



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2026**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2250, H.D. 2, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES.

BEFORE THE:

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

DATE: Friday, March 20, 2026

TIME: 10:15 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 016

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Skyler G. Cruz, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to seek appropriations to satisfy claims against the State, its officers, or its employees, including claims for legislative relief, judgments against the State, settlements, and miscellaneous claims.

The bill contains twenty-eight claims that total \$19,363,323.01. To satisfy this total amount, the following appropriations are needed:

- An appropriation in the amount of \$17,295,136.25, allocated among twenty-four claims to be paid from the general fund; and
- An appropriation in the amount of \$2,068,186.76, allocated among four claims to be paid from departmental funds.

Attachment "A" provides a brief description of each claim in this bill.

The Department has a longstanding policy of advising agencies as to how to avoid claims such as those in this bill. The Department has complied with section 37-77.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which requires the Attorney General to develop and implement a procedure for advising our client agencies on how to avoid future claims.

We respectfully request passage of this bill.

Alvin F. Jardine, III v. State of Hawaii
Civil No. 2SP16-1-000056, Second Circuit

\$ 600,000.00 (*General Fund*)
Settlement

Petitioner Alvin F. Jardine, III (Jardine) brought this case pursuant to chapter 661B, HRS, seeking compensation for his alleged wrongful conviction and imprisonment. This case arose from the home invasion and rape of a Maui woman on or about December 28, 1990. In 1992, Jardine was tried and convicted on four counts of Sexual Assault in the First Degree, three counts of Attempted Sexual Assault in the First Degree, one count of Kidnapping, one count of Terroristic Threatening in the First Degree, and one count of Burglary in the First Degree. Jardine was sentenced to a term of incarceration of thirty-five years. In 2011, Jardine's conviction was vacated based on the discovery of DNA that belonged to someone other than Jardine that was present on a tablecloth covering a papasan chair where at least one of the sexual assaults occurred. Jardine was incarcerated for approximately twenty years before his conviction was vacated. Jardine subsequently filed a petition pursuant to chapter 661B, HRS, seeking compensation for approximately twenty years of imprisonment.

DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS AND REHABILITATION:

Judith M. Gatioan v. State of Hawaii
Civil No. 1CCV-24-0001719, First Circuit

\$ 800,000.00 (*General Fund*)
Settlement

This is a wrongful death lawsuit arising from the death of Jimuel Gatioan, a pretrial detainee at Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC), who committed suicide and died on April 4, 2023. Plaintiff Judith M. Gatioan, Mr. Gatioan's widow, brought this case on behalf of herself, her minor children, and Mr. Gatioan's estate. While he was at OCCC, Mr. Gatioan expressed suicidal ideation to several family members over multiple phone calls. Mrs. Gatioan notified both the prosecutor and Mr. Gatioan's defense attorney who both made phone calls to the facility warning it that Mr. Gatioan was a suicide risk. Mr. Gatioan was evaluated for his suicidal risk after these phone calls and was determined to not be at risk of suicide. As such, Mr. Gatioan was not placed on suicide watch. Less than a week after he was last evaluated for his suicidal risk, Mr. Gatioan was found hanging in his cell. Plaintiffs brought this lawsuit asserting claims of negligence and gross negligence, wrongful death, intentional infliction of emotional distress, negligent infliction of emotional distress, negligent training and negligent supervision, municipal liability, respondeat superior and/or vicarious liability, and premises liability. These claims arise from the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitations' alleged pattern and practice of failing to protect inmates, such as Mr. Gatioan, from self-harm by failing to adequately train its employees, failing to enforce its policies and procedures, and providing inadequate mental health care to inmates.

