



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

Date: 02/06/2026

Time: 08:30 AM

Location: 423 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: ECD

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB2445, RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY.

Purpose of Bill: Requires the Department of Education to develop, establish, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) would like to provide comments and information on HB2445 for the committee's consideration.

The Department believes that this bill is unnecessary because the Department currently has procedures in place that accomplish the majority of requirements set forth in the bill. In March 2025, the Department issued law enforcement guidance that addresses conduct at schools by all law enforcement agencies, including Immigrations and Custom Enforcement. The guidance designates the principal or designee as the point of contact for law enforcement and includes notification and involvement of employees in the principal or designee's chain of command as well as the Department of the Attorney General. The Department also has the necessary counseling and behavioral health resources to respond and mitigate the effects of potential traumatic incidents such as immigration enforcement activities at or near schools.

Additionally, the Department is concerned with references to address immigration enforcement activities occurring "near school campuses" as a school does not have authority or control over activities outside school property.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB 2445.

Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino

Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: [Month Day, 2026]

To: Chair **Rep. Ilagan**, Vice Chair **Rep. Hussey**, and Members of the Committee

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

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino, and we submit testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, we urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino

Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza

808.593.2226

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:15:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Honolulu Hawaii NAACP | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The NAACP strongly supports HB 2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools. Our schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. Providing a standardized plan ensures educators have clear guidance on protecting student safety and privacy, and reduces confusion and panic during emergencies. Implementing the provisions of HB 2445 enhances the learning process and fosters increase trust by families that our schools are properly prepared for immigration enforcement activities.

The State has a duty to ensure that everyone is protected from practices and behaviors that interfere with the people of Hawai'i living and learning in a safe, thriving, and healthy environment. When these violations occur, they erode the principles of "Aloha," diminish community trust, and may lead to broader civil rights discrimination. This Bill mitigates those barriers by providing reasonable protocols for engaging with immigration enforcement personnel. This Bill provides written policies on immigration protocols for all State actors with clarity of roles and responsibilities.

For these reasons, the NAACP strongly urge you to pass HB 2445 and appreciates the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alphonso Braggs

President

To: House Committee Economic Development & Technology
Re: **HB2445 – Relating to Student Safety**
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 6, 2026; 8:30 AM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing **in SUPPORT of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop, establish, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Children learn best when they feel safe and supported. Unplanned immigration enforcement activities at or near schools can cause fear, confusion, and emotional distress that disrupt learning and put all students at those schools at risk of trauma.

Without guidance, school staff may not be equipped to respond in ways that reduce fear and help students stay calm. This bill ensures staff training includes trauma-informed practices, legal guidance, and strategies to de-escalate student anxiety.

In addition, when immigration enforcement occurs unexpectedly, routine school operations and dismissals may be interrupted, affecting attendance, learning, and family plans. A standardized response plan will help schools minimize disruption to instruction and keep keiki safe.

Protocols for notifying families, including multilingual communications where practicable, helps ensure that all families — especially those whose primary language is not English — understand what is happening and can make informed decisions for their children's safety.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:49:20 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Matthew B. Johnson | Pacific Gateway Center | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Matt Johnson

Pacific Gateway Center

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: [Month Day, 2026]

My name is Matt Johnson, the Executive Director for Pacific Gateway Center, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Sincerely,
Matthew B. Johnson**



COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 2445, RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. Roots Reborn **strongly supports HB2445**, Relating to Student Safety, which requires the Department of Education to develop, establish, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and beyond. Born out of the August 2023 wildfires, we immediately stepped in to move aid, navigate systems alongside families, and build the trusted relationships that still anchor our work today. What began as wildfire response has grown into essential infrastructure for immigrant communities facing overlapping crises—from recovery and housing instability to shifting federal policies, increased enforcement, and rising fear.

Since December 2024, we have been meeting this new man-made disaster of shifting federal policies, increased militarized enforcement and rising fear head-on. EPA Maui rapid response network and tipline made up of allied organizations and concerned community members exists because we believe an informed, calm community is a safer community.

