



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
February 6, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Jan Gouveia

Vice President for Administration
University of Hawai'i System

HB 2441 – RELATING TO CAMPUS SAFETY

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) supports the intent of this measure to ensure a safe, informed campus environment. However, we have concerns regarding the implementation of registration holds and the technical and structural feasibility of the bill's requirements.

While Title IX training is widely accessible to students and employees through online modules, in-person workshops, and orientations, these various delivery methods are not managed or recorded within a single, unified system of record. This administrative decentralization is a standalone reality of our institutional structure, and the absence of a centralized tracking platform makes the mandate of registration holds technically and structurally unfeasible for the following reasons:

Structural and Technical Challenges

The bill proposes that the "university's Title IX Office" verify training completion to clear registration. At UH, there is no singular "university Title IX Office." Instead, each campus has its own Title IX office, which creates several insurmountable operational conflicts:

- **Separation of Systems:** Training completion is managed at the campus level under the authority of the respective Chancellor and campus-level Title IX Coordinator. Conversely, registration is managed through a different system and is a student affairs function. Title IX Coordinators do not typically have access to, or authority over, the registration system.
- **Lack of Centralized Tracking:** There is no centralized tracking of student training at UH that captures all training instances (online and in-person) across all ten campuses. Furthermore, any restrictions due to incomplete training would need to be manually entered into the class registration system. This manual delay could impact thousands of students during time-sensitive registration windows.

- **Impact on "Live" Training:** Many of our most effective sessions, such as those for student-athletes or specific campus cohorts, are conducted **in person** throughout the academic year. If a student participates in a live training in October, would they be barred from registration for the following term until a Title IX Coordinator manually verifies that attendance? This bill effectively penalizes high-engagement, live education in favor of a digital "checkbox."

Unintended Barriers to Educational Access

While we share the goal of universal participation, we are concerned that a mandatory registration hold will create a "hard stop" that harms our most vulnerable students:

- **Disproportionate Impact on Community Colleges:** Our seven community colleges serve many non-traditional and working students who often register just days before the semester begins. A registration hold creates a digital barrier that could prevent these students from securing the classes they need to remain on track for graduation.
- **The "Checkbox" Risk:** When training is used as a gatekeeper to registration, students are incentivized to rush through the material just to clear the hold. This undermines the intent of the bill: meaningful, thoughtful engagement with vital safety information.
- **Risk of Retraumatization:** For survivors of sexual violence, being forced to engage with trauma-related content as a high-stakes condition of enrollment—before they have even accessed campus-based support services—can be deeply triggering.

Conclusion

The University remains committed to the safety of our students and to finding effective, workable ways to increase participation in campus safety education. We believe that campus safety initiatives should be integrated into the student experience in a way that encourages meaningful learning without creating technical or administrative hurdles that might disrupt a student's academic progress. We look forward to working with the Committee to refine this approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 2441.



To: House Committee on Higher Education
Hearing Date/Time: FRIDAY, February 6, 2026 @ 2:05 pm
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 309
Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB2441

Dear Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and the Members of Committee,

Members of the American Association of University Women of Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in **strong support of HB2441: Relating to Campus Safety** which requires students of the University of Hawai'i, including transfer students, to complete training on federal laws and University policies regarding sexual misconduct prior to the completion of initial registration into the university of Hawai'i system and amends the frequency that training and programming regarding sexual misconduct is provided to university of Hawai'i students and employees. These actions empower campus communities across Hawai'i to stop sexual violence in its tracks.

HB2441 is a common sense measure, **aligning University of Hawai'i protocols with those of the majority of higher education institutions in the U.S.** Public institutions including the University of California, University of Washington, and University of Florida require student training on Title IX and violence prevention prior to registration. Along with schools' other orientation programming and vaccination requirement protocols, training on Title IX rights, as well as sexual assault prevention and intervention are essential for incoming students when more than 1 in 15 students report experiencing non-consensual sexual contact during their time at UH (2023 UH Campus Climate Survey, pg 23).

