

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

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

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

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

April 2, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

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

RE: **HB 1961-HD2-SD1 -- RELATING TO HEALTHCARE**

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

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports HB 1961-HD2-SD1, with comments.

This bill is intended to ensure that patients and health care providers can access health care services safely and without obstruction, intimidation, or harassment. The bill does this by prohibiting conduct that interferes with a person's ability to enter or leave a health care facility or that disrupts a facility's normal operations, and by establishing clear civil and criminal penalties to deter and address violations.

This bill would protect facilities providing abortion services from harassment, and would keep Hawai'i's health care facilities secure, orderly, and responsive for anyone who needs care.

Thank you for hearing HB1961-HD2-SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT on HB 1961 HD2 SD1

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of the Committee: The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) supports the intent of this measure.

In 2025, HSCN received feedback from 15,532 nurses (LPN, RN, APRN) licensed in Hawai'i in our Hawai'i Nursing Workforce Supply Survey. Findings include that 64% of all nurses have been verbally or physically abused by a patient or visitor in the last 12 months, with 30% of the total having this experience at least monthly (4% daily, 12% weekly, 14% monthly).

This measure is preventative and protective in that it enables healthcare facilities to remove threats of violence to healthcare workers before they enter the workplace.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. HSCN appreciates the Legislature's efforts to improve the safety and wellbeing of nurses and healthcare workers.

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



STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1961 HD2 SD1

Relating to Health Care – Interference with Health Care Facilities

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

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, we submit this testimony in **strong support** of HB1961 HD2 SD1.

HB1961 HD2 SD1 is a vital measure to protect the safety, dignity, and constitutional rights of patients, health care providers, and staff by ensuring unobstructed access to health care facilities throughout our state. No individual should be forced to endure harassment, intimidation, threats, or physical obstruction when seeking or providing medical care. For many in our community, particularly LGBTQ+ individuals, women, immigrants, people with disabilities, and those seeking reproductive or gender-affirming care, accessing health care already presents significant barriers. Acts of interference and harassment compound these challenges and create unsafe environments that undermine both physical and mental health.

HB1961 HD2 SD1 establishes clear and reasonable standards to prevent:

- Physical obstruction of clinic entrances and exits,
- Disruptive and intimidating conduct,
- Harassment through repeated communications, and
- Threats against patients, providers, and facilities.

By creating meaningful criminal penalties and civil remedies, this bill sends a strong message that Hawai'i will not tolerate conduct that endangers public health or interferes with medical services.

Importantly, HB1961 HD2 SD1 carefully balances public safety with constitutional protections by preserving lawful labor demonstrations and respecting lawful expression. The bill targets harmful conduct, not speech, ensuring that legitimate advocacy remains protected while patients and providers are shielded from abuse.

The Stonewall Caucus recognizes that safe access to health care is a cornerstone of equity and justice. When people are denied safe entry to clinics, their autonomy, privacy, and well-being are compromised. This is especially harmful to marginalized communities who already face disproportionate health disparities.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1961 HD2 SD1

By enacting HB1961 HD2 SD1, the Legislature affirms Hawai'i's commitment to compassion, safety, and human dignity. The bill strengthens our state's role as a leader in protecting health care access and reinforces our shared responsibility to care for one another. For these reasons, the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB1961 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your continued dedication to the health and safety of our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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



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

DATE: Tuesday, April 7th, 2026

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 016

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

Re: HB1961 SD1 Relating to Healthcare: Health Care Facilities; Interference; Disruption; Petty Misdemeanor; Private Right of Action; Civil Remedies; Criminal Penalties; Attorney General

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, Hawai'i Section (ACOG Hawai'i), which represents physicians dedicated to providing safe, accessible, and evidence-based reproductive health care across our state, respectfully expresses our strong support for HB1961 SD1.

Abortion care is a routine and essential component of full-spectrum obstetric and gynecologic practice. It is grounded in the same evidence-based principles that guide prenatal care, miscarriage management, and treatment of pregnancy-related complications. Yet despite its medical legitimacy, abortion care remains uniquely stigmatized. For decades, patients seeking care have encountered protestors outside of health care facilities who use aggressive language, graphic signage, and targeted confrontation intended to shame or dissuade them. These encounters do not occur in a vacuum — they can heighten emotional distress, delay time-sensitive medical care, and create confusion through the dissemination of medically inaccurate or misleading information.

Importantly, the impact of these demonstrations is not limited to patients alone. Health care workers — physicians, nurses, medical assistants, social workers, and administrative staff — are also routinely subjected to intimidation, verbal harassment, filming without consent, and threats as they enter and exit their workplaces. This contributes to a climate of fear and burnout within a workforce already experiencing critical shortages. History has demonstrated that rhetoric and intimidation around reproductive health can escalate into violence. The 2009 assassination of Dr. George Tiller, an obstetrician-gynecologist who provided abortion care in Kansas, remains a sobering reminder that threats directed at clinicians are not theoretical concerns but real risks with devastating consequences. While Hawai'i has long been a place that values compassion and mutual respect, we cannot assume immunity from the broader national climate of hostility directed at reproductive health providers.

Legislation such as HB1961 SD1 is not about restricting speech or limiting peaceful expression. Rather, it is about establishing reasonable boundaries that protect the safety, privacy, and dignity of patients and the health care professionals who serve them. No individual seeking medical care — whether for prenatal services, miscarriage management, contraception, or abortion — should have to navigate harassment, misinformation, or intimidation at the doors of a health facility. Likewise, no clinician or staff member should fear for their personal safety simply for providing lawful, evidence-based medical care.

Health care decisions, particularly those involving pregnancy and bodily autonomy, are deeply personal and often time sensitive. They deserve to be made in consultation with qualified medical professionals in environments that

are calm, confidential, and free from coercion. We trust our patients to make the decisions that are right for their lives and families, and we have an ethical obligation to ensure that when they entrust us with their care, they can do so in settings that are safe, supportive, and respectful.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony and for your continued commitment to advancing equitable, evidence-based health care for the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

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



To: Senate Committee Judiciary

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

Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 2 and videoconference

Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of HB 1961 HD2 SD1

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1961 HD2 SD1, a bill that will prevent protesters and harassers from disrupting access to health facilities, including by physically obstructing entrances or exits or threatening to inflict injury on the patients, providers, administrators, or property.

Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services. Yet, incidents of vandalism, assault and battery, threats of harm or death threats, stalking, and harassment targeting abortion and gender affirming health centers, providers, and patients have continuously increased over the past several decades, including the targeted murder of individual abortion providers.

Medical care should be a personal decision determined by a patient and their provider, not dictated by violent actors and harassment. Yet at the Honolulu Planned Parenthood, protesters consistently block the entrance and exit of the health center – protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of vehicles to prevent access to the clinic.

Current law is not sufficient to protect patients' access to health care -- Hawai'i needs HB 1961 HD2 SD1 to stop harassment of patients and providers. Every year, PPGNHAIK makes hundreds of calls to the police and this measure would help empower law enforcement to be able to support patients' access to care by making it crystal clear that this behavior is prohibited. Moreover, HB 1961 HD2 SD1 creates a pathway for health facilities to civilly sue violent actors, which is another pathway to deter this harassing behavior.

Unfortunately, examples like this are all too common for abortion and gender affirming care providers nationwide, and Planned Parenthood understands firsthand how protester harassment can escalate into violence. Between 2023 and 2024 alone, the National Abortion Federation recorded 3,582 instances of harassments, 169 acts of vandalism, 621 instances of trespassing, 269 death threats, and 12 bomb threats at abortion health centers. Hawai'i needs a bill to allow the police to interfere and stop this violence.