Through this coalition, we have:

- Distributed over 3,500 flyers on constitutional rights
- Trained more than 700 community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Delivered over 50 trainings to healthcare providers, social service organizations, business owners, faith communities, educators, and labor union leaders
- Processed more than 450 calls and texts through our tip line
- Trained over 60 volunteer observers in verification, de-escalation, and peaceful documentation

In spring 2025, EPA Maui began receiving reports of federal agents engaged in enforcement activity involving students and schools. Federal Homeland Security Investigations (HSI) agents conducted so-called “wellness checks” on “unaccompanied minors”— children who entered the United States without a parent or guardian and were later released to family members or sponsors. Under prior practice, these caregivers were not targeted for enforcement while children’s immigration cases were pending. With the shift to a mass-deportation approach, “wellness checks” became a pretext to locate and detain children’s family members and anyone in proximity. Within days, our tipline received reports statewide: agents at or near schools looking for children and relatives, children whose caregivers were suddenly detained, and school staff unsure how to care for students left with no adult to pick them up or how to respond to federal agents on or near campus.

Federal enforcement has also directly impacted teachers. In May 2025, federal agents executed a judicial warrant in the pre-dawn hours at a residence housing Maui Waena Intermediate School teachers. These educators, lawfully present on J-1 visas, were taken from their homes in bedclothes or wrapped only in blankets by armed agents and held outside for questioning for nearly an hour before being allowed to retrieve documents proving lawful status. They were not permitted to call the school to report they would be late. This incident sent shockwaves through the school and wider community and was widely reported in local media.



EPA Maui responded by deploying trained peaceful observers to provide Know Your Rights information to students and families and to observe interactions with federal agents, helping to ensure the rights of vulnerable community members were not violated. We also increased Know Your Rights trainings for school leaders and school communities. Through this work, one lesson is clear: schools, educators, students, and families are safer when there is a clear, standardized readiness and response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near school grounds.

HB2445 is a necessary, measured step to protect student safety and school stability. By requiring the Department of Education to adopt a standardized emergency response plan, this bill ensures that schools are prepared, staff know how to respond, and children are not left in crisis when federal enforcement appears at or near campus. Our communities' safety should never come at the expense of students' sense of safety at school.

For the sake of Hawai'i's students, families, and educators, we **urge you to support HB2445** and vote to pass it out of this committee. The need is urgent and the time is now.

Sinceramente

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

EPA Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill
In SUPPORT of HB2445 RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY**

Representative Ilagan, Chair
Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 6th, 2026, 2pm Room 423

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

My name is **Liza Ryan-Gill**, testifying on behalf of the **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)**. HCIR is a coalition of **30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations** across the pae ‘āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai‘i as a place where all families can thrive.

We strongly support **HB2445**, legislation that prohibits federal immigration officers from conducting immigration enforcement in schools.

Schools must be safe havens for children — places where students can learn, grow, and thrive without fear that they or their family members will be arrested, detained or deported. When immigration enforcement occurs in or around schools, it undermines attendance, harms student mental health, erodes trust between families and educators, and interferes with the fundamental mission of public education.

For many years, under long-standing federal policy, the U.S. Department of Justice and the Department of Homeland Security designated schools, churches, hospitals, and other “sensitive locations” as places where immigration enforcement actions were generally prohibited. This policy recognized that immigration enforcement in these settings causes profound harm to children, families, and community trust. However, under the current administration, these sensitive-location protections have been weakened or eliminated, allowing federal immigration officers greater discretion to conduct enforcement in and around schools. As a result, Hawai‘i can no longer rely on federal policy to protect students, making state-level safeguards like HB1870 both necessary and urgent.

Recent events in Kona underscore exactly why this legislation is urgently needed. Just a few months ago, a young student at Konawaena Elementary School was removed from campus by a school resource officer and turned over to federal authorities after his father was detained by immigration agents. The child was ultimately deported along with his father. This incident sparked widespread concern among educators, parents, and community members across Hawai‘i Island. Teachers and families reported that students were afraid to come to school, that



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

attendance dropped, and that children were walking different routes home out of fear of encountering immigration agents.

These are not abstract concerns — they are real harms happening to real children in our public schools. Community advocates have documented how immigration enforcement activity has created trauma, disrupted classrooms, and forced schools into impossible situations that conflict with their duty to protect students. Educators have described the experience as “heart-wrenching” and have called for stronger protections to ensure schools remain places of safety and stability.