Right now, the vast majority of UH students (84%) are not trained on their rights and resources related to gender-based violence – but the few students exposed to this training at UH found it useful (2023 UH Campus Climate Survey, pg 39, pg 41). Without knowledge, students do not know where to go for help. In fact, **8 out of 10 students said they did not contact UH resources after experiencing gender violence due to lack of knowledge** such as if their experience was serious enough to report, if the behavior violated University policy/codes of conduct, and where to go or who to tell (2023 UH Campus Climate Survey, pg 203). Enforcing training by requiring it prior to registration ensures that students are equipped with important, practical knowledge about their campus.

This bill prepares students to be safer when the school year begins. More than 50% of college sexual assaults occur during "The Red Zone" - the months of August, September, October, and November ([RAINN](#)). **New students are particularly vulnerable** during this time as they adjust to a new environment. Mandatory training before registering for classes ensures students know their rights on campus and where to receive supportive resources.

Evidence-based training on sexual assault prevention and response empowers all members of the community to take action to stop sexual violence and help survivors heal. **HB2441 makes campuses safer**, helping prevent disruptions in education and supporting more students to remain in school after experiencing gender violence so they can achieve their educational goals and contribute to Hawai'i's future.

Thank you for considering our testimony in strong support of HB2441.

With aloha,

Anna Ezzy
Public Policy Committee, AAUW of Hawai'i
publicpolicy-hi@aauw.net

The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawai'i is an all volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward Oahu. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity for equal opportunities in education, the workplace and for economic security, and in leadership.



To: House Committee on Higher Education

Date: February 6, 2026

Location: Hawai'i State Capitol, Room

Re: Testimony in support of HB2441

Dear Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and honorable members of the Committee,

My name is Koalani Kauwelo and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and Co-State Director of the Every Voice Hawai'i, a student- and survivor-led coalition to end sexual violence on college campuses. I am very thankful to have the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of the totality of HB2441: Relating to Campus Safety**. This bill establishes necessary training requirements for students.

We request that HB2441 be amended in page 7, line 17 to “every year” and that page 4, line 17 return to the original language of “annually.” Institutions are required by the federal Clery Act to provide training to students and employees, on an introductory and ongoing basis, on prevention and awareness programs, including material on bystander intervention and risk reduction.

Campus safety is an equity issue because all Hawai'i students have the right to access education and live in a campus community free from sexual violence but right now, at the University of Hawai'i, that is not the case. The 2021 UH Campus Climate Survey reported to the legislature that 1 in 6 female and 1 in 3 transgender or non-binary students are experiencing sexual violence at UH. Students with disabilities were two or more times more likely to experience sexual violence and harassment. The inequity of campus sexual violence is urgent, and as students we believe no effort is wasted in improving equal access to education for all UH students.

The trauma of sexual violence and the subsequent lack of support and resources for student survivors often manifest as devastating long-term impacts including educational and economic outcomes, long-term career trajectory, and emotional and physical health. Alarming, in 2021, 5 in 6 students who experienced gender violence did not access UH resources and over 80% of students reported negative consequences after experiencing sexual violence at UH.

HB2441 works to inform students to prevent campus violence from occurring in the first place and also to ensure all students know about supportive options and resources after experiencing gender-based violence. At UH, 2 in 3 students in 2021 said they did not attend any training or information session on sexual violence or gender-based violence. However, 61% of students who recalled attending a training or information session indicated that it was extremely or very useful. Without requiring training on misconduct policies, Title IX rights and resources, access to this proven preventative measure for sexual assault is not reaching many students.

On behalf of students in Hawai'i and advocates against gender-based violence, we ask that you support legislation to strengthen anti-violence protections at the University of Hawai'i by favorably passing HB2441 out of committee. Campus sexual violence should not be a part of the



college experience but as a current college student, I see that it is painfully woven into many of our lives. Thankfully, there are proven measures in HB2441 to reduce sexual violence rates and support survivors in healing and accessing support.

May you act with the same urgency to codify greater access to resources available regardless of what waivers every four to eight years at the federal level. At the current rates, thousands of students will experience gender-based violence during their time at the University of Hawai'i without awareness of their rights and resources if we do not act now.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2441 and mahalo for all you do to support Hawai'i students in their educational journeys.