As more clinics have been forced to close across the country due to harmful state abortion bans post-Dobbs and gender affirming care bans, much of the violence and disruption is now targeted towards health centers in "protective states" like Hawai'i. Under the Trump Administration, political attacks on abortion and gender affirming care nationwide are only growing, which is spurring on even more violence. Anti-abortion and anti-trans activists and politicians are not stopping at banning abortion or gender affirming care at the state level - they are coming after Hawai'i patients and providers too.

Thankfully, this bill is more protective than federal standards and applies to all health facilities in Hawai'i, not just abortion and gender affirming care providers. In the last decade, we have seen protesters going after COVID and other vaccines, PrEP & PEP medications, substance abuse services, or any number hot-button health services. One straightforward way to protect providers and patients for all types of health care is by prohibiting interference with health care facilities, which allows law enforcement to ensure patients can access care without facing violence and allows providers to do their jobs without facing constant threats.

Lawmakers should continue to lead on sexual and reproductive health by taking steps here in Hawai'i to protect our patients and our providers. Hawai'i needs these civil and criminal penalties as a tool for enforcement, protecting

access to critical health care services. PPAA urges you to vote yes on HB 1961 HD2 SD1 and pass this important bill out of committee.



**Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, April 7, 2026; 10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 225
Via Videoconference**

RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1961, HOUSE DRAFT 2, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** House Bill No. 1961, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This bill, as received by your Committee, would:

- (1) Prohibit persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility;
- (2) Make violations a petty misdemeanor;
- (3) Establish a private right of action; and
- (4) Authorize the Attorney General to bring an action for injunctive or other equitable relief.

This measure would take effect upon its approval.

Testimony on House Bill No. 1961, House Draft 2, Senate Draft 1
Tuesday, April 7, 2025; 10:15 a.m.
Page 2

As employers, FQHCs have an obligation to ensure the health, welfare, and safety of their employees, contractors, volunteers, patients, and patients' friends and family who accompany or visit patients at FQHC facilities. To the extent that this measure serves as a deterrent to violence perpetrated against health care workers, HPCA wholeheartedly supports this effort.

Yet, it should also be noted that when violence is committed against a health care professional, especially when it occurs at a health care facility, a crime is committed not only against the individual, but against all of society. When persons go to a health care professional, it is when that person is most vulnerable -- he or she is sick, or injured, or stressed from concern over a loved one. These places have long been held as sanctuary. During war, hospitals were marked on their rooftops with red crosses so that they would not be bombed.

Violence committed against a health care professional or at a health care facility causes sick or injured persons to hesitate before seeking help, which might exacerbate their condition. It also dissuades persons from entering the field of health care. At a time when Hawaii is facing unprecedented shortages in physicians, nurses, specialists, and other health care professionals, especially in rural areas, incidents of violence against health care professionals or at health care facilities may likely cause youths to consider other fields for future employment.

For this reason, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or eabe@hawaiipca.net.



To: Hawaii State Senate Committee on Judiciary

RE: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2 SD1 Relating to Health Care

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

The members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for hearing this measure. We strongly support HB1961 HD2 SD1 which would prohibit persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility.

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawai'i is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization with close to 4000 members and supporters across all four counties - Hawai'i, Honolulu, Kaula'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.

TESTIMONY OF NAHELANI PARSONS ON BEHALF OF ESSENTIAL ACCESS HEALTH IN SUPPORT OF HB1961 HD2 SD1

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1961 HD2 SD1**. Essential Access Health is in strong support of this legislation to protect safe and unobstructed access to health care.

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

Safe and unobstructed access to health care facilities is fundamental to the health and safety of our residents. HB1961 HD2 SD1 establishes clear protections to ensure that patients and providers can access and deliver care without fear of obstruction, harassment, intimidation, or disruption. By prohibiting intentional interference with access to or from a health care facility, as well as disruption of a facility's normal functioning, this measure strengthens safeguards for both patients and frontline health care workers.

Providers in our Title X network serve communities that already face barriers to care. Even minor disruptions, whether physical obstruction, repeated harassing calls, or threats directed at patients, staff, or facilities, can delay care, compromise privacy, and create an environment of fear. This measure appropriately establishes both criminal penalties and civil remedies, including a private right of action and authority for the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief, ensuring meaningful enforcement and accountability.

Importantly, the bill balances these protections with appropriate exceptions, including for lawful labor demonstrations and the right to strike. This approach protects constitutional rights while ensuring that access to health care remains safe and uninterrupted.

In a time when health care providers are facing increased threats and harassment, this is an opportunity to affirm that our health care facilities are places of safety, dignity, and respect. This measure provides clear standards and enforcement mechanisms that support both patient access and provider security. We respectfully urge this Committee to pass HB1961 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo,

Essential Access Health



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

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

April 6, 2026

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

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

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1961 – Relating to RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

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

This testimony on behalf of **HOKU PAC**, Hawai‘i’s LGBTQ+ political action committee dedicated to building queer political power and advancing policies that protect our communities. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1961**.

HOKU PAC offers strong support for House Bill 1961, which protects individuals’ access to health care facilities, safeguards the uninterrupted delivery of medical services, and establishes clear legal remedies when interference causes harm.

At its core, House Bill 1961 is a civil rights and public safety measure. No person should be obstructed, harassed, or intimidated when seeking medical care, and no health care provider or facility should be prevented from carrying out its lawful purpose. Interference with access to health care undermines personal autonomy, erodes public trust, and places vulnerable individuals at heightened risk.

For the māhū and LGBTQIA+ community, the consequences of interference are especially severe. LGBTQIA+ people—particularly māhū, transgender, and gender non-conforming individuals—already face systemic barriers to care. Efforts to block access to health care facilities, disrupt services, or intimidate patients and providers compound these inequities and send a dangerous message about who is deemed worthy of care and protection.

House Bill 1961 strikes an appropriate and constitutional balance. It does not restrict peaceful assembly or free expression. Instead, it draws a clear line against conduct that interferes with access to health care or disrupts the functioning of medical facilities. By establishing violations as a petty misdemeanor, creating a private right of action, and authorizing the Attorney General to seek injunctive and equitable relief, the bill ensures accountability while prioritizing prevention and safety.

HOKU PAC believes Hawai‘i must remain a place where health care decisions are made between patients and providers—not dictated by harassment, obstruction, or fear. Protecting access to health care is essential to bodily autonomy, community well-being, and the values of dignity and equality that our state strives to uphold.

For these reasons, HOKU PAC respectfully urges your strong support for House Bill 1961.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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



April 6, 2026

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

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

RE: **STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1961 HD 2 SD 1**

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

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice. We write in **strong support of House Bill 1961 HD 2**.

Pride at Work – Hawai'i strongly supports House Bill 1961, which protects access to health care facilities, ensures the uninterrupted delivery of medical services, and establishes clear accountability when interference causes harm.

As an organization representing māhū, and LGBTQIA+ workers and our allies across Hawai'i, we approach this bill through the lens of worker safety, patient dignity, and the right of all people to access health care without fear or obstruction. Health care workers, many of whom are union members and frontline essential workers, deserve workplaces free from harassment, intimidation, and disruption. Patients deserve the same respect and security when seeking care.

Interference with health care facilities places workers and patients at risk. When entrances are blocked, services are disrupted, or staff are harassed, it is not an abstract political statement—it is a workplace safety issue and a public health concern. These actions can delay care, escalate conflict, and force workers into unsafe situations that should never be part of their job.