HB2440 would provide clear, statewide protections so that children are not targeted or swept into immigration enforcement while at school. This bill aligns with long-standing principles that schools should be sensitive locations, where children’s rights, privacy, and well-being are prioritized. It also supports educators, who should never be placed in the position of facilitating immigration enforcement against their own students.

No child should be afraid to go to school. No parent should worry that dropping off their child could lead to family separation. And no teacher should have to choose between their professional duty and a child’s safety.

For these reasons, and in light of what has already happened in Kona, we strongly urge the Legislature to pass HB2445 and affirm that Hawai‘i’s schools are places of learning — not sites of immigration enforcement.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Liza Ryan Gill

Executive Director

Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Elsa West, and I submit testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I believe immigrant and mixed-status families should feel safe in this place they've chosen to make their home. Hawai'i is a community, and what I find most important is the safety of everyone, no matter their origin and ethnicity. It pains me to see the state of this nation, and I hope that Hawai'i can be an exception to the inequality and injustice we are seeing.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Elsa West
American Civil Liberties Union
edubjr2010@icloud.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:57:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him) | Pride at Work – Hawai‘i | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

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.

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 2445.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)



House Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB2445

Friday, February 6th, 8:30 AM in Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

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

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to create a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools should be safe and stable so students can learn without fear. A standard emergency response plan will give educators clear steps to follow, protect student safety and privacy, and help prevent confusion or panic during emergencies. Most importantly, it will help keep learning on track and show families that they can trust their schools to respond appropriately.

HB2445 is about preparedness, consistency, and putting children first. It gives teachers and school staff clear guidance, rather than forcing them to improvise during stressful, fast-moving situations. It prevents panic, misinformation, and disruption, and ensures the same protections for students and families across schools and islands. Regardless of views on immigration policy, we should all agree that schools must remain focused on education, student well-being, and dignity.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB2445.

Thank you for your support and consideration

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is placed below the text 'Thank you for your support and consideration'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director



Rep Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 6, 2026

8:30AM - Conference Room 423

HB2445 - Relating to Student Safety - Support

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

HULI PAC strongly supports HB 2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop, establish, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must remain safe, stable, and supportive environments for all students. HB 2445 recognizes that unplanned law enforcement or immigration enforcement activity on or near school campuses may cause fear, disrupt learning, and create emotional distress for students and families. This bill ensures school personnel are trained, prepared, and guided by clear protocols that prioritize student safety, continuity of education, and lawful due process.

HB 2445 requires a standardized plan designed to protect student safety and emotional well-being, minimize disruption, ensure compliance with state and federal law, and provide clear guidance to administrators and staff when immigration enforcement activity occurs on or near campus. The plan includes protocols for law enforcement presence, safeguards around access to school grounds and student records, student protection measures, parental and guardian communication procedures including multilingual communication where practicable, and mandatory staff training that includes legal guidance, trauma-informed practices, and student de-escalation strategies. The bill also protects personally identifiable student information consistent with state and federal privacy laws, and clarifies that nothing in the plan interferes with lawful enforcement activity or creates a duty for school personnel to determine a student's immigration status.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support passage of HB 2445.

Mahalo.



Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards
Wainiha Country Market
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman
Island Naturals
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson
Niko Niko Family Dentistry
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia
Hawaii Taro Farm
Wailuku

Maile Meyer
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger
Kihei Ice
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki
Abundant Life Natural Foods
Hilo

Rep. Gregor Ilagan, Chair
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 6, 2026
8:30AM Conference Room 423

RE: HB2445 - School Emergency Plan for Immigration Enforcement Activity - Support

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 570 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

From a business and workforce perspective, schools must be safe, stable, and predictable places for students to learn. When schools experience confusion or disruption during emergencies, families are affected—and that instability ripples through workplaces, small businesses, and the broader economy.

A standardized emergency response plan gives educators clear guidance, protects student safety and privacy, and reduces confusion and panic during sensitive situations. Clear protocols allow school staff to respond lawfully and calmly, so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

HB2445 strengthens continuity in education, supports working families, and helps ensure Hawai'i's future workforce can learn in an environment that is safe, orderly, and well-managed.

