abuse” or “criminal.”

This bill is a necessary shield for families like mine, and I support it for the following reasons:

1. Closing the Malpractice & Licensing Loophole

Currently, even if care is legal in Hawai‘i, out-of-state litigation can cause a “domino effect.” If a Hawai‘i’s doctor’s license is challenged by another state for providing gender-affirming or reproductive care, it can cause their **malpractice insurance** to be canceled or their premiums to skyrocket. This creates a “shadow ban” where care exists legally, but no doctor can afford the risk of providing it. This bill ensures that providing legal care in Hawai‘i cannot be used as a basis for adverse licensing or insurance actions.

2. Protecting Our Family’s Data Privacy

In the digital age, our private medical records are a trail. We need this law to close the **data loophole** by prohibiting Hawai‘i-based tech companies and healthcare providers from complying with out-of-state subpoenas or warrants related to legal healthcare. My child’s medical history should not be a weapon used by a prosecutor in another state to harass our family.

3. Preventing Jurisdictional Kidnapping

Without this shield law, there is a legal grey area regarding out-of-state custody orders. We need to ensure that no Hawai'i court will enforce an order from another state that removes a child from their home simply because their parents provided them with gender-affirming care. My rights as a parent should not vanish the moment I or my child interact with a person or entity from a less-protective state.

For my family, this isn't a political debate—it is about the safety of our home. We chose to raise our children in Hawai'i because of the values of *aloha* and *ohana*. By passing this bill, you are telling families like mine that we are safe here, that our doctors are protected, and that our private medical decisions are just that: private.

I respectfully urge the committee to **pass this measure** and close these dangerous loopholes.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lisa Pollak, Kauai, HI

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:44:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Unfortunately, this is not always the case.

Over the past several decades, and especially since the overturn of Roe, incidents of violence have continuously increased. This includes vandalism, assault and battery, threats of harm or death threats, stalking, harassment, and in the most extreme cases, murder of individual abortion providers.

We are asking the state legislature to enhance protections for health care facilities — including patients and providers — from protestors by giving law enforcement the tools they need to intervene. Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:48:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Please help keep Hawai'i a safe place to receive and provide legal, essential health care

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:59:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Puchalski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Stanley Puchalski

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:59:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mekiah Tong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875, as someone who lives in fear of how this country's social-political climate has treated and continues to treat trans people and as someone with questions about their own gender. Though I am not native hawaiian, Hawai'i is my home, and I know its history is deeply rooted in the idea of gender being fluid. These ideas have only been repeatedly stamped out beneath the iron heel of American imperialism and colonialism. To deny anyone, transgender, or even cisgender, gender-affirming care, would be following in those facist ideologies that killed our islands long ago. We need gender-affirming care, and trans people deserve as much dignity, safety, and security as any human being. No one should have to be begging for this, no one should have to be afraid that they won't get to be who they really are. Trans people should feel like they can have a home in the place they call home. Mahalo.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:00:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Jean Adair-Leland, Ph.D.

**Testimony in Support of HB1875
Relating to Gender-Affirming Health Care and Reproductive Health Care**

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

My name is Jen Hayashi, MD/MPH and I am a Ob/Gyn resident practicing and training in Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875.

Gender-affirming care is evidence-based medicine endorsed by major professional organizations, including the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists and the American Medical Association. Gender-affirming care is not only evidence-based, but equitable and life-saving care. People of the transgender experience are at significantly greater risk of death by suicide, with statistics quoting up to 40% of transgender adults attempting suicide. On the contrary, those who transition, up to 94% report feeling more satisfied than prior to their transition. It is this vital intervention that we, as healthcare professionals, believe should be protected. Therefore, we oppose the restrictive discrimination that comes with criminalization of patients and their clinicians.

HB1875 is critical because it allows for lawful, safe, and essential medical care to be provided for an exceptionally diverse and culturally rich minority. Without this law, families and providers in Hawai'i could face legal liability, even while providing standard medical practice. This jeopardizes trust, continuity of care, and ultimately, patient safety.

Our goal is to continue striving towards safe and equitable healthcare for all. For this, I urge you to pass HB1875 as an essential step to ensuring this for our community.

Mahalo for your time and this opportunity to testify.

Jen Hayashi, MD/MPH
Third Year Resident in Ob/Gyn

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:12:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in ***strong support*** of HB 1875.

