



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



*Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community*

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

Email: [hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com)  
Web: <https://humanservices.hawaii.gov/lgbtq-commission/>

February 4, 2026

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

Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2026, at 9:00 AM

**RE: Strong Support for House Bill 1961**

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy 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.

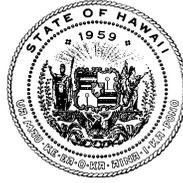
If you or any member of your staff has any questions regarding my testimony you can reach me at [hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com).

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

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

Chair

[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
P. O. BOX 3378  
HONOLULU, HI 96801-3378  
[doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov](mailto:doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov)

In reply, please refer to:  
File:

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB1961  
RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: 02/06/2026, 09:00 am CR329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health (“Department”) offers comments on this  
3 measure.

4 **Department Testimony:** The Environmental Health Services Division, Indoor and Radiological  
5 Health Branch (IRHB) provides the following testimony on behalf of the Department.

6 The Department respectfully comments on this measure. On Page 3, line 14-16, this bill  
7 states that it shall be unlawful for any person to disrupt the normal functioning of a health care  
8 facility by “making or causing a noise that unreasonably disturbs the peace within the facility or  
9 that constitutes a violation of section 342F-30”. The Department believes the reference to  
10 342F-30, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) may not be the most appropriate citation.

11 Chapter 342F, HRS defines "Excessive noise" as the presence of sound as measured by  
12 standard testing devices as established by the noise rules adopted by the department of a  
13 volume or in quantities and for durations which endangers human health, welfare or safety,  
14 animal life, or property or which unreasonably interferes with the comfortable enjoyment of  
15 life and property in the State or in such areas of the State as are affected thereby. Chapter 11-  
16 46, Hawaii Administrative Rules (HAR) further defines "Excessive noise source" as any stationary  
17 noise source; and any equipment related to agricultural, construction, and industrial activity

1 which emits sound in excess of the maximum permissible sound levels specified in section 11-  
2 46-4, HAR as measured at any point at or beyond the property line. By these definitions,  
3 sources regulated by the Department are limited to equipment and activities which create  
4 noise that consistently disrupts daily public life, potentially leading to negative health effects.

5 The Department suggests consideration of Chapter 711-1101 (1)(b) and (2), HRS, which  
6 states that an individual who makes unreasonable noise or fails to heed the admonition of a  
7 police officer constitutes disorderly conduct. We believe this may be more consistent with the  
8 intent of this bill.

9

10 **Offered Amendments:** None

11

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

13



To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health, Committee on Human Services + Homelessness

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

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members of the Committees

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

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

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

Thank you for your consideration.

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

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



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

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

February 4, 2026

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

Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM

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

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy 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*



**Rosalee Agas Yuu, RN**  
President

1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Tel: (808) 531-1628  
Fax: (808) 524-2760

The Thirty-Fourth Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Senate Committee on Labor and Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Nurses Association

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB19613 – RELATING TO INTERFERENCE WITH  
HEALTH CARE FACILITIES**

**Friday, January 6, 2026, 9:00 AM**

**Conference Room 329, Hawaii State Capitol**

Aloha Chair Takayama and Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee, and Honorable Members of the House Committee on Health:

**The Hawai'i Nurses Association – OPEIU Local 50 is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, was founded in 1917, and represents 4,000 nurses in the State of Hawai'i.**

As President of the Hawaii Nurses Association, I write in strong support of this legislation, which protects safe and unobstructed access to health care facilities for patients, nurses, and all health care providers. Nurses must be able to provide care in environments that are safe, orderly, and free from intimidation, harassment, or disruption. Likewise, patients seeking care should never face fear or obstruction when accessing essential health services. This measure affirms the Legislature's commitment to safeguarding public health by ensuring that health care facilities can function without interference.

This legislation appropriately defines and prohibits conduct that intentionally, knowingly, or recklessly disrupts access to or the normal operations of health care facilities, while preserving lawful labor activity and the right to strike. Nurses have experienced firsthand how obstruction, threats, excessive noise, and targeted harassment compromise patient safety, delay critical care, and place frontline workers at risk. By establishing clear civil and criminal penalties, the bill provides meaningful deterrence and accountability, while also offering protections for patient and provider privacy throughout enforcement and legal proceedings.