Sincerely,

Koalani Kauwelo
Co-State Director
Every Voice Coalition Hawai'i



FEBRUARY 6, 2026

HOUSE BILL 2441

CURRENT REFERRAL: HED

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 2441, relating to campus safety, which requires students of the University of Hawai'i, including transfer students, to complete training on federal laws and University policies regarding sexual misconduct prior to the completion of initial registration into the university of Hawai'i system; and amends the frequency that training and programming regarding sexual misconduct is provided to university of Hawai'i students and employees.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, and combating all forms of systemic exploitation in our society.

The need for this bill is clear and well-documented. According to the University of Hawai'i's 2023 Campus Climate Survey on Sex-Based Violence and Sexual Harassment, 84% of UH students reported that they do not remember attending—or have no recollection of attending—any training or informational session on sexual harassment or gender violence (p. 39). This lack of exposure has remained consistent since 2019, demonstrating a persistent gap in prevention education.

At the same time, the survey shows that training works when students receive it. Among UH community members who did attend a training, 57% reported it was "extremely" or "very useful" (p. 41). This indicates that the issue is not the effectiveness of training, but access to it.

Lack of knowledge directly prevents students from seeking help. According to the same UH survey, 80% of students who experienced gender-based violence did not contact UH resources, citing lack of knowledge about where to go, whether the incident was serious enough, or whether it violated university policy (p. 203). This proposal directly addresses will

ensure students receive information that is already included in UH's training materials on how to identify misconduct and access support.

Timing matters. According to RAINN, more than 50% of college sexual assaults occur during the first months of the academic year, commonly referred to as the "Red Zone" (August through November). New and returning students are particularly vulnerable during this period as they adjust to new environments, social pressures, and living arrangements. Requiring training prior to registration ensures students begin the school year equipped with knowledge and resources before risk peaks.

This measure also aligns UH with national best practices. According to leading national experts, including *It's On Us* and guidance from the U.S. Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women, many colleges and universities now implement mandatory sexual violence prevention training for students at the start of the academic year or prior to enrollment. The University of California system is one example of a statewide college system that has put this policy into action. Such policies are becoming widely recognized as a baseline standard for campus safety and Title IX compliance.

Importantly, education changes culture. When students understand what sexual harassment and assault actually are—not flirtation or romance, but behaviors that cause trauma, PTSD, and academic disruption—attitudes shift. When students and faculty understand the real consequences of gender-based violence, including expulsion, job loss, and criminal liability, incidents decrease. Education clarifies norms, reinforces accountability, and empowers students to intervene when harm occurs.

More than 53 years after the passage of Title IX, gender-based violence remains a serious issue on college campuses, including in Hawai'i. This bill is a practical, evidence-based step toward preventing harm and addressing campus-based violence for those seeking in education in the islands.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:24:57 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

FOR: Committee on Higher Education

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato and members,

While are heartened by the progress with the current implementation of Session 2019 law Act 242, reporting requirements and staff training mandate, students are woefully uninformed or underinformed about their right to safety from sexual predators in the university environment.

The majority of UH students (86%) have no recollection of training on this issue. A full 80% said they did not contact UH resources after being the victim of gender violence, due to lack of knowledge.

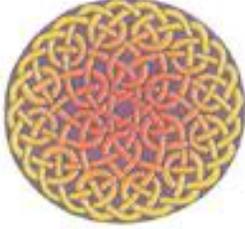
This bill would redress that dangerous situation.

Mahalo for hearing this bill. Women, and our rights to freedom from assault, verbal and physical, are under attack as never before in my lifetime. It is important to do all that we can to hold the line in our state against the tide of violence and hatred spewing like a plague across our nation out of Washington DC.

Mahalo,

Ann S. Freed, Co-Chair

For HDWC



Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C.