For māhū, and LGBTQIA+ workers and patients, the stakes are even higher. Māhū and LGBTQIA+ individuals already experience barriers to health care access and are overrepresented in frontline health care roles. When interference targets facilities that provide reproductive, sexual, or gender-affirming care, it compounds discrimination and creates a chilling effect that discourages both patients from seeking care and workers from remaining in these critical roles.

House Bill 1961 takes a reasonable and necessary approach. It preserves the right to lawful expression while clearly prohibiting conduct that interferes with access to care or disrupts the normal functioning of health care facilities. By establishing a private right of action and empowering the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief, the bill ensures that affected

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of Re: HB 1961 HD 2 SD 1

individuals, workers, and facilities have real tools to prevent harm and respond when violations occur.

A strong health care system depends on safe workplaces and unfettered access to care. Pride at Work – Hawai'i believes this bill is essential to protecting both.

For these reasons, Pride at Work – Hawai'i urges the Committee to pass House Bill 1961 HD 2 SD 1.

Mahalo for your consideration and your commitment to the health and safety of Hawai'i's workers and communities.

In Solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
President
[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



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



Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

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

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

April 6, 2026

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

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

RE: STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1961 HD 2 SD 1

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

I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1961 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 strongly supports House Bill 1961, which would prohibit interference with a person's access to or from a health care facility, protect the normal functioning of health care facilities, establish meaningful enforcement mechanisms, and authorize both private and state action when harm occurs.

Access to health care is a fundamental right. No individual should be harassed, obstructed, intimidated, or endangered when seeking medical care, nor should health care providers and staff be subjected to disruption or threats while delivering essential services. House Bill 1961 affirms this principle by ensuring that health care facilities remain safe, accessible, and operational for all who rely on them.

This bill is particularly important for [māhū, LGBTQIA+, and QTPI+](#) individuals, who already face disproportionate barriers to care, including stigma, discrimination, and fear of harassment. For transgender, nonbinary, māhū, QTPI+ and gender-diverse people, especially those seeking gender-affirming care, interference at health care facilities is not hypothetical; it is a documented and growing concern nationwide. Such interference can deter people from seeking medically necessary care, worsen health outcomes, and undermine trust in the health care system.

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 1961

House Bill 1961 appropriately balances the protection of lawful expression with the need to safeguard public health and safety. It does not prohibit free speech or peaceful protest; rather, it draws a clear and necessary line against conduct that interferes with access to care, disrupts medical services, or causes harm to patients and providers. By classifying violations as a petty misdemeanor, creating a private right of action, and authorizing the Attorney General to seek injunctive or equitable relief, the bill provides a comprehensive and enforceable framework to prevent harm before it escalates.

The Commission strongly believes that Hawai'i must remain a place where everyone regardless of their sexual orientation, gender identity, or gender expression can access health care with dignity, safety, and respect. House Bill 1961 sends a clear message that intimidation and obstruction have no place in our health care system.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission urges your strong support of House Bill 1961.

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,

Sandy Harjo Livingston (he/him/they/them)

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.



April 6, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1961 HD2 SD1**, Relating to Health Care

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

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

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT** of **HB1961 HD2 SD1**, Relating to Health Care

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

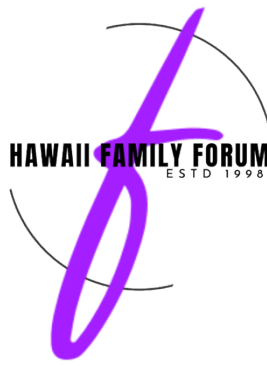
The Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women is dedicated to advancing gender equity and ensuring that all individuals have safe and uninterrupted access to essential health care services. The Commission **supports HB1961 HD2 SD1** as it **addresses the growing need to protect patients, providers, and staff from interference and disruption at health care facilities, barriers that disproportionately impact women and gender-diverse individuals seeking timely care.**

By establishing clear prohibitions against obstructing access or disrupting operations at health care facilities, this **bill provides vital safeguards** for those who may already face social, economic, or logistical obstacles to receiving care. The measure **creates a comprehensive framework to deter harmful conduct and ensure accountability.** These measures align with best practices observed in other jurisdictions that have sought to protect patients' rights and promote public health.

HB1961 HD2 SD1 also recognizes the importance of empowering individuals and facilities to seek redress when harmed by interference and offers multiple avenues for enforcement. **Additional protections enabling individuals to access health care are needed and essential for well-being.** The bill's approach is balanced, focusing on preventing unlawful conduct without impinging on lawful protest or free expression.

The Commission appreciates the Legislature's commitment to protecting access to health care and urges this Committee to **pass HB1961 HD2 SD1.**

Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



Submitted Online: April 6, 2026

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

FROM: Eva Andrade, President

POSITION: Opposition to HB 1961 SD1 Relating to Healthcare

Hawaii Family Forum is a non-profit, pro-family education organization committed to preserving and strengthening families in Hawai‘i. We respectfully oppose HB1961 HD2 SD1.

We agree that individuals seeking medical care should be able to access health care facilities safely and without obstruction or intimidation. Violence, threats, and blocking access to a facility are wrong and should never occur. Those actions are already prohibited under existing Hawai‘i law.

HB1961 HD2 SD1 creates a new criminal offense that makes it unlawful to interfere with access to a health care facility or disrupt its operations, including actions such as physically blocking access, making repeated disruptive calls, or threatening harm. While these examples help clarify the bill, the measure still applies to actions taken “intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly,” and includes mandatory jail time and escalating penalties.

Our concern is that the use of the word “reckless” lowers the bar and may be interpreted broadly, which could unintentionally impact peaceful individuals engaging in lawful public expression. In Hawai‘i, many people of faith feel called to pray, offer compassionate support, or share information with individuals facing difficult life decisions. These acts are typically quiet and peaceful expressions of deeply held beliefs—not attempts to intimidate or obstruct anyone.

We appreciate that the bill states it is not intended to affect peaceful expressive conduct. However, without clear boundaries in how the law is applied, there may still be uncertainty for those who are simply trying to live out their beliefs in a respectful and lawful way.

The bill also allows different people connected to a situation to file lawsuits and recover attorney’s fees. Even when no real harm has occurred, the possibility of costly legal action could discourage peaceful citizens from expressing their beliefs in public spaces.



**HB 1961 SD1
Page Two**

Public policy should carefully balance two important goals: protecting access to health care and protecting the freedoms of speech, religion, and peaceful assembly that are fundamental to our society. Laws that are overly broad or duplicative may unintentionally discourage peaceful community engagement.

For these reasons, Hawaii Family Forum respectfully asks the Committee to defer HB1961 HD2 SD1 or significantly narrow its scope to ensure that peaceful and constitutionally protected expression is clearly protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Hawaii Women's Coalition

April 6, 2026

Position: **SUPPORT** of **HB1961 HD2 SD1**, Relating to Health Care

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

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

Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1961 HD2 SD1, Relating to Health Care

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

On behalf of the Hawaii Women's Coalition, a catalyst coalition for progressive, social, economic, and political change regarding critical issues facing Hawaii's women and girls, I would like to thank the Committee for hearing this important bill. The Women's Coalition **supports HB1961 HD2 SD1** because it **advances the safety, health, and equitable access to care for women in Hawaii.**

Ensuring that individuals can access health care facilities without interference or disruption is fundamental to the well-being and autonomy of women and girls. Barriers to accessing health care, including intimidation or obstruction, disproportionately impact those seeking reproductive health services. This bill directly addresses these barriers by establishing clear penalties for interference and providing both civil and criminal remedies.