The Hawaii Nurses Association supports this measure as a necessary step to protect the integrity of health care delivery in our state. Safe access to care is foundational to quality outcomes, workforce stability, and public trust in our health care system. This bill strikes a careful balance between protecting constitutional rights and ensuring that health care facilities remain places of healing, not conflict. On behalf of Hawai'i's nurses and the patients we serve, we respectfully urge the Committee to pass this legislation.

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

Respectfully submitted,

*Rosalee Agas-Yuu*

**Rosalee Agas-Yuu, RN**  
President, Hawaii Nurses Association



**February 6, 2026 at 9:00 am**  
**Conference Room 329**

**House Committee on Health**

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

**House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness**

To: Chair Lisa Marten  
Vice Chair Ikaika Olds

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

**Re: Testimony in Support**  
**HB 1961, Relating to Health Care**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to **support** this measure, which creates a new state law that makes it illegal to interfere with access to health care facilities or disrupt their normal operations. We appreciate the intent, which is to ensure that patients, providers, and staff can enter, leave, and operate health care facilities without obstruction, intimidation, harassment, or threats.

Hospitals, clinics, and other care settings must be places where patients, families, and health care professionals can safely enter, deliver, and receive care without fear of obstruction, intimidation, or disruption. This measure helps reinforce that fundamental principle by establishing clear protections for safe and unobstructed access to health care facilities. We appreciate the legislature's continued commitment to protecting access to health care services across Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to support this measure.



## Protect Democracy Move Forward

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

[info@indivisiblehawaii.org](mailto:info@indivisiblehawaii.org)

To: COMMITTEE ON HEALTH; COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 at 9:00 am

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 329

Re: Testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 1961**

Dear Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair, Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair, Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair, Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees,

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

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.

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. We strongly support this bill.

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.*



To: House Committee on Health

Hearing Date/Time: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 9am

Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 329 and videoconference

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

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i stands in strong support of HB 1961, 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. PPAA also requests a technical amendment to avoid duplication and confusion in statute.

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.

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.

In HB 1961, PPAA requests a technical amendment to avoid duplication and confusion in Hawai'i statute. Because state statute already contains an existing "excessive noise" prohibition (Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 342F-30) and a trespass statute (Haw. Rev. Stat. Ann. § 708-815), PPAA requests that lawmakers amend HB 1961 to remove the bill's provisions related to noise and trespass (i.e. remove Sec. 323(a)(2) and Sec. 323(a)(3), located on pp. 3-4).

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 and pass this important bill out of committee.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:55:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rose Chismar	Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important Bill to the health care of people living on this beautiful state.

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



TO: Committee on Health  
Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair  
Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair  
DATE: Friday, February 6, 2026  
PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol  
FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG  
Dr. Tiffinie R. Mercado, MD, FACOG, Chair  
Dr. Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD, FACOG, Legislative Chair

**Re: HB1961 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.

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 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)



**Testimony to the House Committee on Health  
Friday, February 6, 2026; 9:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 329  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 1961, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Olds, 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, 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 protect safe and unobstructed access to health care for patients and their providers by prohibiting persons from interfering with another person's access to a health care facility and establishing civil and criminal penalties for violations.

This measure would take effect upon its approval.

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

**Testimony on House Bill No. 1961**  
**Friday, February 6, 2026; 9:00 a.m.**  
**Page 2**

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@hawaiiipca.net.



February 4, 2026

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

Hearing: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM

RE: **STRONG SUPPRT for House Bill 1961**

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy 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**.

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

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.

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](#)

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:02:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Hawaii State House Committee on Health, Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

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

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Chair Marten, Vice Chair Olds, and members

HB1961 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. Anti-Choice protesters are engaged in violence against women seeking health care at PP. They lean on patients' and providers' cars, yell slurs, and stand in front of patient vehicles to prevent safe access entering and exiting the clinic.

All this plus the decimation of PP offices across the islands, has resulted in reduced or total lack of access to necessary standards of practice health care for the wahine of our islands.

This is a travesty, Hawai'i needs the Law to give the police more tools to provide women safe passage to their health care centers.