*Alahea Corporate Tower
1100 Alahea St., Fl. 20, Suite B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

LATE

House Committee on Higher Education

Friday, February 6, 2026, 2:05 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Re: **STRONG SUPPORT of H.B. No. 2441**, Relating to **CAMPUS SAFETY**

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara of Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, a civil rights law firm, submits this testimony in strong support of H.B. 2441, which would strengthen the University of Hawai'i's compliance and prevention framework regarding sexual misconduct on campus.

This bill has always been important. Today, it is urgent. The federal government is retreating from its obligation to protect students from gender-based violence — and Hawai'i must step into that void.

I. THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT IS NO LONGER A RELIABLE PARTNER IN CAMPUS SAFETY

For over fifty years, Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972 has been the backbone of campus protections against sex-based discrimination and violence. But the federal enforcement apparatus that students once depended on is being systematically dismantled.

The Department of Education is being gutted. President Trump has signed executive orders seeking to abolish the U.S. Department of Education entirely. In March 2025, the Department announced plans to cut nearly half its staff in a massive reduction in force.

The Office for Civil Rights — the very office that investigates Title IX complaints — has been decimated. Approximately 299 staffers, roughly half of OCR's 575 employees, were targeted for layoff. Seven of OCR's twelve regional offices have been shuttered — in Atlanta, Boston, Cleveland, Chicago, Dallas, Philadelphia, and San Francisco — with their caseloads reassigned to only five remaining offices.

The results are predictable and alarming. Between March and September 2025, OCR received more than 9,000 complaints of alleged discrimination. It dismissed approximately 90% of them — a rate that civil rights lawyers have characterized as far higher than what is typical.

Federal education funding has been thrown into chaos. During the first year of the current administration, more than \$12 billion in K-12 education funding was disrupted. The Department canceled previously awarded grants to more than 730 grantees across 30 funding streams, affecting at least \$2.2 billion in future-year funding.

The message is clear: the federal government is walking away from its commitment to campus safety and civil rights enforcement. If we wait for Washington to protect our students, we will be waiting a very long time.

II. HAWAI‘I’S CONSTITUTION DEMANDS THAT WE ACT

Fortunately, Hawai‘i does not need to rely on federal protections. Our State Constitution provides independent, and in many respects stronger, grounds for action.

A. The Hawai‘i Equal Rights Amendment (Article I, Section 3)

The Hawai‘i Constitution provides: "**Equality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the State on account of sex. The legislature shall have the power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this section.**"

This is not aspirational language — it is a constitutional command with an express grant of legislative enforcement power. H.B. 2441 is precisely the type of "appropriate legislation" that Article I, Section 3 contemplates.

Further, the Hawai‘i Supreme Court has held that sex is a **suspect classification** under our State Constitution, subject to **strict scrutiny** — a more protective standard than federal law provides. In *Baehr v. Lewin*, 852 P.2d 44 (Haw. 1993), the Court held that sex-based classifications are "presumed to be unconstitutional unless the state shows compelling state interests which justify such classifications." The Court specifically noted that because Hawai‘i adopted an ERA, sex discrimination warrants the highest level of judicial scrutiny.

When gender-based violence on campus prevents students from accessing education equally, this implicates our ERA. Mandatory training is a narrowly tailored, evidence-based response to that constitutional concern.

B. Equal Protection (Article I, Section 5)

Article I, Section 5 provides that no person shall "be denied the equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry."

Unlike the Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which is "couched in general terms," Hawai‘i's equal protection clause **explicitly enumerates sex** as a protected category, providing broader protections than the federal standard. When students cannot access their education safely because of gender-based violence, this clause is directly at issue.

C. The Right to Education (Article X, Section 1)

The Hawai‘i Constitution mandates that the State provide a system of public education, including a state university, and prohibits discrimination in those institutions: "**There shall be no discrimination in public educational institutions because of race, religion, sex or ancestry.**"

This is a constitutional duty — not optional. When 80% of UH students who experience gender violence do not contact campus resources because they simply do not know where to go, our educational system is failing its constitutional mandate. H.B. 2441 directly addresses this gap.