The bill strengthens protections against gender-based violence, while also empowering individuals to seek recourse. These measures are consistent with best practices for safeguarding vulnerable populations and upholding the rights of women and girls.

The Coalition respectfully recommends that the Committee **pass HB1961 HD2 SD1**, protecting access to health care. Thank you for this opportunity to submit testimony.



April 5, 2026

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

Re: H.B. 1961 HD2 SD1, Relating to Health Care

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

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

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

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in support of H.B. 1961 HD2 SD1, which establishes criminal penalties and civil remedies for interfering with access to health care facilities or disrupting the normal functions of health care facilities.

We strongly concur with the Legislature that safe access to health care services is vital for the health and safety of all persons in Hawaii. Individuals seeking or providing health care should be able to access health care facilities without fear of intimidation and harassment.

Hawaii already faces challenges in access to care, especially for individuals in underserved areas and for individuals seeking specialty care. It is therefore absolutely critical that we ensure safe and unobstructed access to health care for patients and their providers, regardless of their race, age, condition, or socioeconomic status. This is especially true for those healthcare facilities that provide critical services in support of reproductive rights, including Planned Parenthood and independent clinics.

Hawaii Women Lawyers commends and thanks the Legislature for both prioritizing both patients' rights to a safe environment and affirming medical professionals' ability to do their important work without interference or intimidation.

For the above reasons, we strongly support H.B. 1961 HD2 SD1, Relating to Health Care, and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure.

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



Protect Democracy Move Forward

www.indivisiblehawaii.org

info@indivisiblehawaii.org

To: COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15 am
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 016
Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1961, HD2, SD1**

Dear Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Members of Indivisible Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1961, HD2, SD1.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Given the extreme and growing polarization of our times, we cannot assume this kind of behavior will remain limited to Planned Parenthood only. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

We strongly support this bill, included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package, that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services. Mahalo for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team

The mission of the 14-chapter Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) is to protect Hawai'i and democracy by defending civil rights, communities and values, most importantly, Hawai'i's Constitutionally protected spirit of Aloha. In October 2025, IHSN with other partners turned out over 22,000 residents on all major islands to say No Dictators! and to stand up for democracy. This call-to-action was part of Indivisible national's mobilization of more than 7 million across the country as the voice of the people, committed to election integrity and to evolving as a place of equity, opportunity and peace.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 2:42:52 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in **strong support** of HB1961, a critical measure to protect the fundamental right of every individual in Hawai‘i to access healthcare safely, freely, and without fear of intimidation or obstruction.

Healthcare facilities are sacred spaces of healing, privacy, and critical service. They must remain safe havens for patients, providers, and staff. This bill directly addresses dangerous disruptions by:

- **Safeguarding Access to Care:** By prohibiting interference with a person’s access to or from a health care facility, HB1961 protects the most vulnerable among us. Patients seeking time-sensitive, private, and often emotionally difficult care—including reproductive services, gender-affirming treatments, cancer therapy, or end-of-life care—should never have to run a gauntlet of harassment or obstruction. This bill ensures their safe passage is a matter of law.
- **Protecting Facility Function:** Disrupting the normal functioning of a healthcare facility is not a protest; it is an attack on public health and safety. It endangers patients by delaying emergency services, diverting critical staff resources, and creating an environment of chaos. Making such disruptions a petty misdemeanor provides law enforcement and prosecutors with a necessary and proportionate tool to uphold order and safety for all.
- **Creating Meaningful Recourse:** The establishment of a private right of action for harmed individuals and facilities, along with the authorization for the Attorney General to seek injunctive relief, creates a robust enforcement framework. It empowers those directly victimized by this conduct to seek justice and provides a powerful deterrent against organized efforts to shut down healthcare access.

In an era where healthcare providers and patients are increasingly targeted, Hawai‘i must take a clear stand. No one should be blocked, filmed, harassed, or intimidated when seeking lawful medical care. No nurse or doctor should fear for their safety while entering their workplace.

HB1961 strikes the appropriate balance, protecting constitutionally protected expression in public spaces while drawing a firm line at conduct that actively blocks, harasses, or disrupts healthcare delivery. It affirms that the right to access healthcare is paramount.

I urge you to pass HB1961. Protect our patients, protect our providers, and protect the sanctity of healthcare in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:34:36 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961. It allows individuals to get to their appointments without undue harassment. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 3:35:08 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1961.

As a woman, I can say that what some describe as “just standing and praying” outside of health care facilities does not feel harmless. It can be intimidating, overwhelming, and honestly frightening. No one should have to walk through that kind of environment just to access medical care.

This bill is about ensuring that patients and providers feel safe and protected. Everyone deserves to seek care without fear, pressure, or intimidation.

Please support HB1961 to help keep access to health care safe and respectful for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

With Aloha,

Celine

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:46:13 PM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:30:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:34:17 PM

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

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

Comments:

In support

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:22:49 PM

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

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1961.

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

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Thank you,

AM

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:07:58 PM

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

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

Comments:

member, Indivisible

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:13:36 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support HB1961.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:16:33 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961 (SB2845)

as a retired OB/GYN who strongly believes EVERY WOMAN SHOULD HAVE THE CHOICE TO END OR CONTINUE HER PREGNANCY WITHOUT INTERFERENCE OR JUDGMENT. IT IS ALREADY A VERY TOUGH DECISION THAT STAYS WITH THE PERSON HER ENTIRE LIFE.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:21:33 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support a bill included in the Women’s Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Monty Clark

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:38:27 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:19:53 AM

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

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

Comments:

Prohibiting interference with access to reproductive care clinics is essential to protect patient safety, privacy, and the fundamental right to obtain medical care without intimidation or obstruction. This measure helps ensure that patients, staff, and providers can safely enter and leave facilities, supports continuity of care, and upholds civil rights by preventing threats, harassment, or physical barriers to treatment.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:05:19 AM

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

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

Comments:

Support

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 11:41:29 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961 (SB2845). It should be unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Thank you, Gail Morrison, Honolulu

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 12:55:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

Support for HB1961 SD1

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

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist in Hawai'i specializing in Complex Family Planning and I strongly support HB1961 SD1. Ensuring safe and unobstructed access to health care facilities is essential for both patients and providers. This measure appropriately prohibits interference, harassment, and intimidation that can delay or disrupt care, while preserving lawful peaceful expression. By establishing clear protections, civil remedies, and accountability, this bill helps ensure that patients can access timely, evidence-based care without fear and that providers can safely deliver that care. I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Elaine Chan, MD

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:32:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Ebata	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole & Members of the Committee,

Please accept this letter in very strong support of HB1961 which establishes necessary protections for safe access to healthcare. I urge you to pass it without delay to ensure that all residents can access medical care safely without harrassment, fear or intimidation. The current political atmosphere promotes harrassment and even violence against those who are perceived to be in support of opposing views or practices. Healthcare is an existential right and it must be protected.

HB1961 provides essential protections and provides for authorizing the Attorney General and aggrieved parties to seek civil remedies including injunctive relief, to prevent future disruptions. The bill is balanced to protect peaceful conduct including labor demonstrations and strikes.