Susan O'Gorman v. State of Hawaii
Department of Public Safety
Civil No. 1CCV-24-0000912, First Circuit

\$ 600,000.00 *(General Fund)*
Settlement

This wrongful death and negligence action was brought by Susan O'Gorman, the mother of Brian O'Gorman, an inmate at the Halawa Correctional Facility who died on March 2, 2022, as a result of cardiac arrhythmia. Brian O'Gorman was being treated for mental health issues rather than drug withdrawal, which allegedly resulted in his becoming severely dehydrated, unable to walk, and unable to communicate.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION:

D.C. v. State of Hawaii,
Department of Education
Civil No. 1CCV-20-0000657, First Circuit

\$ 400,000.00 *(General Fund)*
Settlement

This lawsuit was brought by a woman (Plaintiff) who, in 1979, was a 15-year-old student at Campbell High School (Campbell). Plaintiff was a member of Campbell's canoe club, which paddled in events throughout the year competing against other public and private high schools. During a trip to a paddling regatta on Hawaii Island, Plaintiff was sexually assaulted by the assistant coach of Campbell's paddling team. She disclosed the sexual assault to police immediately. Plaintiff brought this lawsuit alleging that DOE breached its duty to provide care and supervision over Plaintiff during this school-related activity, which she claims caused her to be sexually assaulted by the assistant coach.

DOE Parents v. State of Hawaii,
Department of Education
Civil No. 1CCV-22-0001456, First Circuit

\$ 500,000.00 *(General Fund)*
Settlement

On February 11, 2021, McKinley High School student and then-minor E.S. was sexually assaulted by her male classmate K.P.W. in the boy's bathroom of Building M. Plaintiffs alleged that the Department of Education (DOE) was aware K.P.W. was a danger and failed to properly supervise K.P.W. on campus, leading to his sexual assault of E.S. Plaintiffs further alleged that DOE's negligent conduct caused E.S. and her parents to suffer serious emotional distress and loss of enjoyment of life due to the trauma of the incident.

In the Matter of K.P. v. Department of Education,
State of Hawaii
Impartial Due Process Hearing No. DOE-SY2425-041

\$8,000,000.00 *(General Fund)*
Settlement

This case concerns the resolution of a long-standing dispute over the special education programming and services of a severely disabled student. Petitioners are student K.P. and her parents A.P. and P.P. (Petitioners). In 2023, an administrative hearing officer

determined that the State of Hawaii, Department of Education (DOE) had been providing K.P. with inconsistent special education and related services since 2018. The hearing officer found that this had resulted in the denial of a Free Appropriate Public Education (FAPE) required under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA). As a result of DOE's noncompliance with the IDEA, the hearing officer ordered DOE to provide K.P. with a specified number of minutes of services through her twenty-fourth birthday. Although DOE was able to comply with the hearing officer's decision for a time, DOE was unsuccessful in its efforts to secure all the service providers needed to provide K.P. with all the minutes of services specified in the hearing officer's decision. The number of missing service minutes accrued over time. On June 2, 2025, Petitioners filed a request for an impartial due process hearing alleging that DOE denied K.P. of a FAPE by failing to provide the two years of compensatory education that had been awarded to her in 2023 as well as the special education and related services K.P. was entitled to under applicable federal and state laws and regulations. Petitioners alleged that because of the years-long failure to consistently provide necessary special education and services, K.P. suffered post-traumatic stress disorder, a significant regression in skills and abilities, and exhibited various heightened behavioral issues. Settlement of this matter resolves the claims at the administrative level and also includes the claims that could have been filed in a federal lawsuit.

Victoria Ramos v. Hawaii State
Department of Education
Civil No. 3CCV-23-0000394, Third Circuit

\$ 36,951.86 (*General Fund*)
Settlement

On April 18, 2023, Plaintiff K.R. was a first-grade student attending the Volcano School of Arts and Sciences. On that day, during morning recess, K.R. was running across the grassy area fronting the school campus when she tripped and fell over the remains of a tree stump located in the grassy area. K.R. broke a bone in her elbow and required two surgeries. Plaintiff Victoria Ramos as Guardian ad litem for Minor K.R. brought this lawsuit alleging that DOE and other defendants failed to exercise ordinary care in ensuring that the lawn was reasonably safe for students and were otherwise negligent in keeping the area safe to walk on.