Please pass soonest,

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair

for HSDWC

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:43:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 1961. This bill exempts union members from prosecution or civil liability for their actions. Thus, it appears the intent is to chill lawful speech and assembly in the vicinity of facilities that promote the taking of human life under the guise of "health care".

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:23:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. It should be a crime to interfere with any person's receipt of legal healthcare, including abortion. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:04:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

An important protection. Please pass.

Judith White, Psy.D.

Member, Kauai Indivisible

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:06:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1961, and, as a resident of Kapolei, I am pleased to see that Rep. Souza is a signer of the bill in a demonstration that the protection of women's access ro healthcare supersedes politicl party affiliation.

Thank you for receiving my testimony.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:33:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961 (SB2845).

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:34:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:13:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Sara Harris, and I am a practicing OB/GYN physician on Oahu. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB1961.

Abortion and reproductive health services are evidence-based components of comprehensive medical care. However, patients seeking this care — as well as the health care workers who provide it — are often met with protestors outside of clinics who use confrontational language, graphic signage, filming, and the spread of medically inaccurate information. These encounters can increase emotional distress, delay time-sensitive care, and create unsafe working conditions for clinicians and staff. History has shown that hostility directed at reproductive health providers can escalate beyond speech into real threats to personal safety.

HB1961 helps establish reasonable boundaries that protect patient privacy, dignity, and access to lawful medical services while also safeguarding the well-being of the healthcare workforce. This bill is not about limiting peaceful expression; it is about ensuring that individuals may enter health facilities without intimidation or harassment and that clinicians may provide care without fear.

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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Sara C Harris, MD

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:33:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Strong support.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:45:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1961.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:39:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a registered nurse, 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.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:26:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and honorable Committee Members,

My name is Jessica Johns, and I am a practicing OB/GYN physician in Honolulu. I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB1961.

Abortion and reproductive health services are evidence-based components of comprehensive medical care. However, patients seeking this care — as well as the health care workers who provide it — are often met with protestors outside of clinics who use confrontational language, graphic signage (that's medically inaccurate), filming and sharing misinformation. These encounters can increase emotional distress, delay time-sensitive care, and create unsafe working conditions for clinicians and staff. History has shown that hostility directed at reproductive health providers can escalate beyond speech into real threats to personal safety.

HB1961 helps establish reasonable boundaries that protect patient privacy, dignity, and access to lawful medical services while also safeguarding the well-being of the healthcare workforce. This bill is not about limiting peaceful expression; it is about ensuring that individuals may enter health facilities without intimidation or harassment and that clinicians may provide care without fear.

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.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jessica Johns, MD

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:57:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:02:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

## COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Rep. Terez Amato (Maui)

## COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES & HOMELESSNESS

Rep. Lisa Marten, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Rep. Terez Amato (Maui)

## HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 9:00 AM

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Hawai'i State Capitol

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT : HB 1961 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.**

Aloha Chair Takayama, Chair Marten, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair Olds, and Rep. Amato of Maui,

My name is Christine Andrews and I live in Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **support of HB 1961**, 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 for individuals and health care facilities harmed as a result of interference with a health care facility, 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, included in the Women's Legislative Caucus package, 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** 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.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews  
Wailuku, Maui

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:41:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

No one has the right to prevent legal access into a health care facility, especially through intimidation.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:11:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to 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 threating administrative staff. Patients and providers should not be threatened when accessing healthcare services, including abortion-related services.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:19:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Phillips	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**My name is Kyle Phillips and I live in Kailua. I am here today to talk about my support of Bill HR 1961. This bill is important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of tantamount importance to members of our community including myself. No one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical interference when accessing or advocating for health care services. Over the past year, I have witnessed unsafe conditions for patients when turning into the parking lot on S Berentenia. Protesters with large signs block access to the parking garage, causing patrons to slam on their brakes or swerve to avoid hitting protesters impeding access. No one should have to put themselves in harm's way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members' right to privacy and right to healthcare.**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:17:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB1961

To the Honorable Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Addie Berliner and I strongly support HB 1961.