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Andrea Staley

To: Chairs Takayama, Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Health Committee members
Chairs Matayoshi, Grandinetti, and Consumer Protection Committee members
From: CJ B. – community member with lived experience of gender transition, working in
non-profit public health services on O’ahu

Aloha,

I write in strong support of HB 1875. Mahalo for your attention and for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of this bill.

We are lucky to have decades of research and evidence to support the medical necessity of gender-affirming care, including how it reduces rates of common mental illnesses including anxiety and depression, decreases rates of substance use, and greatly reduces the risk of suicidal thoughts and behaviors within the trans community. But rather than make a case for gender-affirming care itself (which has been framed as a “bad word,” but in reality only refers to medical interventions such as hormone replacement therapy, widely used by our aging cisgender community for decades, laser hair removal/hair growth treatments, chest and breast reconstruction, and in some relatively rare cases can extend to bottom surgery for consenting adults), it appears that what is in question by the potential passing of this bill is not whether gender affirming care is medically sound, but rather whether the federal government ought to have the right to punish and disenfranchise medical providers for providing the care that they, with their extensive, notoriously intense schooling and experience that is prerequisite to their job, determine to be medically necessary and appropriate for their patients.

I strongly urge you to support HB 1875, in the spirit of protecting trusted medical providers from undue interference from the federal government. As the priorities and goals of the federal government has seen significant tumult in past years (and as is foreshadowed for the several years ahead of us), it is more important now than ever to set boundaries such as would be put into place by HB 1875, to keep the whims of the federal government out of medical practice that is founded in research and evidence.

In passing HB 1875, Hawai’i would continue to establish itself as a state that not only prioritizes the health and safety of all of its residents, including those most vulnerable and targeted by hate movements elsewhere in the country, but also as a safe place for doctors and physicians to practice their craft in ways that their years of training supports by providing gender affirming care, and reproductive health care, to patients as they deem fit.

Hawai’i should take a stand in support of doctors, not the federal government, as the rightful authority on their patients’ health by supporting HB 1875.

Mahalo for your time, and best of health to you all in the year ahead.

CJ B.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:20:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members:

I would like to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1875 which would provide protection for children and youth receiving gender-affirming care (GAC) in Hawai`i, as well as for their parents/guardians and the Hawai`i health care professionals providing that care. Specifically, it will assure that providers of GAC in Hawai`i would not release GAC-related health information to entities outside Hawai`i, including in response to requests such as subpoenas from other jurisdictions.

I am a Hawai`i pediatrician and for decades have been privileged to provide supportive gender-affirming care to our states gender-diverse children and their families. In fact, it has been a special focus of my professional life ever since completing my pediatric residency training at UH JABSOM In 1986. During that time, I have been gratified that my practice of evidence-based state-of-the-art GAC has come to be supported by affirming policies and position statements by the American Academy of Pediciatrics, the American Medical Association, the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine and many other respected professional health organizations. It is clear to me that any request for medical information related to life-enhancing and even life-saving gender-affirming care provided within our State, information obtained without parent permission, is motivated solely for the purpose of intimidation and persecution of children and youth and their families who might seek care in our state, as well as the Hawai`i health professionals who have the skills and compassion to provided such care. HB 1875 will assure that this cannot happen in our islands.

I hope that through passage of this Bill we will join the many other states that have already passed similar shield laws. I respectfully encourage you to support HB 1875 with your vote.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of my testimony.. .

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:23:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawaiarii Keaulana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Kawaiarii Keaulana

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:24:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aersli Vertido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Attn.: Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875 and respectfully urge you to support HB 1875 as well. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations. It establishes protections and prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care services or gender-affirming care services.

This bill will guarantee everyone's fundamental right to make their own medical decisions and strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community suffers a history of these injustices so please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1875.

Yours truly,

Aersli Vertido

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:27:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anntoinette Mahealani Wasser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

[Anntoinette Mahealani Wasser

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:45:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rick Ramirez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakahiaka Committe Cahri, Vice-Chair and committee members

Today I write to you in support of this very important measure. Hawaii has a long history on support for the LGBT community, long history of having Mahu as part of our culture, and long history of standing for what is right in this world of politics.

Committee members, what would you do if you were denied medical services because of your race, gender, orientation, or physical appearance? What fif you could not access healthcare sevices which puts you at significant risk of mental health harm, physical harm and spiritual harm?