South Point Investment Group, LLC v.
State of Hawaii
Civil No. 3CCV-20-0000040, Third Circuit

\$ 100,000.00 (*General Fund*)
Settlement

This case arises from the closure of a Hawaii State Public Charter School known as Kau Learning Academy (KLA). Plaintiff South Point Investment Group, LLC (South Point), the Landlord for the property where the charter school operated, executed a Commercial Lease Agreement with KLA for the use of the property. On July 9, 2018, the State Public Charter School Commission revoked KLA's charter for allegedly materially violating its charter contract. South Point then contended that KLA breached the Lease by failing to pay rent and failed to return the property in good condition. South Point brought this lawsuit alleging that KLA was an agent of the State and,

therefore, the State was liable for the charter school's breach and for negligently handling the closure of the school, which caused South Point to incur damages.

United Public Workers v. Keith Hayashi
Case No. CE-01-539

\$ 75,000.00 *(General Fund)*
Settlement

This administrative matter stems from a Prohibited Practice Complaint (PPC) filed with the Hawaii Labor Relations Board (HLRB) by the United Public Workers (UPW) on behalf of James Ah Sing against the Department of Education (DOE) and Connections Charter School (collectively, Respondents). Ah Sing was a janitor at Connections Charter School, whose employment was not renewed in 2003. UPW alleged that Ah Sing's non-renewal violated a memorandum of agreement entered into between DOE and UPW in 2000, which constituted a prohibited practice in violation of section 89-13(a), HRS. In 2017, HLRB issued a decision finding that Respondents committed a prohibited practice. The matter was appealed and in 2020, the Hawaii Supreme Court held that HLRB had jurisdiction to order affirmative remedies and remanded the case to HLRB. In 2021, HLRB ordered Respondents to pay Ah Sing back wages and lost vacation pay, with interest compounded daily. HLRB did not specify the specific amount of interest to be paid or the period of time that interest would accrue. On August 6, 2022, the State paid Ah Sing a total amount of \$125,275.38, which included the principal award of back wages and lost vacation pay and attorneys' fees. This settlement resolves the parties' dispute over the amount of interest to be paid to Ah Sing.

DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS:

William Kaholoa'a Jr. v. Hawaiian Homes
Commission, State of Hawaii
Civil No. 2CCV-24-000037, Second Circuit

\$ 1,330,000.00 *(General Fund)*
Settlement

Plaintiffs William Kaholoa'a Jr. and Tania Dudoit Kaholoa'a (Kaholoa'as) filed this lawsuit against the Defendants Hawaiian Homes Commission, Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL), and Department of Health (DOH) (collectively, Defendants) seeking compensation for injuries and damages allegedly suffered as a result of their exposure to used motor oil and hazardous waste stored on their neighbor Curtis Crabbe's (Crabbe) property from January 2015 through February 2023. In 2011, DOH's Solid and Hazardous Waste Branch (SHWB) issued a used motor oil transporter permit to Crabbe. In 2015, DHHL hired Crabbe to transport the used motor oil it generated off the island of Molokai. A field test of the containers of used motor oil performed by Crabbe indicated that two containers contained hazardous waste (chlorinated solvents had been mixed into the used motor oil). Crabbe took the containers from DHHL but was unable to transport them off island because he did not have a permit to transport hazardous waste. When DHHL discovered that the used motor oil had not been transported off island, it enlisted the help of SHWB. SHWB's efforts to have Crabbe remove the hazardous waste were unsuccessful. SHWB then ordered Crabbe to return

the containers to DHHL, but the containers were never returned to DHHL. In 2023, the Kaholoa'as complained to DOH about a petroleum-based odor from Crabbe's property. DOH's Hazardous Evaluation and Emergency Response Office (HEER) investigated and found DHHL's containers on Crabbe's DHHL homestead property. HEER cleaned up Crabbe's property. During the clean-up, it was discovered that two of DHHL's containers were compromised and leaked non-hazardous used motor oil. The Kaholoa'as alleged that they and their property were injured or damaged by the used motor oil.