Protesters continue to harass patients and providers at Planned Parenthood Centers, especially in Honolulu. Protesters lean on and block patient and provider vehicles preventing safe access to the clinic while yelling slurs.

Patients and providers should not have to fear being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

I respectfully urge you to support HB1961 and advance this important reform. Thank You for your consideration,

Addie Berliner

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:23:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chuck Taylor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would prohibit protestors from physically obstructing entrances or exits, threatening patients or providers, or interfering with health care facilities. **Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity, and without fear!**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:38:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen A Valasek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of HB1961 as an individual and also as a member of Indivisables Hawaii

**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.**

Mahalo for all you are doing

Karen Valasek

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:35:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

PLEASE SUPPORT

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:42:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I have utilized services at the Honolulu Planned Parenthood for many years and experienced firsthand the cruel chanting, signs, and intimidation utilized by protesters. There have to be more protections for women (and patients of any gender) who are merely trying to access care and feel safe while already navigating vulnerable circumstances. The same dignities and protections must be afforded to the providers, as well. I support HB 1961.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:17:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

My name is Tigger Huisinga and I'm a 6 year resident of Honolulu.

I am lucky to have access to a stable job that provides health insurance, but even during the pandemic when that was not the case I was able to utilize health services at Planned Parenthood Hawai'i. I have polycystic ovarian syndrome, which means that sometimes I need access to an OB more than the average person. I have had 2 ovarian cysts rupture since I moved here and always had follow-up care with Planned Parenthood on Beretania St. I continue to trust in their medical team, staff, and office to provide the highest quality of care. But many community members who disagree with one small piece of the type of services that Planned Parenthood provides have tried to deter these from being carried out.

Multiple times over the last few years, I have been harassed by protesters outside of Planned Parenthood. There is no reason they should be allowed to bother, intimidate, or shame anyone receiving medical care. People are going to that doctor's office just like anywhere else, for a myriad of reasons. I have received Pap smears, check ups, UTI medication, STI screenings, referrals, and other essential services.

I am writing in support of this bill because no matter the reason for someone being at any doctor's office, they deserve dignity, respect, and privacy. One of the times where I was having a health scare and was getting screened to rule out potential cancer, I was followed down the street by one of the protesters. How awful, to already be shouldering personal turmoil and have to deal with a stranger's ill-informed judgment and anger.

Not only do patients deserve to be protected on the street and property of the medical facility, but so do the medical staff who are dedicated to serving their communities. They've committed their lives to making the world a healthier place and deserve to do so in peace. Nobody has the right to threaten, interfere, or obstruct the medical services being carried out.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:15:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please protect the health of our residents.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:07:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello, my name is Quinn Goo and I am writing to strongly support HB 1961. I am a lecturer at the University of Hawai'i, specializing in women, gender, and sexuality studies. My studies and my personal beliefs lead me to believe that nobody should have to endure threats or intimidation while trying to receive healthcare--no matter what type of healthcare they are trying to receive. 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.

We have a duty to protect all people when they are trying to obtain healthcare. This includes those who want abortions, trans individuals accessing gender affirming care, and more. This would benefit everyone.

Thank you for your consideration.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:05:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Members of Indivisible Hawai‘i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB 1961.

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.

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. We strongly support this bill.

Thank you so much for introducing this bill and protecting citizens from attacks obtaining health care. Everyone deserves protection from harrassment and fair treatment, equal treatment and dignity when it comes to something as personal as seeking healthcare services. Also, health care workers and other staff at health care clinics and other facilities need to be protected from abuse and harrassment and anyone interfering with care giving.

Thank you for supporting Bill 1961.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:48:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support the passing and enactment of HB1961 because I believe that it is not right for people to intentionally obstruct healthcare facilities, physically and verbally because of their personal beliefs. They should be held accountable for their actions such as an immediate removal from the premises, a fine, and court hearing.