D. The Right to Privacy (Article I, Section 6)

Hawai‘i is one of a small number of states with an express constitutional right to privacy. Article I, Section 6 provides: "**The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest. The legislature shall take affirmative steps to implement this right.**"

Note the directive: "The legislature **shall** take affirmative steps." This bill answers that call by establishing confidential advocates at each campus so students can discuss incidents of sexual misconduct in a safe and private setting.

E. The Aloha Spirit (HRS § 5-7.5)

The Aloha Spirit statute codifies the "working philosophy of the Hawaiian people" and charges all public servants, including legislators and judges, to "give consideration to the Aloha Spirit" in the course of their duties. Its core values — *akahai* (kindness), *lōkahi* (unity), *'olu'olu* (agreeableness), *ha'aha'a* (humility), and *ahonui* (patience) — embody a vision of collective responsibility and mutual regard.

This is not merely symbolic. In *State v. Wilson* (2024), the Hawai'i Supreme Court explicitly invoked the Aloha Spirit statute and connected it to the constitutional right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness, affirming that these values have real legal force when the safety and well-being of our community are at stake.

H.B. 2441 reflects aloha in action — ensuring that every student entering the University of Hawai'i system is greeted not just with a welcome, but with the knowledge and resources to be safe, supported, and empowered.

III. THE DATA DEMANDS IMMEDIATE ACTION

The numbers tell a story our Constitution obligates us to hear:

- **84% of UH students** have no recollection of ever attending training on sexual harassment or gender violence — a rate that has remained consistent since 2019.
- **80% of students** who experienced gender violence did not contact UH resources, citing lack of knowledge — they did not know if the incident was serious enough to report, whether it violated policy, or where to go for help.
- Of the students who did receive training, **57% found it "extremely or very useful."** The training works — when students actually receive it.
- More than **50% of college sexual assaults** occur during "The Red Zone" — August through November — when new students are most vulnerable. By requiring training before registration, H.B. 2441 ensures students are equipped with critical knowledge *before* they enter this high-risk period.
- The majority of U.S. colleges and universities already require sexual violence prevention training prior to registration. UH should not be an outlier.

IV. CONCLUSION

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee: we are at an inflection point. The federal government is retreating from civil rights enforcement. The Office for Civil Rights has been hollowed out. The Department of Education is being dismantled. Our students cannot afford to wait for Washington to remember them.

But Hawai'i has something many states do not: a constitution that expressly guarantees equality of rights regardless of sex, prohibits discrimination in public education, enshrines a right to privacy with an affirmative legislative mandate, and is undergirded by the Aloha Spirit — a legal and cultural commitment to mutual care and collective well-being.

H.B. 2441 is not just good policy. It is the fulfillment of our constitutional obligations to the students of the University of Hawai'i. It is Hawai'i leading when the federal government will not. I respectfully urge this Committee to pass H.B. 2441.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:44:44 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Blazak	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee,

As a constituent of House District 2, I support this measure.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:27:56 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandy Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the House Higher Education Committee,

I am testifying in support of HB 2441, which (1) requires students of the University of Hawaii, including transfer students, to complete training on federal laws and University policies regarding sexual misconduct prior to the completion of initial registration into the university of Hawaii system and (2) amends the frequency that training and programming regarding sexual misconduct is provided to university of Hawaii students and employees.

The 2023 UH Campus Climate Survey (at page 39) found that most UH students are not trained on gender violence. Specifically, the majority of UH students (84%) have no recollection or do not remember attending a training or informational session on sexual harassment or gender violence, and this rate has been consistent since 2019.

80% of UH students said they did not contact UH resources after experiencing gender violence due to lack of knowledge. *Id.* at page 203. For those who were exposed or attended UH training on gender violence, a majority (57.%) felt it was "extremely or very useful". *Id.* at page 41.

Thus, HB 2441 is about educating and training students about gender violence on their college campus and giving them the necessary resources to deal with this serious issue.

Please support HB 2441.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:20:06 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB2441.

Many students at UH continue to suffer from sexual harassment (11.4%), stalking (9%), dating + domestic violence (17.1%), and non-consensual sexual contact (6.9). Yet, most students do not know what is unlawful violence + harassment, what their rights are, and what supportive resources are available to them.