Thank you very much for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Ellen Ebata

Kauai

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 10:00:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am an obstetrician-gynecologist in Hawai'i and I strongly support HB1961 SD1. Ensuring safe and unobstructed access to health care facilities is essential for both patients and providers. This measure appropriately prohibits interference, harassment, and intimidation that can delay or disrupt care, while preserving lawful peaceful expression. By establishing clear protections, civil remedies, and accountability, this bill helps ensure that patients can access timely, evidence-based care without fear and that providers can safely deliver that care. I respectfully urge your support.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sara C Harris, MD

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:02:02 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair Rhoads and Vice-Chair Gabbard,

I am writing in strong support of this legislation as necessary protection for those seeking needed medical care. Individual citizens should be able to attend to our health and bodily autonomy free from harassment and intimidation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely yours,
David Ball
Waiālae-Kahala

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:51:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Taylor	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. 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.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:34:50 PM

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

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:01:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

I am a resident of Kaua'i. I am writing in strong support of **HB1961**.

Although I have lived in Hawai'i for most of my adult life, I previously lived in Chicago, where I relied on Planned Parenthood for essential medical care. My experience there taught me exactly why the protections in HB1961 are so vital. When I sought care in Chicago, I was frequently met with protesters blocking the sidewalk, being yelled at or feeling physically unsafe entering the building. These experiences made a routine medical visit feel like a trial, and it is a reality I do not want to see mirrored here in Hawai'i.

By passing **HB1961**, Hawai'i can proactively ensure that:

- **Patients are Protected:** No person should be physically obstructed or intimidated when seeking healthcare.
- **Staff are Safe:** Healthcare workers deserve to do their jobs without threats of injury or disruption to their facility's normal operations.
- **Consequences are Clear:** This bill provides the necessary tools for enforcement, including criminal penalties for repeat offenses and a private right of action for aggrieved parties.

I urge you to pass this bill to keep our clinics safe and accessible for all residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Lisa Pollak
Kaua'i

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:14:17 PM

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

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:34:36 PM

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

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB1961

This bill protects patients and providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities.

Protestors should not be proesting in a way that prevents medical care, which is what is currently happening.

Everyone deserves equal access and safety when seeking medical care.

The most vulnerable people are hurt when people protest at planned parenthood, and it is our duty as citizens to protect the most vulnerable among us.

Please pass this important, life-saving bill.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

lifelong voter and resident

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:36:38 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and members of Judiciary committee,

My name is Janice Berry, and I respectfully submit testimony in **strong support of HB1961.**

Every person in Hawai‘i deserves to access health care safely and with dignity. Seeking medical care is often a vulnerable and deeply personal experience, and individuals should be able to enter and exit health care facilities without intimidation or obstruction. No one should feel fear, shame, or distress simply for trying to access legally provided medical services.

From both personal observation and community work, I have seen how even small barriers or hostile environments can feel overwhelming for individuals already navigating stress, uncertainty, or emotional strain. For some, especially those already experiencing anxiety, trauma, or mental health challenges, aggressive or intrusive encounters at the entrance to a health care facility can heighten distress and make it harder to seek help. Encounters that feel intimidating or invasive may discourage people from accessing the care they need — sometimes when they need it most.

When people delay or avoid care because they feel unsafe or judged, the consequences can be serious. Health concerns may worsen, emotional distress may increase, and individuals and families may experience greater long-term impacts that could have been prevented through timely, supportive access to services. From a public health perspective, ensuring safe access to care promotes early intervention, reduces preventable health crises, and supports healthier communities overall.

HB1961 helps ensure that patients, families, and health care workers can move through health care spaces with dignity and safety while maintaining an appropriate balance with constitutional

rights. Protecting safe access to care is an essential step in maintaining a compassionate and functional health system in Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB1961**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janice Berry

Honolulu, Hawai'i

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 4:28:05 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Amelia Sofos and I am a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa 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 HB1961 HD2 SD1.

HB1961 HD2 SD1 would protect patients and providers from protestors who obstruct access to vehicles and health centers, yell slurs and use other harmful derogatory and hateful language, and threats made against them. For members of the community and myself, it is paramount that residents of the state are protected when we seek or provide legal health care services. Over the past year, I have witnessed protestors harassing, obstructing access, and creating unsafe conditions along Beretania Street. No one should be afraid to access or provide legal health care services due to fear of being harassed. Therefore, I strongly urge the committee to PASS HB1961 and protect our community's right to privacy and health care access.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Amelia Sofos

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 5:04:40 PM

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

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1961 - prohibit interference with access to reproductive care clinic

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 6:15:22 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Keala and I urge you to SUPPORT HB 1961. 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.

mahalo,

Keala Fung, Honolulu

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 8:25:09 PM

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

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

Comments:

I volunteer with Planned Parenthood to support their programs that enable queer and low income people to have access to quality healthcare that other hospitals or providers may not offer or provide at too high a cost. They are so much more than abortion providers, they provide cancer screenings, STI testing, and care for new mothers. Despite their service to the community, they and other providers are often subject to threats and intimidation. Please pass this bill to ensure that those supporting our community are protected.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 9:32:57 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Grayzell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill must be passed. It is unacceptable that people are harrasing anyone who enters Planned Parenthood. They have no idea, nor have any business, in concerning themselves with anyone that enters a Planned Parenthood. My teenage granddaughter was working on a committee at Planned Parenthood and was harrassed! Absolutely Unacceptable! I was harrassed going into our Planned Parenthood for a routine check-up. Absolutely Unacceptable. We must protect people from harmful harrassment and unwarranted interactions from people that have no reason at all to be outside a Planned Parenthood location.

Thank you,

Denise Grayzell

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 10:12:24 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I strongly support a bill included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

PLEASE PROTECT Planned Parenthood. They do good work!

Thank you, Jane Aquino, Indivisible

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:43:14 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1961. I believe people should be able to access healthcare without harassment. Mahalo for taking my views into consideration.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 2:19:50 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha, Senators,

Please vote for HB1961 HD2 SD1. No one should be intimidated by others when attempting to obtain health care.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain, Honolulu

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

HEARING:

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

TESTIMONY IN **SUPPORT** OF HD 1961, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

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

My name is Christine Andrews and I live in Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today **in support of HB 1961, HD2, SD1**, relating to health care, which prohibits persons from interfering with another person's access to or from a health care facility or disrupting the normal functioning of a health care facility, makes violations a petty misdemeanor, establishes a private right of action, and authorizes the Attorney General to bring an action for injunctive or other equitable relief.

I have a friend who went through the heartbreak of a late-term abortion. This was not a decision she or her husband made lightly. It was done in consultation with her doctor, and after hurried personal research and getting second opinions. Everything they learned was that their loved and anticipated child had congenital defects that would cause him untreatable and intractable pain and suffering if he made it to term, while possibly endangering his mother's life if he did not. She and her husband made the difficult choice to terminate a much-wanted pregnancy because they felt that was the best and only option to avoid pain and suffering for their unborn child. It was a choice that came from love and caring, held in compassion and heartbreak.

The suffering of my friend and her husband during this extremely difficult time while faced with a heartbreaking choice, was only made more difficult by having to navigate protesters at the healthcare facility where they had the procedure done. They were already suffering, but had done their research, and in consultation with doctors, made their decision. Protesters trying to interfere with their access to healthcare were not going to change their mind. The protesters just made a difficult time even more challenging.

In Hawaii, people's personal medical choices and access to health care is interrupted regularly by protesters who harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood health centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic. Hawai'i needs a bill to provide the police more tools to intervene in situations like this.