This bill is important to ensure that people are able to visit healthcare facilities without feeling unsafe. I am interested in the destigmatation of sexual and reproductive health and ensuring that people who need services pertaining to sexual and reproductive for healthcare will be able to access it. I have been in communities that oppose abortion due to religious beliefs, and unfortunately, these beliefs may be motivating for people in physically blocking access to healthcare clinics that provide sexual and reproductive healthcare services/education such as Planned Parenthood and Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC). As someone who is able to recieve healthcare services, I believe that everyone no matter their socioeconomic status deserves healthcare based on facts, not stigmatizing, inaccurate information.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:32:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a retired physician and member of Indivisible Hawaii, I strongly support this bill 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. Patients and providers should not be afraid of being harassed for accessing or providing legal health care services.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:39:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

TO: Rep Gregg Takayama Chair, Rep. Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee on Health

Rep Lisa Marten, Chair, Rep. Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair and Members of the Human Services and Homeless Committee

FROM: Patricia Bilyk, RN, MPH, MSN

RE: HB 1961 Protecting Access to Health Care Facilities SUPPORT

DATE: Friday, February 6, 2026 9am

I SUPPORT HB1961.

Every person deserves access to health care safely, with dignity and without fear. Unfortunately in Honolulu protestors at Honolulu Planned Parenthood have intimidated, obstructed, shouted slurs, and blocked the buildings entrance of both staff and patients cars with no consequences.

This behavior could happen at other health care institutions like Kapiolani, Kaiser and Queens Medical Centers who provide similar services like Honolulu Planned Parenthood.

I ask these Committees to pass this bill which will help give law enforcement the tools to intervene when these situations of harassment and potential violence occur in our State. Mahalo

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:53:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am wary of making new laws because of unintended consequences and/or misuse. A possible consequence that this bill, if it becomes law, is it may be revised in the future to include more facilities until protest is effectively outlawed. In the case of this bill I believe there are existing laws that accomplish all but one of its goals. I address the five sections:

- 1) Physically obstructing or impeding the free passage of another person seeking to enter or depart from a facility I believe is covered by §852-1, Refusal to provide ingress or egress.
- 2) Making or causing a noise that unreasonably disturbs the peace within the facility or that constitutes a violation of section 342F—30 which seeks to control excessive noise at a school. So this I ask, is it possible to amend 342F—30 to include certain healthcare facilities?
- 3) Trespassing on the facility or the common areas of the real property upon which the facility is located. As “common areas” mean public spaces a business already has the power to ask persons to leave or face trespassing charges.
- 4) Making or causing repeated telephone calls. This action is already addressed by HRS §711-1106, HRS §711-1106.5, and (HRS §711-1101.
- 5) Threatening to inflict injury appears to be covered by HRS §707-715 Terroristic threatening.

Mahalo for your time, Dave Cuthbert

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:35:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OB-GYN physician in Hawai‘i. I want to express my support for HB1961.

In obstetrics and gynecology, timely access to care can be the difference between safety and serious harm. Patients come to health care facilities for prenatal visits, emergency pregnancy care, abortion care, cancer screening, and postpartum care—and delays can have real medical consequences.

This bill helps ensure that patients, staff, and emergency responders can safely and unobstructedly enter health care facilities. It’s about safety, dignity, and access—not politics.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB1961. Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:39:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Ann Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are many reasons to support this bill but I wanted to share a personal experience. When I was in college, I was very active in the pro-choice movement and have remained committed to ensuring that women have agency and autonomy in decisions around reproductive health and motherhood.

In college, I was part of a team that worked to make sure women going to a Planned Parenthood clinic had free passage. There was a clinic being targeted by religious, anti-choice groups. They were harassing and physically intimidating women who were trying to enter the clinic.

We were up all night to stake out our physical position so when the clinic opened, there was a clear path to the front door. I'm 5'5" and at the time weighed less than 100 lbs. I'll never forget standing in front a man who was at least 6 feet tall while his wife yelled, speaking in tongues. I stood with my arms straight up in the air to make myself as big as possible so a woman could pass through to the clinic entrance.

That man pushed me down hard onto the ground while his wife stood over me yelling in my face. The group I was with was peaceful but in spite of that, the scene was chaotic. No one attending a healthcare appointment should have to fear for their physical safety. Let their be repercussions for anyone impeding another person's access to healthcare. There are already enough barriers to medical care within the insurance system. But that's for another day...