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH:

**HELG Administrative Services, LLC v.
Department of Health
Civil No. 1CC191000332, First Circuit**

**\$ 100,000.00 (General Fund)
Settlement**

Curtis Panoke was a patient at the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) from 2005 through 2010. He was transferred to Columbia Regional Care Center in South Carolina in 2010 after assaulting a nurse at the HSH. In 2016 he was attacked by his roommate and left in a vegetative state until his death in 2025. Plaintiff HELG Administrative Services, LLC (HELG), as conservator for Panoke, brought this lawsuit on behalf of Panoke's estate and his surviving daughter. HELG brought this lawsuit alleging that DOH breached its duty of care to exercise ordinary care and/or the requisite standard of care of a medical and/or psychiatric health care provider for the safety of Panoke at the Columbia Regional Care Center.

DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES:

**Tera Graves v. State of Hawaii,
Department of Human Services
Civil No. 3CCV-19-000022, Third Circuit**

**\$ 600,000.00 (General Fund)
Settlement**

Plaintiff Tera Graves (Graves) alleged that she was the victim of sexual assault while she resided in the home of her foster parent, co-defendant Gloria Holmes. At the time the events occurred, Graves was below statutory age, whereas the men who are alleged to have sexually assaulted Graves were adults. Graves alleged that the Department of Human Services, Child Welfare Services, failed to properly screen the individuals that might have access to the foster home, leading to her sexual assaults and to her resulting pain and suffering.

ordered PSD to make Cayetano whole and restore all rights and benefits and remove and expunge all derogatory material relating to the termination; and ordered PSD to refrain from any and all retaliatory action against Plaintiff.

Cayetano subsequently filed a lawsuit alleging wrongful termination and other related claims. Cayetano admitted that, pursuant to the arbitration award, PSD had reinstated him as a Deputy Sheriff II and commenced the process of reimbursing him for outstanding backpay. However, Cayetano alleged that he was "not yet compensated for loss of income which was not recompensed by back-pay, including without limitation, loss of opportunities of advancement in his employment with PSD, and retirement contributions" as well as "medical and psychological treatments, the costs of which he has not been reimbursed." Cayetano has since retired from the Department of Law Enforcement, the successor department to PSD.

OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER:

**Joshua Priestersbach v. Office of the
Public Defender
Civil No. 1CCV-24-0000470, First Circuit**

**\$ 200,000.00 (General Fund)
Settlement**

This lawsuit arises from the arrest of Plaintiff Joshua Priestersbach (Priestersbach) on May 11, 2017, based on a probation bench warrant that had been issued for a different individual named Thomas R. Castleberry. At the time of his arrest, Priestersbach did not have any physical identification. However, the arresting officer searched the State of Hawaii Criminal Justice Inquiry System for the social security number that Priestersbach verbally provided to him, which showed a record for Priestersbach with Thomas Castleberry listed as an alias. Following his arrest, Priestersbach was placed in the custody of the Department of Public Safety (PSD) and was initially housed at the Oahu Community Correctional Center (OCCC). Priestersbach was represented by the Office of the Public Defender (OPD) in the criminal proceedings that followed his arrest and incarceration. Several different Deputy Public Defenders were assigned to represent Priestersbach in the criminal matter. Early in their representation of Priestersbach, it became apparent to the OPD Deputies that Priestersbach suffered from mental illness. At OPD's request, Priestersbach was required to undergo a mental fitness examination pursuant to section 704-404, HRS. A three-doctor panel diagnosed Priestersbach as suffering from schizophrenia and found that he was not fit to proceed in the criminal prosecution. Priestersbach was then transferred from OCCC to the Hawaii State Hospital (HSH) where he remained until his discharge on January 17, 2020, after his true identity as Priestersbach, rather than Thomas Castleberry, was verified. Plaintiff brought this action against OPD and the Deputy Public Defenders who represented him in the criminal proceedings alleging legal malpractice. He claimed that the Deputy Public Defenders had an independent duty, apart from the Honolulu Police Department, PSD, the HSH physicians, to verify his identity and that they breached that duty. This settlement was part of a global

settlement that included settlement of Spriestersbach's claims against the City and County of Honolulu and other defendants in a separately filed federal court action.

DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION:

Anacleto R. Battad v. Lawrence J. Dill
Civil No. 5CC181000177, Fifth Circuit

\$ 1,100,000.00 (*Dept. Appropriation*)
Settlement

Plaintiff Anacleto R. Battad (Battad) was an employee of the Department of Transportation (DOT). On December 1, 2016, Battad was injured when he fell from the platform of a contra-flow truck that was being used to set up the contra-flow traffic lanes. Battad sustained head injuries as a result of the incident. Battad and his wife, Jade Battad, filed a complaint against Willy S. Ortal and Lawrence J. Dill, who were Battad's supervisors at the time of the incident. Battad could not bring tort claims against the State as his employer and instead brought suit under an exception in the Workers' Compensation Law that permits an employee to sue a co-worker "if the personal injury is caused by that employee's wilful and wanton misconduct." Section 386-8(k), HRS. Because Battad's injuries were work-related, he was receiving workers' compensation benefits in accordance with chapter 386, HRS. A global settlement was reached that includes both the civil lawsuit filed against Ortal and Dill as well as Battad's workers' compensation benefits claim.

The Estate of Matthew Louis Perreira v.
State of Hawaii
Civil No. 2CCV-22-00000045, Second Circuit

\$ 300,000.00 (*Dept. Appropriation*)
Settlement

This case arises from a motor vehicle accident on the island of Maui that resulted in the death of Matthew Louis Perreira (Perreira). On December 13, 2020, Perreira was traveling southwest on Dairy Road on a motorcycle that he had built and modified. Patrick Ventura, the driver of a pickup truck, drove from Hukilike Street into the intersection intending to make a left turn onto Dairy Road to head northeast. Perreira and Ventura collided while the pickup truck was turning left in front of the fire station. Perreira was taken to the hospital where he later died as the result of the injuries he sustained. His parents and widow, individually and on behalf of their minor child, sued Alexander & Baldwin, LLC (A&B), the State, and Maui County alleging negligent design, operation and maintenance of the highway and intersection. The subject intersection has a history of accidents that have occurred through the years. The crashes include accidents involving left and right turning vehicles from Hukilike Street colliding with vehicles traveling on Dairy Road. Plaintiffs' experts opined that, among other things, there are sight-distance limitations from vehicles turning from Hukilike Street onto Dairy Road. The traffic and transportation engineering expert retained on behalf of the State in this case determined that the sight distances met and exceeded current engineering guidelines. Irrespective of the compliance of the subject intersection with engineering guidelines, pursuant to sections 663-10.5 and 10.9(4), HRS, the State was at risk of being held jointly and severally liable with A&B, Maui County, and Ventura, the driver

barriers. Four separate lawsuits were brought against Napoleon, DOT, Grace Pacific, and other defendants by the estates of the decedents, Takayama's daughter, and Navarro's son. Plaintiffs alleged wrongful death and other common law tort claims. They claimed that DOT, in particular, was negligent in its oversight of Grace Pacific and that Grace Pacific failed to implement proper traffic control plans.

MISCELLANEOUS CLAIMS:

U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Treasury Office of Inspector General Reminding All Emergency Rental Assistance Award Recipients of Responsibilities and Requirements for Reporting Fraud and Reimbursing Fraud Losses and Unallowable Costs dated October 4, 2024	\$1,223,732.22 (General Fund) Reimbursement
--	--