This bill would change that by requiring all UH students a training on gender violence. Universities in other states do.

Please pass this measure as is and thank you for your consideration.

Younghee Overly, Honolulu, a member of AAUW of Hawaii

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:30:44 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:35:11 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Avery Bryce and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i, Hawaii community college Monono campus. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2441 to require students of the University of Hawai'i, including transfer students, to complete training on federal laws and University policies regarding sexual misconduct prior to the completion of initial registration into the university of Hawai'i system and amend the frequency that training and programming regarding sexual misconduct is provided to university of Hawai'i students and employees.

I support all students receiving training on Title IX, The Violence Against Women Act, and University of Hawaii executive policies on sexual misconduct annually. Additionally, I support mandatory trauma-informed, gender-inclusive, LGBTQ+-inclusive sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming every year for all students enrolled at least part-time and employees of the university.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue, with marginalized groups reporting higher rates of violence while attending the University of Hawai'i than their peers. With 5 out of 6 UH student survivors reporting not accessing university resources according to the UH Campus Climate Survey, change is urgently required to equip students with the knowledge they need to stay safe and get help.

Mahalo for your dedication to the health and wellbeing of all UH students across Hawai'i, please pass HB2441.

Signed,

Avery Bryce

Aloha,

My name is Jo-Lynn Kaho‘ohanohano and I am an alum with the University of Hawai‘i. I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2441 to require students of the University of Hawai‘i, including transfer students, to complete training on federal laws and University policies regarding sexual misconduct prior to the completion of initial registration into the University of Hawai‘i system and amend the frequency that training and programming regarding sexual misconduct is provided to university of Hawai‘i students and employees.

I support all students receiving training on Title IX, The Violence Against Women Act, and University of Hawaii executive policies on sexual misconduct annually. Additionally, I support mandatory trauma-informed, gender-inclusive, LGBTQ+-inclusive sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming every year for all students enrolled at least part-time and employees of the university.

Campus sexual violence is an equity issue. We can and should do better when it comes to informing our students and providing a safe environment for all to learn and thrive.

Mahalo,

J.M. Kaho‘ohanohano

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:01:42 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB2441, which requires gender violence prevention training for University of Hawai‘i students prior to class registration.

An Opportunity to Better Serve Our Students

The 2023 UH Campus Climate Survey reveals an important opportunity for improvement: 84% of UH students have no recollection of attending a training or informational session on sexual harassment or gender violence. This rate has remained consistent since 2019.

Students Want This Information

When students do receive training, they find it valuable. Of UH community members who attended training sessions, 57% found them “extremely or very useful.”

Additionally, 80% of UH students who experienced gender violence did not contact university resources due to lack of knowledge. Students indicated they needed information about how to know if an incident is serious enough to report, whether behavior violated university policy, and where to go for help. This information is already available in UH’s training materials—this bill simply ensures all students receive it.

Supporting Students During a Critical Time

Research shows that more than 50% of college sexual assaults occur during “The Red Zone”—the months of August through November. New students are particularly vulnerable during this adjustment period. By requiring training before registration, this bill helps students enter the school year better informed and prepared to access supportive resources if needed.

Aligning with National Best Practices

The majority of U.S. colleges and universities now require sexual violence prevention training for students prior to registration, including all UC schools, which require annual training. HB2441 helps UH align with these national best practices in campus safety.

Education Creates Positive Change

When students understand what constitutes sexual harassment and assault, and when they know their rights and available resources, they are better equipped to navigate campus life safely. Education helps students recognize harmful behavior, understand university policies, and know where to seek help when needed.

While Title IX has been in effect for over 53 years, gender-based violence continues to occur on college campuses. This bill offers a practical, evidence-based approach to provide students with knowledge and resources to support their safety and well-being.

I respectfully urge you to pass HB2441. This legislation represents a meaningful step forward in supporting student safety and creating a campus environment where all students can thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration of this important measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Ezgi Green
Waialua, O'ahu

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:36:27 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Dame	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This training is imperative to ensure that those students in a campus environment understand what constitutes sexual misconduct.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:45:32 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen M Gawrys	AAUW	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Women's Health Nurse Practitioner (DNP) and have experienced first hand the difference it can make to vicims when they have supportive care.