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:22:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu Lee-Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Health,**

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

I believe that access to health care is a fundamental right. Seeking medical care is often a vulnerable and deeply personal experience, and individuals should be able to enter and exit health care facilities safely, privately, and 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.

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

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:50:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Birgit Hueglin-Wood	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Birgit Hueglin-Wood and I live in Kailua. I am here today to talk about my support of Bill HB 1961. This bill is important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of tantamount importance to members of our community including myself. While I'm in full support of the First Amendment, no one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical interference when accessing or advocating for health care services. Over the past year, I have witnessed unsafe conditions for patients when turning into the parking lot on S Berentenia. Protesters with large signs block access to the parking area, causing patrons to slam on their brakes or swerve to avoid hitting protesters impeding access. No one should have to put themselves in harm's way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members' right to privacy and right to healthcare. Please vote in support of HB1961

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:28:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am an OB-GYN physician in Hawai‘i. I want to express my support for HB1961.

In obstetrics and gynecology, timely access to care can be the difference between safety and serious harm. Patients come to health care facilities for prenatal visits, emergency pregnancy care, abortion care, cancer screening, and postpartum care—and delays can have real medical consequences.

This bill helps ensure that patients, staff, and emergency responders can safely and unobstructedly enter health care facilities. It’s about safety, dignity, and access—not politics.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB1961. Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:39:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members:

I testify today in strong support of HB 1961.

This bill is important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of tantamount importance to members of our community including myself.

No one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical interference when accessing or advocating for health care services. No one should have to put themselves in harm’s way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members’ right to privacy and right to healthcare.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify today.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:55:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you!

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:11:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Latare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dr. Peggy Latare and I live in Kailua. I would like to offer testimony in support of Bill HB 1961. This bill is important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of tantamount importance to members of our community including myself. While I respect anybody's First Amendment rights, no one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical interference when accessing, providing or advocating for health care services. Over the past year, I have witnessed unsafe conditions for patients and providers when turning into the Planned Parenthood parking lot on South Beretania Street. Protesters with large signs block access to the parking area, causing patrons to slam on their brakes or swerve to avoid hitting protesters impeding access. No one should have to put themselves in harm's way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members' right to privacy and right to healthcare. Please vote in support of HB1961

Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:50:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Bingham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I am retired faculty from UH and am writing in support of HB1961.

From my many years of advising our Hawaii students, I know how difficult it is for them to ask for help and seek medical attention, especially concerning reproductive health. Our people should be able to access any and all healthcare facilities of their choosing without being harassed.

Harassment is a type of bullying, and it happens because it is effective in discouraging people from accessing healthcare they need. Would you want to walk the gauntlet of a mob in order to talk to your doctor?

Protestors have many avenues for civil discourse to sway others' opinions; harassment is neither appropriate nor acceptable. Please protect our people's access to healthcare and vote to pass HB1961.

Sincerely,

Ruth O. Bingham, PhD

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 3:22:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Women should be able to feel safe when getting reproductive healthcare. Protesters do not take women into consideration and it's very disheartening.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:16:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mike Wood and I live in Kailua. I am here today to talk about my support of Bill HB 1961. This bill is important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of tantamount importance to members of our community including myself. While I respect anybody's First Amendment rights, no one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical interference when accessing, providing or advocating for health care services. Over the past year, I have witnessed unsafe conditions for patients and providers when turning into the Planned Parenthood parking lot on South Beretania Street. Protesters with large signs block access to the parking area, causing patrons to slam on their brakes or swerve to avoid hitting protesters impeding access. No one should have to put themselves in harm's way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members' right to privacy and right to healthcare. Please vote in support of HB1961

Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:16:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Dr. Jenny Samaan and I live in Hawaii Kai. I am submitting this testimony in support of HB 1961. This bill is important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of paramount importance to members of our community. While I respect everyone's First Amendment rights, no one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical or psychological interference when accessing, providing, or advocating for health care services.