You have a chance to protect those in this state who are most vulnerable and most in need. Our isnands struggle with healthcare accessibility as is, why reate more disparity when we an help those who need it.

As a gender affirming care provider, the medical literature and data supporting Gender Affirming CAre is astonishing. There is evidence that wen GAC is provided, our people who live in Hawaii then start to scess other care services such as for diabetes, HIV, hypertension, etc. There is much peer-reviewd data that supports healthcare practices. We all practice within these set standrds oif care based on decased of research!

How would you feel if you were going to work and were beign hrrased, threatened, or persecutued for doing your job. That is what healthcare practicioneres face when we do not have proitection. This law would allow healthcare proivider to practice within their scope without perjury!!

You must pass this law, do not bend to the pressure of others, do not listen to those who are scared of what they do not know and live in conspiracies. We must fight together for the health and wll being of all Hawaiians!!

Me ke aloha

Rick Ramirez, DNP, APRN, AGACNP, FNP

Gender Affirming Care Provider

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:45:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arielle Howell	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Arielle Howell, MD, and I am resident physician at the Obstetrics and Gynecology Residency at the University of Hawai'i. I am submitting testimony in strong support of **HB1875**.

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

As a resident physician I may continue my training in other states or move after my training to practice elsewhere in the United States. HB1875 helps protect physicians, like myself, who may practice out of state in the future from threat of abusive litigation.

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

For these reasons, I urge you to pass HB1875 and continue Hawai'i's leadership in protecting evidence-based health care and the patient-provider relationship.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,
Arielle Howell, MD

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:51:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Visaluana Castillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am *writing in strong support of HB 1875*

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

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

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

Me ke aloha ha'aha'a, Visa Castillo

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:05:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Berry	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Health,

Aloha Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

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 Committees to **pass HB1875**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janice Berry

Honolulu

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:06:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Hinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am a resident in Kaneohe in Representative Scott Matayoshi's district. I am writing to oppose bill HB 1875. I believe gender affirming care is controversial. Especially with regard to minors, who have not yet fully developed physically, mentally or emotionally. They should have the utmost protection legally, especially in their futures with regard to this treatment.

The protection of the rights of individuals should be the top priority of government.

Mahalo,

Lorraine Hinaga

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:07:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sina Sison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Sina Sison

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Scot Z. Matayoshi, Chair

Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference

Conference Room 329

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

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

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair Nakada Grandinetti, Rep Amato of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews, and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of HB 1875**, relating to health care, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services, including clarifying permitted disclosures of protected health information to address changes in federal regulations; establishes protections against abusive litigation; prohibits medical malpractice insurers and health carriers from taking certain adverse actions against health care providers solely on the basis that the health care provider provides lawful reproductive health care services or gender-affirming care services.

I am someone who did not think much about the rights or needs of transgender youth until my own children educated me about it when they were in middle and high school. I learned more when I volunteered for an event within my spiritual community and I was taught about how important support for transgender people is and how at risk they are of severe mental health issues related to lack of acceptance. Over the course of the past five years, I have come to have several transgender youth within my extended family. I have learned through these experiences that transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families do better in school, feel safer in their communities, establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, and are better equipped to plan for their future.

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

- Less than half (45%) of transgender youth have an adult outside of school or teacher they can talk to.
- More than 1 in 3 transgender or unsure gender youth have attempted suicide in the past year.

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>

- Cisgender youth are 3 times more likely than transgender or unsure gender youth to feel that they will complete a post-high school program.

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

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:09:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold Carlson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB1875 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. My name is Harold Carlson, and I am a third-year Ph.D. candidate at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. HB1875 will ensure that my friends and colleagues can receive reproductive health care and gender-affirming care services without the fear of discriminatory actions from health carriers.

Now more than ever, we need to stand up for the queer community and support them with concrete legal protections. For these reasons, I support HB1875 in protecting these essential, life-saving healthcare services and strongly urge you to pass it.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:11:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Members of the committee(s)- thank you for reading our testimonies today. My name is Micaela and I am a resident of Kalihi valley, a community organizer and an advocate for our queer and trans youth in our state. I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:25:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Robert Stoner-Osborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1875 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. My name is Blake Stoner-Osborne. I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa and I identify as a gay man. As a queer person and an ally of the trans community, HB1875 will ensure that my friends and loved ones can receive reproductive health care and gender-affirming care services without the fear of discriminatory actions from health carriers.