Safety should not be controversial.

mahalo,

eileen gawrys DNP, Ewa Beach, HI

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:05:37 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shardae Frias	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB2441, which will ensure the safety of students attending University of Hawai'i campuses. Not only does it ensure safety, but it allows students to be aware of the signs surrounding sexual assault, how to report, and overall keeps them informed.

As a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, instructors are obviously required to state Title IX in their syllabi. Most skim over information regarding Title IX. I would know, because I am one of those people. It would be more beneficial to directly educate students on sexual misconduct prevention and other school resources than to just simply state in syllabi where it more than likely gets skipped over.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:05:44 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB 2441 because the requirement for all incoming students to the University of Hawaii system complete training on Federal laws and the University's policies on sexual misconduct before attending classes is vitally important. Students need to be aware there are laws and regulations related to their sexual conduct on campus, in campus dorms, and in life. It can't be ignored that sexual misconduct cases come up every semester at the University and how important this training is to deter the frequency of this and protect students and staff.

Thank you for supporting HB 2441

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:59:46 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Simpliciano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask for your support of HB2441. I am a UH Mānoa student, and I am disturbed when I receive emails from DPS about sexual misconduct cases on campus. These cases are disgusting and not okay. I think training is important because students in the student body should be holding other students accountable and not engage in egregious acts and report suspicious people on campus. I noticed how most of the sexual misconduct cases were by students bringing outsiders to dorms, a concerning pattern because the motives and background history of those people are unknown.

I also think training and knowledge of the student code is important so students can refer others to important resources if they are struggling and to strengthen academic honesty and general transparency. I did not know most of the campus resources at UH until some representatives visited my class.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:19:01 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Morse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB 2441 to help inform and protect students from assault on campus,

Janet Morse, Kaneohe

member AAUW Hawaii

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:10:49 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Nicole Montoya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Danielle Montoya and I am an alum at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo I appreciate the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of HB2441 to require students of the University of Hawai‘i, including transfer students, to complete annual training on federal laws and University policies regarding sexual misconduct prior to the completion of initial registration into the University of Hawai‘i system..

I support all students receiving training on Title IX, The Violence Against Women Act, and University of Hawai‘i executive policies on sexual misconduct annually. Additionally, I support mandatory trauma-informed, gender-inclusive, LGBTQ+-inclusive sexual misconduct primary prevention and awareness programming every year for all students enrolled at least part-time and employees of the university.

2023 Campus Climate Survey data shows that 84% – an overwhelming majority – of UH students do not remember attending any trainings on sexual harassment or gender-based violence. Because so few students have access to this critical information, it’s no surprise that the same survey found that 5 in 6 student-survivors do not access university resources when violence does occur.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 11:34:08 AM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maddax Tsuchiya	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

From the University of Hawaii's own reporting in 2020, over a two-year span from 2017 to 2019, sexual harassment cases reported via survey increased by 30% compared to previous results. Furthermore, from the Sex Abuse Treatment Center of Hawaii, for all victims of rape, 1 in 3 female victims, and half of male victims cite that their trauma occurred between the ages of 18-25; college age. For fiscal year 2025, the UH system reported a total operating budget of 1.4 billion dollars. With this immense budget, there is no excuse for the University's failure to prioritize student safety. The time is now to hold the University accountable for the well-being of its students. While this bill does not develop new procedures for enforcement and prevention, it does ensure that all students are aware of Title IX standards, that no excuses of ignorance can be made, and that all students gain a sensitivity and understanding of the topic. Prevention starts with information. I thank the legislature for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:46:31 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support HB2441. This issue is important for all students, faculty, and our whole community. Understanding safety of individuals on campus starts with training, undoubtedly. Please vote to support HB2441.

LATE

HB-2441

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:27:07 PM

Testimony for HED on 2/6/2026 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annette Barr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support and pass this very important safety measure