Over the past year, I have learned about unsafe conditions for patients and providers when turning into the Planned Parenthood parking lot on South Beretania Street. Protesters with large signs block access to the parking area, causing patrons to slam on their brakes or swerve to avoid hitting protesters impeding access. No one should have to put themselves in harm's way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members' right to privacy and right to healthcare. Please vote in support of HB1961

Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:49:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because all people should be able to access healthcare without harassment or intimidation. The clinics and offices that typically see this type of harassment are those that serve lower income citizens. This creates a dangerous situation for people who may not have other avenues to seek life changing healthcare. Additionally, preventative care is deeply important not only from a humanitarian perspective, but also from a cost standpoint. The healthcare system - and taxpayers - will spend more delivering healthcare to people who failed to be diagnosed early as a result of intimidation.

It should be a right to access healthcare clinics without harassment or fear of being targeted.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:00:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 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.

People must have access to healthcare, and individuals seeking to stop or interfere with healthcare access must be held accountable. Interfering with healthcare access is tantamount to physical abuse because you are stopping someone from getting the physical help they need.

Please pass HB1961.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Taurie Kinoshita

lifelong resident and voter!

taurie.bricks@gmail.com

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:22:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**\*\*Support\*\***

HB1961 seeks to safeguard access to health care facilities and protect patients, providers, and staff from interference and disruption, which upholds the rights and safety of those seeking reproductive and other health services.

The bill’s provisions prohibiting interference with access to health care facilities and disruptions to their normal functioning address ongoing concerns about harassment and obstruction that disproportionately impact women and marginalized communities. By establishing both criminal and civil remedies, HB1961 provides a comprehensive approach to deterrence and accountability, empowering individuals and facilities to seek relief while also enabling the Attorney General to take action when necessary. This layered enforcement mechanism is consistent with best practices in protecting access to care and supporting the safety and dignity of patients and providers.

This bill balances the need for public safety and access to health care with respect for lawful expression, as it targets conduct that interferes with access or disrupts operations rather than peaceful protest or assembly. This distinction is important to ensure that constitutional rights are preserved while prioritizing the health and well-being of those who rely on these facilities.

HB1961 represents a significant and necessary step toward ensuring that all individuals in Hawai‘i can access health care services without fear of obstruction or harm.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:37:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Valerie Finley and I live in Kailua, Oahu. I am writing today to give my support of Bill HB 1961. This bill is extremely important because safe access to healthcare facilities is of critical importance to members of our community, including myself. While I respect anybody's First Amendment rights, no one should have to face intimidation or any amount of unsafe physical interference when accessing, providing or advocating for health care services. During this past year, I have observed unacceptable conditions for both patients and providers when driving into the Planned Parenthood parking lot on South Beretania Street. Protesters with large signs block access to the parking area, causing patrons to slam on their brakes or swerve to avoid hitting protesters impeding access. No one should have to put themselves in harm's way when accessing healthcare and it is our kuleana to protect our community members' right to privacy and right to healthcare. Please vote in support of HB1961

Mahalo for your consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:44:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Chair Takayama**

**Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy**

**House Committee on Health**

**Thursday, February 5, 2026**

**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT/OPPOSITION OF HB1961 RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

**Aloha Members of the House Committee on Health,**

**My name is Amelia Sofos and I am a student at the University of Hawaii 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.**

**As mentioned in the bill, access to safe and unobstructed access to health care for patients and providers is essential**

**HB1961 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 services.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,**

**Amelia Sofos**

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:56:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alani Santana	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Alani Santana and I am in strong support HB1961. This bill specifically impacts women and LGBTQ folks accessing reproductive health care, as they are most vulnerable to these targeted attacks outside of health care centers.

I am a woman who had worked at our local Planned Parenthood for 2 years and received Planned Parenthood reproductive health care services for over 10 years.

As an employee and patient there, I have encountered multiple people/protesters who have made vulgar assumptions about me, video taped me, shamed me, and threatened me with verbal and physical assaults while entering my place of work and the center where I received life saving health care.

There was one person in particular who was so problematic, he was arrested multiple times for physically assaulting and verbally harassing multiple patients and employees outside of the health care center. This man was there almost every single day. He knew my license plate by memory. And regardless of the countless times I've told him to stop because he made me feel unsafe, he continued. During my employment, we would receive threats in the mail as well. I was in constant high alert while outside of the building and this is so sad and unacceptable. I think it's also vital to note that Planned Parenthood's on the continent have been victim to bombings and shootings and reproductive health care providers have been murdered. This kind of violence is directly related to and perpetuated by the people outside of these health centers.