I strongly support HB 1961, HD2, SD1, because it will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients. Fundamentally, patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

I **strongly support HB 1961, HD2, SD1** as a needed source of protection for people like my friend. I request that you support women's access to healthcare by voting in support of HB 1961, HD2, SD1.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 4:48:49 PM

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

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

Comments:

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.

Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 6:18:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961: a bill included in the Women’s Legislative Caucus package that will make it unlawful for a person to interfere with access to a health care facility, including prohibiting physical obstruction, disturbing the peace, trespassing, telephoning a clinic repeatedly, or threatening administrative staff, providers, and patients.

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

THE SENATE
KA' AHA KENEKOA

Notice of Decision Making

Tuesday, April 7, 2026

10:15 a.m.

RELATING TO HEALTHCARE

H.B. 1961, HD2, SD1

Committee on Judiciary

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

My name is Carol Wakayama and I wish to submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of H.B. 1961, HD2, SD1 which would establish protections for individuals attempting to gain access to healthcare facilities and receive medical care - without having to be subjected to intimidation and harassment.

Anyone who is seeking medical care and treatment deserves to have safe access to the facility of their choice - without being afraid of possible harassment or intimidation. Employees, at healthcare facilities, should not be fearful of possible harm from others - who might have philosophical differences with the focus of the healthcare facility. No one should have to be afraid, to receive medical care or work at a healthcare facility - of their choosing.

H.B. 1961, HD2, SD1 also holds the harassers accountable with civil and criminal penalties should they attempt to prevent someone from receiving medical care.

For reasons mentioned above, I humbly request that H.B. 1961, HD2, SD1 be considered for passage. Thank you.

Carol Wakayama, Punchbowl

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:54:26 AM

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

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support HB1961.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:31:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Middleton	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.



**Chair Rhoads
Vice Chair Gabbard
Committee on Judiciary**

**Tuesday, April 7th, 2026
10:15 AM**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1961 HD2 SD1
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Aloha Members of the House Committee on Judiciary,

The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission was first created through Act 106 in 2018, “to advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the State.” The Hawai‘i State Youth Commission’s Public Health legislative committee is in **strong support** of **HB1961**.

For young people in Hawai‘i, stigma-free access to health care is critical to well-being. Many youth rely on health clinics for education and preventive care, and any intimidation or harassment at these facilities can discourage them from seeking support when they need it most. Youth can face additional barriers, like school and work scheduling and fear of being judged, which means that a single negative or unsafe experience can have a long-term effect on whether they seek necessary care in the future.

HB1961 addresses this by clearly prohibiting behavior that blocks entrances or exits or threatens patients or providers, while preserving the ability to engage in lawful demonstrations. These protections help ensure that health care facilities remain places where youth and their families

can focus on their health decisions instead of having to face hostile conditions at the door. This measure sends a clear message that obstructing or disrupting access to healthcare facilities is not acceptable, and that the State has a responsibility to protect people across all communities.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i State Youth Commission is in strong support of HB1961 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission

hawaiiistateyc@gmail.com

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:28:19 PM

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

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measue. Everyone deserves access to health care, free from intimidation and harrassment. This measure is needed to protect patients and health care workers.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:47:09 AM

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

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

Comments:

Mahalo for your work on this issue.

I am writing in support of HB1961. Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

Hawaii needs to remain a leader in protecting women's access to reproductive healthcare.

Thank you.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:02:40 AM

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

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I am submitting testimony in support of HB1961.

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.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:12:48 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Distinguished Representatives and Senators-

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

I am writing in support of HB1961 relating to Health Care. The bill is meant to increase access to Health Care facilities, and makes disruption to access a misdemeanor.

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

Planned Parenthood 's Honolulu clinic, located on South Beretania St. Has become a hot spot for protesters to attempt to prevent access to Healthcare resources and treatment. This is dangerous for several reasons. As Planned Parenthood is a healthcare facility, allowing these slurs and physical deterrents to staff and clientele sets a dangerous precedent. If it is allowed to continue unchecked, it can spread to other healthcare facilities. This includes but is not limited to:

- Queens medical center and network
- Straub Hospital

Because of the increase in preventative action by protesters, it would be prudent to protect access to healthcare clinics for both clientele and providers. This is not an attack on-right to protest, more an action to allow access to care.

I implore you to advance HB1961. It will create a vital safety net for our healthcare system. It also sends a clear message to those who would prevent access to healthcare facilities on where the state stands.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Noah Hull

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:31:18 AM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Micaela Hines, I am a community organizer for Planned Parenthood who is testifying in my own capacity and a resident of Kalihi Valley. I respectfully urge you to support HB1961.

I personally access the health center on Beretania every week to go to work and personally experience the intense harrassment, interference and disruption imposed by the protestors outside. I witness and experience the shouting, the intense phrases yelled at people seeking helthcare services and the attempts to block individual's view from oncoming traffic as they attempt to exit the facility. The presence of these protestors does not exclusively result in silent prayer, but long-lasting and harmful interactions with members of our community that access this health center. Access to vital healthcare services like wellness exams, STI testing, ultrasounds, abortions, vasectomies and more should not be impeded by any entity regardless of their belief. Please pass this bill so health center's are able to safely and effectively provide the services they need to. I hope of having a community where people can safely access life-saving care without inteference, and ask that you will support your community by sharing that same hope.

Mahalo for your consideration. I am available for further questions from the committee. Please support HB1961.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:45:44 AM

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

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

Comments:

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

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

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL HB-1961 HD2 SD1. When I took my oath, it was to support and defend the Constitution for all Americans—including the freedoms of speech, assembly, and petition. Those rights do not stop at the edge of a sidewalk near a clinic, and any new law that touches those freedoms must be narrowly written, clearly defined, and absolutely necessary. This bill does not meet that standard.

We all agree that violence, threats, harassment, and blocking access to health care are wrong, but those actions are already illegal under Hawaii's trespass, disorderly conduct, harassment, terroristic threatening, and related statutes. HB-1961 HD2 SD1 layers a new crime on top of existing law and still includes mandatory jail time starting at 24 hours even for a first offense, while using broad language and a "reckless" standard that lowers the bar for criminal charges. The bill now lists examples like blocking entrances, repeated disruptive phone calls, or threats, but it still leaves room for broad interpretation beyond those examples. Supporters say it is not meant to affect peaceful expression, yet without clear boundaries, people engaged in peaceful activities, prayer, counseling, offering support, or simply being present, will reasonably fear that any complaint could be treated as "interference."

I am also deeply concerned that the bill creates new private lawsuits and allows attorney's fees even when no actual damages are proven, exposing ordinary citizens to costly litigation for situations where no real harm occurred. It gives multiple government actors, the Attorney General, county prosecutors, and police, overlapping enforcement authority, on top of laws already in place, and it would take effect immediately upon approval, so these new penalties and liabilities would begin right away. Hawai'i can protect safe access to health care facilities by enforcing existing, neutral laws that already punish true threats and obstruction. HB-1961 HD2 SD1 instead risks sweeping in peaceful citizens, chilling speech and religious expression, and undermining the very constitutional freedoms many of us served to defend.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to defer indefinitely HB-1961 HD2 SD1.

Respectfully,

Brett Kulbis
U.S. Navy (Retired)

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:50:18 AM

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

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

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE HB1961 HD2 SD1

Proposed "protective" law is Defective:

NO Clear definitions of "knowingly", "intentionally" & "recklessly"--Broad interpretation of these words may allow "aggrieved party" to knowingly, intentionally & recklessly make allegations

Discriminatory: discriminates against certain peaceful protestors, but Not against others, such as labor groups!