On October 4, 2024, the U.S. Department of the Treasury (U.S. Treasury) and the Treasury Office of the Inspector General issued a Joint Notice to the State of Hawaii (State) informing the State that it is now fully liable for fraudulent activity committed by applicants in the Emergency Rental Assistance (ERA) programs that provided funding to states, local governments, and U.S. territories to assist low-income renters facing financial hardship, directly or indirectly due to the COVID-19 pandemic, aiming to prevent eviction and housing instability. The Notice, titled "*U.S. Department of the Treasury and the Treasury Office of Inspector General Reminding All Emergency Rental Assistance Award Recipients of Responsibilities and Requirements for Reporting Fraud and Reimbursing Fraud Losses and Unallowable Costs*," mandates the State to reimburse the U.S. Treasury for the total amount of fraud losses incurred under the ERA programs. The total amount of fraud losses is \$1,223,732.22. This amount was determined after review by the U.S. Treasury's Office of the Inspector General and the State's Department of Budget and Finance.

Joan Arakawa and Kevin Arakawa	\$ 1,494.72 (General Fund)
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Claimant requests reissuance of an outdated check that was misplaced or lost. The legislative claim was filed with the Attorney General within six years from the date on which the claim for payment matured, within the period specified by section 37-77, HRS, or claimant has shown good cause for any delay.

Steve Boucher and Judy Boucher	\$ 1,102.00 (General Fund)
---------------------------------------	-----------------------------------

Claimant requests reissuance of an outdated check that was misplaced or lost. The legislative claim was filed with the Attorney General within six years from the date on which the claim for payment matured, within the period specified by section 37-77, HRS, or claimant has shown good cause for any delay.

Citibank NA **\$ 780.72** *(General Fund)*

Claimant requests reissuance of an outdated check that was misplaced or lost. The legislative claim was filed with the Attorney General within six years from the date on which the claim for payment matured, within the period specified by section 37-77, HRS, or claimant has shown good cause for any delay.

Silvia Frumento **\$ 1,425.12** *(General Fund)*

Claimant requests reissuance of an outdated check that was misplaced or lost. The legislative claim was filed with the Attorney General within six years from the date on which the claim for payment matured, within the period specified by section 37-77, HRS, or claimant has shown good cause for any delay.

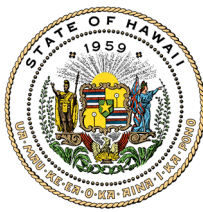
Clarice H. Kam **\$ 724.11** *(General Fund)*

Claimant requests reissuance of an outdated check that was misplaced or lost. The legislative claim was filed with the Attorney General within six years from the date on which the claim for payment matured, within the period specified by section 37-77, HRS, or claimant has shown good cause for any delay.

Maria Lundblad **\$ 104,460.50** *(General Fund)*

Claimant requests reissuance of an outdated check that was misplaced or lost. The legislative claim was filed with the Attorney General within six years from the date on which the claim for payment matured, within the period specified by section 37-77, HRS, or claimant has shown good cause for any delay.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Vacant
Deputy Director
Correctional Institutions

Sanna Muñoz
Deputy Director
Rehabilitation Services
and
Programs

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
**DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS
AND REHABILITATION**
*Ka 'Oihana Ho'omalua Kalaima
a Ho'oponopono Ola*
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2250, HOUSE DRAFT 2
RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE,
ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES.

by
Tommy Johnson, Director
Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation

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

Friday, March 20, 2026; 10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016 & via Videoconference

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

The Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation (DCR) **supports** House Bill (HB) 2250, House Draft (HD) 2, which seeks to provide for the authorization and payment of claims against the State for refunds of taxes, judgments and settlements, and for other miscellaneous payments as provided by chapters 37, 661, and 662, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

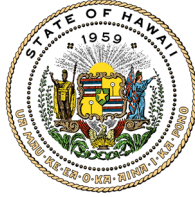
The appropriation to the Department of the Attorney General is to satisfy the claim for legislative relief to the following named person for payment of a settlement against DCR, formerly known as the Department of Public Safety as follows:

<u>Judith M. Gatioan v. State of Hawai'i</u>	\$800,000.00
Civil No. 1CCV-24-0001719, First Circuit	(Settlement)
<u>Susan O'Gorman v. State of Hawai'i,</u>	\$600,000.00
<u>Department of Public Safety,</u>	(Settlement)
Civil No. 1CCV-24-0000912, First Circuit	
Total:	<u>\$1,400,000.00</u>