It is literally nobody's business or kuleana to try to block someone from getting personal health care, regardless of what health care they believe is "right" or "wrong" to receive and support.

Please protect women and other folks who are just trying to access basic health care by passing this measure. Hold those who continue to harm women accountable.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Alani Santana

96815



**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:23:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Members of the committee,

My name is Micaela and I am a Honolulu resident, an abortion advocate and a community organizer for Planned Parenthood here in Hawai'i. I am asking that you please support HB1961, as it is imperative that the patients, staff and supporters of planned parenthood have safe entry and exit to our health center. I have seen and experienced countless examples of harassment, endangerment of the community and intimidation by the protestors that frequent the sidewalk in front of the Beretania Health Center. I personally have felt the intense discomfort and harmful environment these individuals create, and having clear guidelines on how we can all safely exist within this community. Please support this bill.

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:29:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Crystal Moreno. I am writing this testimony in support of House Bill 1961. I represent myself as a patient, and as a healthcare worker. I am a biostatistician, for my work I perform statistical analysis on biomedical data in the field of oncology. I support scientists and medical doctors with research that aims to help patients in their fight against diseases including lung cancer, breast cancer, and colorectal cancer.

Having more than a decade of experience working with biomedical and public health data, it is well understood that when any barrier is introduced preventing patients from being able to seek medical help, that is how these diseases win. It is already hard enough for a patient to admit to themselves that

"I think I have a lump in my breast"

"I am having irregular bowel movements."

"My periods are long and unusally painful."

"I don't know what birth control is right for me."

It is still considered taboo in many communities to talk about health concernig sexual organs, and so these diseases are at even greater risk of going undetected, resulting in devastating consequences.

I have personally lost several family members, who have loved and supported me all my life in my academic and professional pursuits in health research, because they were too afraid to ask for help with their own personal health struggles, until it was too late.

I am in support of House Bill 1961 because patients already have it hard enough advocating for their own health, and any form of intimidation or harrassment would only make it more challenging for patients to get the medical help they need, when they need it. I urge this committe to support this bill because our patients, our loved ones, need us to advocate for them. Let patients be free of intimidation and free from fear, and let us healthcare workers help our

patients. We all need to do our part. Let us not have to say goodbye to our loved ones sooner than we have to.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,

Crystal Moreno

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:35:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1961. Over the past fifty years or so, I have been a patient, volunteer, and board member of Planned Parenthood in two different states, so I have first-hand experience on the issues.

The presence of protesters at clinics is an unwelcome distraction for women who are simply there to take care of their health needs. The vast majority of Planned Parenthood patients go there for routine health exams, birth control, and education. I have been tempted to ask protesters what they have against cancer screening and preventing unplanned pregnancies, but I restrain myself.

Those who only focus on abortion services are an unwelcome distraction and intrusion on women's fundamental health care. As violence has escalated at clinics around the country, women may decide to skip an exam or not get up to date information on care options because they are afraid. That fear is real and on the minds of clinic staff as well.

It is simply wrong that a handful of misinformed zealots try to intimidate women and care providers. Staff and patients should never have to be too afraid to provide or receive fundamental health care. Please support HB 1961. Mahalo.

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:38:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 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

**LATE**

**HB-1961**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:53:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/6/2026 9:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I am an OBGYN resident doctor at the University of Hawai'i residency program. I am writing to express my support for HB1961.

In my field, having timely access to healthcare is essential to healthy and safe outcomes. OBGYN work encompasses pregnancy care, women's health, and gynecologic related topics. As one can imagine, timely access to care for pregnancy is crucial in the safety of patients. Individuals preventing patients from feeling comfortable in accessing care can lead to delays in access to abortion care, cancer screening/care, and other critical types of healthcare. This can lead to real medical and lifelong consequences for patients.

This bill helps ensure that patients, staff, and emergency responders can safely and unobstructedly enter health care facilities. It's about safety, dignity, and access.

I respectfully ask for your support of HB1961. Thank you!

Arielle Howell, MD