NO Equal Protection of the law: Need to add provision to Protect a person or persons peacefully standing near a "facility" from being harassed, intimidated & threatened by persons who enter/exit a "facility", & from workers inside the facility from making repeated phone calls to law enforcement with false allegations. All persons should have Equal protection of the law & protection of Constitutional Rts: Freedom of Speech, Religion & Assembly

Excessive, Harsh penalties should not be included in this measure--that's for a judge to decide!

Unjust terms: "aggrieved party shall not be required to allege or prove actual damages to prevail"--whatever this measure intends to curtail, God's Truth & Justice will prevail!!!

Respectfully urge legislators to Not enact discriminatory laws that include excessive harsh penalties, without Equal Protection for ALL! Do the Right thing, Protect the Rights of ALL!!!

Vote No on HB1961 HD2 SD1

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:57:23 AM

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

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

Comments:

As a retired healthcare professional and current grandmother, I support this sadly essential bill.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:59:26 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and members of the Judiciary Committee,

This testimony is in opposition to HB1961,HD2, SD1. While the intent of this measure may be admirable, its penalties and enforcement deserve further review, particularly since the measure is intended to take effect upon approval. This measure should be deferred to allow for further discussion. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:29:25 AM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha - "Please vote NO on HB1961 and HB1875. These bills raise serious concerns about freedom, parental rights, and unintended legal consequences for individuals in Hawai'i. Mahalo for your consideration."

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:34:59 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Agnes Tauyan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB1961 and HB1875.

These bills raise serious concerns about
freedom, parental rights, and unintended legal
consequences for individuals in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your consideration

Agnes Tauyan

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:41:58 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reni Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha –

As a double-board certified OBGYN, I have been providing the full spectrum of reproductive health care in Hawai'i for over 20 years. I strongly support HB1961.

Health care is a right, and people deserve to access healthcare without being harassed or intimidated. As a provider, I have personally had to walk through protestors outside of healthcare clinics. I get intimidated at times. One of our providers had the scary experience of a protestor jumping on her car as she was exiting the property.

Health decisions related to pregnancy and bodily autonomy are deeply personal and deserve to be made in safe, confidential clinical environments. As physicians, we trust our patients to make the decisions that are right for their lives and families, and we have an ethical responsibility to ensure they can do so safely.

Please pass HB1961 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo

Reni Soon, MD MPH

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:46:04 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denize Machit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill. We need to protect our healthcare workers and patients from abuse and down right blocking access to our healthcare places. Give our healthcare providers the tools they need to protect our patients. Mahalo for allowing me to express myself on this important bill.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:19:35 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Olivia Manayan. I am a board-certified OB/GYN who provides abortion care across the state, including at Planned Parenthood Hawai'i. I write to you today in **strong support** of HB1961 HD2 SD1.

Despite being a key component of the practice of evidence-based, full-scope OB/GYN care, abortion care is often stigmatized. For many years, protestors against abortion have stood outside of clinics, often using aggressive language and signage to intimidate patients, in an attempt to dissuade them from seeking care. The presence of anti-choice protestors outside of clinics which provide this vital care does not only exacerbate the stigma that patients who seek abortion care face, but it also threatens patient safety. Aside from spewing verbally violent rhetoric, protestors provide information to patients that is objectively false and clinically misleading.

Ultimately, the decisions that a pregnant person makes regarding her health and her bodily autonomy are private and need not be privy to the scrutiny of others; no person should be harassed for seeking healthcare. We trust our patients to make decisions that are best for their life and their family, and we want to ensure that when our patients entrust us with their care, that they may do so in a setting where they feel safe, supported, and empowered.

In addition to the safety of our patients, the aggressive nature of anti-abortion protestors threatens the safety of abortion care providers. As you may be familiar, our country has a history of showing violence, sometimes towards fatal ends, to abortion providers. I would be lying if I said that every time I enter the Planned Parenthood clinic and am harassed by the antagonistic rhetoric of protestors, who are often filming on their phones, that I do not fear for the safety of myself, my family, and my patients. Only a few weeks ago, our staff called the police to remove protestors who were physically blocking the clinic entrance, refusing to let patients in to seek care. By removing these threats to safety, you can improve the safety of healthcare workers who work at clinics like ours, ensuring that patients are able to get the care they need and deserve.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I am always available to answer questions for clarification.

Me ke aloha pumehana,

Olivia Manayan, MD MPH
Obstetrics & Gynecology
Honolulu, HI

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:34:25 PM

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

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

Comments:

HB1961 SD1 creates a new law that makes it illegal to interfere with someone’s access to a health care facility or to disrupt how that facility operates. It applies to actions such as physically blocking entrances or exits, making repeated phone calls intended to disrupt operations, or threatening staff, patients, or property. A violation would be a petty misdemeanor, with fines and **mandatory jail time starting at 24 hours for a first offense**, increasing for repeat offenses. The bill also allows patients, facilities, employees, and property owners to file civil lawsuits—even without proving financial damages—and allows the Attorney General to seek court orders to stop alleged violations. Unlike earlier versions, this bill would take effect immediately if passed.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 12:39:51 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Shanda Brack, and I am testifying in strong support of HB1961 as both a nurse practitioner and as someone who has personally relied on Hawai'i's health care system as a patient.

I know what it feels like to be in a vulnerable position seeking medical care, and I know how important it is to be able to walk into a clinic or hospital focused on your health — not on whether you will be confronted, delayed, or made to feel unsafe. That sense of safety is not abstract; it directly affects whether people seek care at all. People outside a clinic have literally NO IDEA what health problems someone might have walking in the door. I picture accompanying my pregnant niece to an appointment because she has noticed pain or bleeding. She's frightened for her baby. If she encounters a crowd blocking the door, scolding or yelling at her, or attempting to prevent her from entering the clinic, this will lead to more stress on her and the baby. She may choose to delay care and come back another time. Could that be a reason she loses her baby?

As a nurse practitioner, I have seen how even small disruptions can have serious consequences for patients and health care teams. I can think of a patient who told me she used to be afraid to come into the clinic because she was worried about who would see her come in and feared being judged. She has a complicated list of medical conditions and there is a very real possibility that delay of care could lead to hospitalization or death for her.

HB1961 provides important protections by prohibiting interference with health care facilities and by creating meaningful enforcement mechanisms. These protections are essential to ensuring continuity of care, protecting health care workers, and safeguarding patients' rights to access medically necessary services without obstruction.

This bill strikes an appropriate balance by protecting access to care while respecting lawful activities, and it sends a clear message that patient safety and uninterrupted health care delivery are priorities for our state.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to support HB1961.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to protecting access to health care in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Shanda Brack, APRN

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:31:07 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose **HB1961 HD2 SD1**

- 1. We all agree on safety — but harmful actions are already illegal.**
- 2. The bill still includes mandatory jail time.**
- 3. The word “reckless” lowers the bar.**
- 4. The bill lists specific actions—but still leaves room for broad interpretation.**
- 5. The bill says it protects peaceful expression—but concerns remain.**
- 6. It creates new lawsuits—even when no harm is proven.**

Hawai‘i can protect safe access to health care facilities without creating overly broad laws that may impact peaceful citizens. Any new law should be **clear, narrowly written, and respectful of constitutional freedoms**, including speech and religious expression.