One of my close friends had to fly to San Francisco to receive gender affirming care rather than being able to receive it here at home. Having to pay for airfare and lodging in addition to the astronomical costs of procedures is a huge burden on queer and trans individuals for health care that is life-saing and essential. For these reasons, I support HB1875 in protecting these essential, life-saving healthcare services and strongly urge you to pass it.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:47:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lianne Napolis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Mahalo,

Lianne Napolis

Feb. 10, 2026

To: Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Loy, and Members of House Committee on Health
And

TO: Chair Matayoshi, Vice Chair Grandinetti, and Members of House Committee on
Consumer Protection and Commerce

Re: SUPPORT HB 1875

Hearing: Wednesday, Feb 11, 2026 — 1PM

Aloha Chairs Takayama and Matayoshi, Vice Chairs Loy and Grandinetti, and Members
of Both Committee,

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

I submit testimony on behalf of myself in support of HB 1875. I have no immediate
personal involvement in this issue. I simply think it is intrusive of other state
governments to dictate deeply personal medical actions. Hawai'i doctors should follow
Hawai'i law.

I respectfully urge you to PASS this measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

John M. Knox
Waimānalo
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:51:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

This bill will guarantee everyone’s fundamental right to make their own medical decisions AND strengthens protections for reproductive health care. Our community is under attack, please support HB 1875 as no one should have to live in fear. If there are any further questions, please feel free to reach out to me via email or by phone.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

John A Martin

41-1705 Kumuniu Street

Waimanalo, Hawaii 96795

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:58:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Freynik	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1875. A number of my close friends here are trans, and access to gender affirming care has made a huge difference in their wellbeing. I'm lucky to have them in my life, and sharing my support for their access to care is the least I can do. As a member of this community, I believe every family deserves access to medically necessary care without fear of political interference. This bill protects our neighbors, friends, and loved ones. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:58:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a retired physician and a member of Indivisible who believes in patient autonomy and that everyone should be treated with compassion. Although my specialty was oncology, I strongly support HB1875 to shield providers of gender affirming healthcare.

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:59:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Gross	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please keep us a state that respects all and remains protective to all. Confirm this! Thank you

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 1:59:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am a resident of the big island, and a school psychologist by training. This legislature further aligns practice norms with best practices recognized by national medical organizations. I support this measure on those grounds.

Mahalo for your time,

Alec Marentic

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:00:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Iona	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing in strong support of HB 1875

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

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

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

Laurie L Iona

LATE

Wednesday, February 11, 2026 2:00 p.m.
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Joey Badua

In SUPPORT of HB1875

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair

Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the Committee on Health

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.

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:02:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Birgit Hueglin-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write in strong support of **HB1875**, which provides critical protections for patients and health care providers involved in lawful reproductive and gender-affirming care in Hawai‘i.

This measure helps prevent retaliation, discrimination, and abusive legal actions against providers and ensures that patients can seek medically necessary care without fear of outside interference. Health care decisions should be made by individuals in consultation with their licensed medical professionals.

Passing HB1875 affirms **Hawai‘i’s values of privacy, fairness, and personal autonomy**. I respectfully urge you to **pass HB1875**.

Mahalo,

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:05:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
YMiki St Laurent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Yolanda St. Laurent. As a private citizen, wife, mother, and a kupuna I am testifying as a survivor of the choices imposed on me as a child of Hawaiian ancestry, by a government who stripped me of my culture and heritage by forbidding my parents and teachers to educate me in the Hawaiian Language. This is a decision that I had no say in but has had devastating impact on my identity. At 77, I am unable to converse with my moopuna who have been exposed to the richness of the Hawaiian Culture because of Olelo Hawaii! And yet, the State Capitol touts the State's Moto: Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono!: THE LIFE OF THE LAND IS PERPETUATED IN RIGHTEOUSNESS, where righteousness is defined as HIS HOLINESS and not any government!

For this reason, I am admantly opposed to HB1875. I believe in God's TRUTH... not your truth or the truth or flavor of the day! God's Truth that there are only 2 genders: MALE and FEMALE made in God's image, as stated in the Bible in Genesis 1:27. The Bible also states in Psalm 127:3 that Children are gifts from God to their parents! Not to a government, who is suppose to represent what it's people says and not the few voices who are loud.