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **support** of HB 2250, HD 2.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
FIRST DEPUTY
CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER
AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES
ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Friday, March 20, 2026
10:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2250, HOUSE DRAFT 2
MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR
ITS EMPLOYEES.**

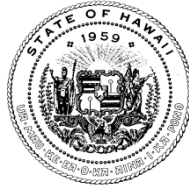
House Bill 2250, House Draft 2 proposes to make appropriations and approve payments for the purpose of satisfying claims against the State, its officers, and its employees. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

The Department respectfully expresses its sincere appreciation to the Legislature for the proposed appropriation for the settlement identified in Part I, Section 1(9), under the Department of Land and Natural Resources, in Lolita Silva v. Nelson Alana (Civil No. 22CC121000778, Second Circuit), in the amount of \$2,000,000 to the Department of the Attorney General.

The Department further formally acknowledges and extends its appreciation to the Department of the Attorney General for its diligent legal representation and continued assistance in the defense and resolution of claims and related matters involving the Department.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

Deputy Directors
Nā Hope Luna Ho'okele
DREANALEE K. KALILI
TAMMY L. LEE
CURT T. OTAGURO
ROBIN K. SHISHIDO

Friday, March 20, 2026
10:15 AM
State Capitol, 016

HB2250, HD2
RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE,
ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES

Senate Committee on Judiciary

The Department of Transportation (DOT) submits comments on House Bill 2250, HD2, relating to appropriations for claims against the State, its officers, and its employees.

We continue to thank the State AG office for all their support and hard work on completing these cases for the DOT.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 03/20/2026

Time: 10:15 AM

Location: CR 016 & Videoconference

Committee: JDC

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2250, HD2, MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES.

Purpose of Bill: Makes appropriations and approves payments for claims against the State, its officers, and its employees. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

Department's Position:

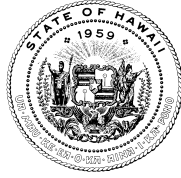
The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports HB 2250, HD2, which appropriates funds to satisfy claims against the State.

This measure enables timely resolution of legal obligations, preventing unnecessary litigation and financial burdens. By settling claims efficiently, this bill allows the Department to focus on its core mission of educating Hawaii's students. Appropriating these funds ensures fiscal responsibility and protects essential educational resources.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ke Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina 'o
Hawaii*

SYLVIA J. LUKE
LT. GOVERNOR
STATE OF HAWAII
*Ka Hope Kia'āina o ka Moku'āina
'o Hawaii*



KALI WATSON
CHAIRPERSON, HHC
Ka Luna Ho'okele

KATIE L. LAMBERT
DEPUTY TO THE CHAIR
Ka Hope Luna Ho'okele

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HAWAIIAN HOME LANDS
Ka 'Oihana 'Āina Ho'opulapula Hawaii'i

P. O. BOX 1879
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96805

TESTIMONY OF KALI WATSON, CHAIR
HAWAIIAN HOMES COMMISSION
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
ON MARCH 20, 2026 AT 10:15AM IN CR 016

**HB2250, HD2, RELATING TO MAKING APPROPRIATIONS FOR CLAIMS AGAINST
THE STATE, ITS OFFICERS, OR ITS EMPLOYEES**

March 20, 2026

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

The Department of Hawaiian Home Lands (DHHL) **supports** this bill which makes appropriations and approves payments for claims against the State, its officers, and its employees.

This bill serves as the legislative vehicle by which claims against the State are transmitted to the Legislature for its consideration. This legislative request is to authorize and fund the payment of these claims through appropriations of general and other funds. Timely passage of this bill will serve to minimize interest for those amounts for which interest is accruing. DHHL stands to benefit from this bill through appropriation to pay for the settlement noted on page 3, lines 34-40 of HB2250, HD2.

Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.