Mahalo for voting No on **HB1961 HD2 SD1** ,

Linda

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:37:54 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha JDC committee,

My name is Emily Kulaga and I am currently a senior at UH Manoa and I am also involved with Planned Parenthood Generation Action at UH, a student led group dedicated to reproductive justice and accessibility to safe reproductive healthcare for all. I am writing in strong support of HB1961. This bill protects patients and providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities. As a volunteer at Planned Parenthood, I have been harrassed by protestors countless times. The exit from Planned Parenthood onto Beretania is already quite dangerous and having a man standing next to my car and yelling at my makes the situation more stressful and more dangerous than it already is. As I have previously mentioned, this has happened to me and to patients who are receiving care countless times. No one should face intimidation just to receive medical care. This bill will protect all health care facilities. Therefore, I strongly urge you to pass HB1961 and protect our community's right to safe healthcare.

Mahalo, Emily Kulaga

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:56:46 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivienne Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Vivienne Hill. I'm a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I'm asking you to support HB1961.

When I was 16, I was part of a Teen Council program at a Planned Parenthood. We went weekly to train as peer sex educators - learning how to bring preventative health education back to other teens across O'ahu. Some days, before we could get through the door, adults we had never met would shout at us and physically block our path. We were teenagers there to learn how to help other teenagers. That didn't matter.

No one should have to face those conditions to get any sort of medical care. A buffer zone doesn't silence anyone. It stops people from being cornered or screamed at when they are trying to walk into a building.

No one should have to experience abuse of any kind when accessing healthcare. Please pass HB1961.

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:15:06 PM

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

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

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this important bill. Mahalo.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 3:59:36 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michaela Alcaraz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning/Afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michaela, and I live in Hanamā‘ulu, Kaua‘i.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1961.

I moved to O‘ahu less than a year ago to begin pursuing my post-secondary education, and one of the biggest things I had in mind was to ensure my overall safety and timely education completion here. Besides learning more about street smarts from friends, I knew that eventually, I wanted to have another layer of proactive protection against a future where my plans for my education gets destroyed by situations that will leave me vulnerable via an unwanted pregnancy (and the stress that comes with trying to react and recover afterwards through things like abortions and such). To keep things short, I have almost backed out of going to an appointment to receive long-term birth control because of how uncomfortable and afraid I was of the protesters who were standing really close to the only entrance I could go to in order to access the healthcare services I was seeking. It didn’t help that from what I previously saw on news websites (most of which are based on the continent), many of these kinds of protesters tended to be very aggressive and would apply extreme measures to harass and hurt the people whose healthcare choices they don’t agree with. From what I saw on the day I went to receive birth control, the protesters’ giant signs could easily block the entrance (and possibly even be used to push or poke me away).

I was lucky that I wasn’t stopped, nor did I give in to the pressure to turn away, but my hope with the passing of this bill is that even the simpler stories like mine won’t end up with worse outcomes than my experience; I do not look forward to a future where our community is forced to be haunted with unfortunate tales of people who end up worse off in life (or even losing their life) just because they were denied access to receiving and/or practicing healthcare from extreme, aggressive, and unpeaceful people who disagree with others’ choices for their health.

This bill protects patients and providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities. Every person deserves to access the health care they need without fear of harassment or threats.

Please support HB 1961.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:06:29 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karlee Palms	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning/Afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Karlee Palms and I live in Honolulu.

I respectfully urge you to support HB 1961.

This bill protects patients and providers by preventing protestors from blocking entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities. Every person deserves to access the health care they need without fear of harassment or threats.

Please support HB 1961.

Thank you for your consideration.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:54:53 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Crystal Quezada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of this bill.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:01:56 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carm Akim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

We strongly urge you to vote NO on this vague and harmful bill. It enables individuals linked to a situation to file lawsuits and recover attorney's fees even when no real damages exist. This reckless provision could threaten everyday citizens with costly legal battles and intimidate them from speaking out or taking action in public.

Hawai'i has the opportunity to enhance safe access to healthcare facilities while also considering the rights of peaceful citizens. It is important that any new legislation is thoughtfully crafted to be clear and narrowly focused, respecting essential constitutional freedoms, including the rights to free speech and religious expression. By doing this, we can create a balanced approach that prioritizes both safety and individual rights.

Mahalo nui,

Carm Akim

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:14:50 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1961. This is unconstitutional therefore should I comply? If we comply this is China. If freedom of speech gets me and others arrested this is North Korea. If Peaceably assembly is a crime then this is Canada. Oh no wait, that's what communist lobbyist want. We will fight this to Washington Supreme Court. Our Justice and Legislation system in hawaii is compromised. No hope, for we are the most corrupt state in the nation. Murdering babies is accepted in hawaii and the left loves it. This world must end!!!!

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:24:21 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine E Rossi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators and staff,

i believe that rvery person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear. Unfortunately, this is not always the case even in Hawaii.

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.

I personally witnessed peole physical blocking access to health facilities, at two different facilities. That is why I am supporting this bill: this behavior needs to have real consequences.

I am 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.

Mahalo for taking my perspective into account.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:31:54 PM

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

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

Comments:

I continue to oppose HB1961 HD2 SD1.

This bill makes exercising our first amendment rights that makes peaceful and prayerful gatherings risky acts when they should be fully protected by our laws.

Harassment, assaults, and violence are already covered under other statutes. This bill is unnecessary. The proposed punishments for someone accused of actions thought to be covered under this bill are draconian.

Do not pass HB1961 HD2 SD1.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:40:12 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abram Moreno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HP 1961 because it is unconstitutional. I have the right to stand outside of abortion clinics and pray for people. Many people going into the clinic are scared, emotional and they are needing a prayer.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:28:10 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is UNCONSTITUTIONAL = **Strongly Oppose** (as should you as lawmakers and upholders of the US Constitution)

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:39:16 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Bauer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully support HB1961 relative to safe and unencumbered access to all Healthcare facilities and most importantly all of Planned Parenthood facilities, offices, and partners. I am 72 years old and my very first gynecological experience was in 1971 at Planned Parenthood in Baltimore MD. I moved to Hawai'i in 1975 and continued as a patient with all of my femails medical, and educational needs being met at HPP intil 1993, I was 40. HPP is a safe place for all and absolutely needs to remain as such. No one has the right to interrupt or disrupt anyone's choice in reproductive and other medical care. I will always stand with Planned Parenthood. Aloha

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:27:38 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Flannery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every week I ride by Honolulu's only Planned Parenthood and witness women being harassed on their way to their healthcare appts. For a time in my 20s, the only healthcare I had was through Planned Parenthood. I never received any "controversial" treatments, just straight ahead women's health care at a time when I was completely uninsured, yet I was subjected to metal detectors and harassment due to the unchecked zealotry that is allowed to exist exclusively at these healthcare facilities. These are life saving facilities. The people seeking care here do not deserve, or need, to be subjected to ill-informed graphic signs and slurs for seeking that care.

It is a shame of Honolulu that this is allowed to go on unchecked and it is the opposite of mahalo. Please use your power to protect people seeking healthcare from ill-informed zealots. It is mahalo.

Mahalo,

Melanie Flannery

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:29:45 AM

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

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1961. This bill is not necessary. We already have laws in place that cover this and this bill is adding to them unnecessarily. It is also vague and open to interpretation. We do not need this bill which is just another situation of government overreach.

LATE

HB-1961-SD-1

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:04:48 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1961 because at its core it is an existential threat to freedom of assembly. It is a mean spirited bill open to interpretive abuse giving tyrannical powers to both plaintives and police.

It is a bad bill and should be voted down.

Mahalo,

Alfred Hagen