What HB1875 propose to do is to make life altering physical changes to children who can not vote, can not drive, can not fight in a war, even fight against the war ranging in their minds from all the lies fed to them from external forces. I am especially appauled that those who are promoting these child abuse, child mutilation techniques are protected from any future lawsuits?

Whatever happened to the Hyppocratic Oath of ETHICS Doctors swear to? When did it become a HYPOCRITICAL OATH? IF these doctors believe in gender affirming operations, they should also be able to be held accountable for any possible repercussions.

Bottom Line... the government did not birth, raise or pay for any of thses children's care, If this government opt to OVER-RIDE a parent's decision, and become the parent who pays for the child's gender affirming care, then they should also pick up the tab for all the past money spent to raise them thus far!

**WAKE UP PEOPLE.... THIS IS NOT PONO! LEAVE OUR CHILDREN
ALONE! Allow them to have LIFE in a land that is perpetuated in God's Righteousness!.
To God be the Glory Thank You**

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:09:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahina Robbins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I support HB1875 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. My name is Mahina Robbins and I am an earth science graduate student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa. As a member of the LGBTQ+ community, HB1875 will ensure that people in my community can receive reproductive health care and gender-affirming care services without the fear of discriminatory actions from health carriers.

I support HB1875 in protecting these essential, life-saving healthcare services and strongly urge you to pass it.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:13:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

Thank you!

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:32:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antya Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Gender Affirming Care which includes surgical reconstruction should not be allowed on minors. Both the Association of Plastic Surgeons and the American Medical Association have come out against surgery on minors as most minors grow out of their dysphoria.

This is very harmful to children later in life and our European counterparts do not support this kind of surgery.

Mahalo,

Antya Miller

808-342-8557

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:33:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chanara Richmond, District 42. I oppose this bill. It DOES NOT protect children. I protects their perpetrators. The medical profession's phylosophy of DO NO HARM has become ANYTHING FOR A BUCK. Finally, a jury has stood up for these mutilated children. The tide will turn. Sanity and common sense will prevail.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 2:55:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Access to gender-affirming health care is essential, evidence-based medical treatment that supports the well-being, dignity, and safety of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. Providers who offer this care are following established medical guidelines and acting in the best interest of their patients. Shielding these providers from legal and political threats ensures that patients can continue receiving necessary, compassionate care without fear or interruption.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:18:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:18:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
K	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

**RESUBMISSION – Due to Weather Rescheduling
 Testimony in Support of HB1875 – Relating to Health Care
 Date: February 10, 2026**

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of **HB1875, Relating to Health Care**, which extends essential legal protections to providers of gender-affirming health care and strengthens patient privacy, provider safety, and equitable access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is evidence-based, medically necessary care supported by every major medical association in the United States, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association. This care significantly improves mental health outcomes, reduces depression and anxiety, and lowers suicide risk for transgender and gender-diverse people. Protecting access to this care is a public health imperative.

We have already lost too many people — **especially youth** — due to a lack of access to care, resources, and affirming community support. These losses are preventable. Policies like HB1875 send a clear message to transgender and māhū community members that they belong, that they will always belong, and that their lives, health, and dignity are valued and protected. Our laws should reflect care, safety, and inclusion, not fear and exclusion.

HB1875 provides critical safeguards by extending shield law protections to gender-affirming care, preventing abusive litigation, clarifying protections for patient health information, and prohibiting insurers and health carriers from penalizing providers solely for offering lawful care.

These protections directly impact whether qualified health care professionals will continue practicing in Hawai‘i and whether transgender community members can safely access timely care. Without these protections, patients face delayed treatment, forced travel, or complete loss of access, all of which carry serious health consequences.

HB1875 ensures that health care decisions remain grounded in medical expertise, patient well-being, and ethical standards, rather than political pressure. I respectfully urge you to pass

HB1875 and affirm your commitment to protecting health care access, patient privacy, and civil rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Sincerely,

K

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:36:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1875.

The American Medical Association recommended so called "Gender affirming care" delayed until adulthood. Gender affirming care on minors on minors is child abuse. It is not abusive for the child or the child's parents to take legal action against the doctors who permanently mutilate them/their child's body.

Women suffer physically, emotionally, and psychologically from an abortion. Unlike Hawaii, many states try to protect women in their state from the abuse of aborting their pre-born child.

It is not abusive for a minor or the minor's guardian to take legal action against an abortion provider who intervenes on a person who would have been protected in their residential state.

This bill would make insurance companies complicit in condoning abusive procedures.

Hawaii should consider passing laws to protect minors from mutilating surgeries, and women from surgical or chemical termination of their yet to be born child.

Do not pass HB1875.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:44:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Grandinetti	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired faculty member of Department of Public Health Services, I feel compelled to voice my strong support for this measure. The protections it expands upon are essential for protecting the public health. In particular, protection of reproductive health and gender-affirming care have been shown to be effective in reducing mortality among mothers and young people.

Mahalo,

Andrew Grandinetti, PhD

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:47:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am an LCSW and 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.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:49:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Hong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support ensuring equal access to medical care.

M Ahalo for the opportunity to testify

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 3:51:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gwyneth Rosenbaum-Olins	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB 1875 Relating to Health Care

My name is Gwyn, and I am currently a 20-year-old student at UH Mānoa, from Kona, Hawai'i. I hold an officer position for Planned Parenthood Generation Action, and I am in strong support of HB 1875.

I support HB 1875 because I see the importance of protecting Hawai'i's people, specifically those seeking gender-affirming care. I have multiple friends who have needed gender-affirming care, and I have seen the complete change in makes in their lives. It's extremely important for many people's mental health, and the state must protect their right to health care.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gwyneth Rosenbaum-Olins

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 4:18:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaiian Islands Republican Women	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Hawaiian Islands Republican Women strongly oppose HB1875.

Respectfully,

Jamie Detwiler

LATE

Aloha Chair, Vice chair,

My name is Dale VanderBrink. I am the 2nd vice chair of the Ala-Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board. This is my personal testimony.

I stand in strong support of HB1875.

The last several years have been a painful and frightening experience for many in our community. **Our federal Supreme Court and our federal government have failed us.** As a result, **out-of-state entities and individuals** have the means to **interfere in healthcare decisions here**, either by **blocking medical treatment outright**, or via **fear and intimidation** by suing to request **private medical records**.

Living in a **blue state** is not enough when our **laws do not meet the moment**. Our state, our **legislature**, needs to **step up** to meet that moment. **HB1875** helps to meet that moment by cementing protections for **reproductive rights** and **gender-affirming care**.

It gives our state the means to **shield our residents** seeking medical treatment from **out-of-state entities or individuals** who file **frivolous lawsuits**.

It prevents our state from being **puppeted** to enforce the **lawsuits and penalties of others**.

It also helps protect our **medical community** who simply wish to provide **necessary care** to those who need it, and more.

While this bill will not help **me**, I fight for this because it will help **my friends and family**, and those within **my neighborhood and community**. So I ask you on this committee: when you **vote**, remember those in your districts who **need this protection**. **Please pass HB1875.**"

Thankyou
Dale VanderBrink

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:31:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bevin Parker-Evans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Regarding HB1875 meeting Feb 11, 2026

Dear HLC and CPC members:

I stand in strong support of HB1875.. As a resident of Hawai'i for most of my life and a resident of Kaua'i for almost 50 years, I firmly believe in civil rights for everyone. I have friends and family that are also strongly in support of this bill. I think that all family members deserve access to medical services and medical care without any fear of political interference.

This bill HB1875 strongly protects our beloved community neighbors, friends, and family.. Please stand up and use your voice to support this bill and all of Hawai'i citizens.

This bill also firmly reflects Hawai'i's values of aloha, inclusion, and compassion. No family should be forced to leave our state to access basic healthcare. Please pass HB1875.

Mahalo,

Bevin Parker-Evans

Kaua'i Resident

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:49:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

May it please the court,

Gender-affirming care is important, sometimes life-saving medical care that all people deserve access to. This includes cisgender, transgender, and non-binary people. Each person's body is their own business, and health care for a person should be determined between them and their respective medical professionals. Ultimately, if we truly believe that this is a "free country" and that each individual should be allowed to take care of their bodies in the way that fits their specific needs - in any way that that can be interpreted - we should support HB1875. And so I write in support of my bodily autonomy as well as all of ours, in support of HB1875.

Mahalo for your time,

Kayla Low

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:56:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea, and I strongly oppose HB1875.

This bill expands sweeping legal protections around gender-affirming health care services, including shielding providers from litigation and professional discipline. It broadly defines these services to include medical interventions that alter a child’s natural development.

Parents have a fundamental constitutional right to direct the medical care of their children. Policies affecting our keiki must prioritize parental involvement, transparency, and accountability — not expanded liability shields and reduced oversight.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1875.

Mahalo,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 5:58:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Kaina	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joshua Kaina and I oppose HB 1875.

As someone who struggled with and overcame deeply embedded self-hatred and gender dysphoria as a child, teen and later re-emerged with a vengeance as an adult in my thirties I am deeply concerned.

HB 1875 shifts authority away from families by prioritizing state-protected access over parental involvement, informed consent, and family discernment — especially in deeply personal and irreversible matters.

If I was a child or teenager today, I would have had to deal with the influx of information, opinions and experiences of others that at first seems beneficial for a young person navigating gender. But it is actually confusing and dangerous. I would have made incredibly rash decisions due to my discomfort without actually dealing with the underlying pain. Through my own spiritual awakening, I discovered the wounds, insecurities, and trauma's that shaped my experience and led me to believe that I was meant to be a female instead of male. When these broken parts of me experienced healing, the mask of femininity, which was like my protector, came off. I did not have to go through the irreversible and damaging procedures that young people are being tempted by today. We know that our brains do not fully mature, according to some studies, as late as 30 years of age for men. Many children may experience regret in the future and this bill will also protect medical professionals or boards from accountability when these waves of regret and destransition take place.

In 2026, the [American Society of Plastic Surgeons concluded](#) that there is **insufficient evidence** to support gender-related surgical interventions for children and adolescents and **recommends delaying such surgeries until at least age 19**. HB 1875 ignores this growing medical caution and instead locks in legal protections prematurely.

Many organizations and medical clinics who championed gender affirming care in the early 2000's in Europe are starting to retrace their steps, calling for more safeguards and protections for minors.

Please do not ignore the warning signs.

Many children can outgrow their feelings of dysphoria with proper support, safe shame free spaces to explore their feelings and therapy.

Thank you for reading.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:39:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1875

It ignores significant concerns about parental rights, informed consent and long-term health and well-being of children.

Mahalo for Your Kokua, Claire Yamashiro

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:04:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Johansen	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Please vote yes hb1875

I have spoken to several Trans people. Most in their own story expressed how prior to receiving acknowledgement, understanding and support, they had contemplated suicide. Receiving gender affirming care in its many forms was part of that understanding and support that eased their anxiety and depression, bringing them farther from these thoughts.

In today's national political rhetoric trans people are demonized, politicians warn us about the Trans agenda spreading fear and hate. We have nothing to fear in the trans agenda, trans people just want to be seen and accepted as part of society.

Nothing about being trans is cause for excluding them from societey, whether its how they dress, what pronouns they would have you use, the medical treatments prescribed by their doctors, or how they understand gender in a more complex and profound way than some other people,. Trans people are people, citizens, our neighbors. They deserve the right to seek medical services appropriate to their needs.

This bill allows trans people, citizens, your neighbors to seek care from their chosen medical providers. Failure to support this bill will promote and legitimize the fear and hate being spread. Isolating these people pushing them to consider suicide.

I don't know what arguments will be presented by others to stop this bill, please consider that whatever tragic case may be presented in example, preventing other citizens, our neighbors from seaking proper medical attention is not the answer.

This bill saves lives.

Vote yes Hb1875

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:36:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Brito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Janet Brito, and I am a licensed psychologist and founder of the Hawai'i Center for Sexual & Relationship Health. I am writing to strongly urge you to support HB 1875 and protect access to gender-affirming care in Hawai'i.

In my clinical work, I have seen firsthand how affirming, evidence-based care can significantly improve mental health outcomes and overall well-being for transgender and gender-diverse individuals. Access to gender-affirming care is not political—it is healthcare. Protecting this access helps reduce harm, supports families, and affirms the dignity and humanity of our community members.

I respectfully urge you to vote YES on HB 1875.

Thank you for your leadership and your commitment to the health of our communities.

Sincerely,

Dr. Janet Brito Licensed Psychologist

Hawai'i Center for Sexual & Relationship Health

Honolulu, Hawai'i

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:03:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Valdez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Board Members!

I respectfully oppose HB1875. While I recognize Hawaii’s authority to regulate medical care within its borders, this bill expands legal protections in ways that may create significant interstate legal conflicts and unintended consequences. Extending shield protections and limiting cooperation with other states could expose Hawaii to costly legal challenges and strain relationships between state licensing boards and regulatory authorities nationwide. Additionally, broad restrictions on disclosure of medical information may complicate legitimate oversight and enforcement efforts. For these reasons, I urge careful reconsideration of this measure and not pass this HB1875.

Mahalo,

Nancy Valdez

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:14:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthieu Kalua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Health, and the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce,

My name is Matthieu Kalua, and I am a graduate student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, an aspiring physician, and a member of Generation Action, a student-led group dedicated to advancing sex education and safe reproductive health access in our campus community, and I am in strong support of HB1875.

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Matthieu Kalua

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:16:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Chung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a healthcare provider and long time resident of Hawaii, I am fully supporting HB 18875 as protecting access to gender affirming care and reproductive health care is essential for all people. This gives each person dignity and respect as bodily autonomy is a human right. Thank you very much!

LATE

Aloha

Thank you for allowing me to submit my comments.

My name is Dr Matthew Mitschele. I am a husband, father of four and family physician here in the great state of Hawai'i. I decided to submit testimony not in an attempt to change anyone's mind or preach about my personal beliefs on the matter, but rather to share how I came to providing gender affirming care and how that relates to your decision.

I had no prior formal training in gender affirming care. I can't imagine the topic was ever brought up in the 7 years of my medical training. I also had no personal experience with friends or family. My only passing experience was like many, through crass depictions and jokes of transgender persons in movies and TV. I only entered into this space through the bravery of my patients. Patients who had the courage to share their life's story to someone they did not know. A doctor they had no relationship with, a stranger. A 6'2", white, cisgender male. It still shocks me that they would take that leap of faith.

During that first patient visit I had a choice. Looking across at another human being who is telling me their life story, their truth. Do you stand as a barrier or obstruction to their hopes of living their full life or do you help. That is the power held by health care providers. Even in inaction you hold great power over others. And that is the power of the State. You hold great power whether it be by action or inaction. You can be a barrier or obstruction to someone living their full life and truth or an ally. So I ask you to be mindful of that power over another human being's feelings of completeness and acceptance.

Thank you for your time

Mahalo

Matthew W Mitschele, M.D.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:32:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Simpliciano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am asking you to support HB1875 as Hawai'i may be one of the most supportive states for trans and nonbinary people. The current conservative U.S. administration frames gender-affirming care as bad by emphasizing surgeries on trans minors, ignoring that people of all gender identities receive gender-affirming care. However, gender affirming care actually improves the mental health of those who receive it through social affirmations. Supporting gender-affirming care can help improve self-esteem in youth and mitigate anxiety, depression, hopelessness, and suicidal ideations.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 1:43:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Moreno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair , Vice Chair and fellow committee members,

My name is Crystal Moreno. I am submitting this testimony in support of House Bill 1875 relating to protecting gender-affirming care. As a health care worker, I stand by protecting the privacy and well being of my patients, and my support of this bill is part of that effort.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,

Crystal Moreno

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 7:53:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
F. Samis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs and Vice Chairs of the Health and Consumer Protection and Commerce Committees,

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of this measure.

Gender affirming care is life saving care. I urge you to pass this bill for the many people in our state who rely on this care to live out their truset lives. It is the legislature's duty to serve the people and all people deserve life saving and sustaining medical care.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:15:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Wong	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 the LGBTQ community and is necessary for safe medical care. Please stand with our community and support HB1875.

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:27:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valor Grimm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 1, 2026

RE: HB1875

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee,

I am a community member and healthcare provider who works with transgender clients. 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.

This bill would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/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 people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

In community and trust,

Valor Grimm, MS MFT

3185 Kalihi Street

Honolulu HI 96819

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:50:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the Committee:

I 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 health care 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.

The narratives often amplified in media that this care is experimental, unsafe, or lacks standards, are not supported by mainstream medical evidence. Treatment follows established clinical guidelines, structured assessment, and informed consent protocols.

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

I respectfully urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Allison DeYenno

LATE

HB-1875

Submitted on: 2/11/2026 8:52:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/11/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members. I am a healthcare provider who works with transgender patients. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and lifesaving. HB1875 protects providers from politically motivated interference and allows us to practice ethical medicine. I strongly urge your support to protect the well-being and lives of those who need gender-affirming care.