Chamber of
Sustainable Commerce
808.445.7606
P.O. Box 22394
Honolulu, HI 96823

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD
Re: SUPPORT **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540**
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

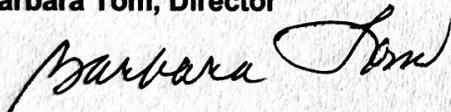
Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Barbara Tom, and I submit testimony on behalf of the Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center in **strong support** of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency, ensuring that immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and that survivors are able to seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

Waipahu Safe Haven works closely with immigrant and migrant communities in Waipahu, providing holistic services that support family stability, health, housing, and overall success in Hawai'i. Our goal is to empower families to become contributing and thriving members of our community. These bills are critical to that mission, as they help remove fear-based barriers that prevent individuals from accessing services, reporting harm, or seeking protection when they need it most.

For these reasons, we respectfully urge you to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your commitment to protecting the safety and dignity of all residents of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,
Barbara Tom, Director

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Barbara Tom".

Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center

February 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Izeah Almogela. I am a senior at Waipahu High School, serving as Vice-President for Student Government. Passing HB2445 will have a positive impact on the public school students, like me, within the Hawai'i Department of Education by outlining an emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity near or at our schools.

I strongly emphasize that schools have the responsibility of making a campus that ensures the safety for students. I would also like to mention that education is a right not a privilege. Students should not be attending school in fear that immigration is going to walk through the doors and take them away. Establishing an efficient protocol provides students with the acknowledgement that schools care about their safety.

At Waipahu High School, around 70% of our student population is Filipino. Many of my peers within this percentage are first-generation immigrants from the Philippines. As a friend, I want to ensure that my friends feel secure in school. No student should have to fear for their life at school; **school is meant to be a “safe space.”**

This bill is essential for the safety of our students, so I urge you to support HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Izeah Almogla
Waipahu High School
Secondary Student Conference

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:33:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kayla Marie | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 6:08:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB 2445

Relating to Student Safety

Chair, Rep. Greggor Ilagan
Vice Chair, Rep. Ikaika Hussey
Members
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Submitted by: Leimomi Khan, Community Advocate for Sound Laws

HEARING: Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 am
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE Conference Room 423

Aloha, Representative Ilagan, Chair; Rep Hussey, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Leimomi Khan, ko'u 'inoā. I respectfully submit this testimony **in strong support of HB 2445.**

HB 2445 is important because it recognizes a simple but critical principle: **public schools must remain safe, stable, and supportive environments for students—regardless of circumstances beyond their control.** By requiring the Department of Education to develop, establish, and implement a **standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools**, this measure helps ensure that student safety and continuity of education remain the central priority.

Why HB 2445 Is Important

First, **unexpected law enforcement or immigration enforcement activity at or near schools can be deeply unsettling for children.** Even when students are not directly involved, such activity can cause fear, anxiety, and disruption to learning. HB 2445 takes a prudent step by directing the Department of Education to proactively plan for these situations, rather than leaving schools to respond in an ad hoc or inconsistent manner.

Second, the bill **appropriately places responsibility with the Department of Education**, rather than individual schools or educators, to develop a uniform, thoughtful response framework. Educators should not be expected to improvise in high-stress situations involving enforcement activity. A standardized emergency response plan helps ensure consistency across schools while allowing DOE to incorporate legal guidance, student protections, and best practices.

Third, HB 2445 supports **trauma-informed and culturally aware planning.** Hawai'i's public schools serve students from diverse backgrounds, including those from mixed-status families. Requiring DOE to develop a statewide plan allows student well-being, communication with families, and staff preparedness to be addressed deliberately and systematically.

Why This Bill Is Necessary in Hawai‘i

Although immigration enforcement is governed by federal statute, **its** impacts are felt locally—and in Hawai‘i, those impacts are distinct.

Hawai‘i is home to large Native Hawaiian and Pacific Islander (NHPI) communities that already face housing shortages, health inequities, and economic pressures. Our communities are close-knit and intergenerational, and schools often serve as vital community anchors. When fear or uncertainty enters school spaces, the effects extend well beyond the campus and into families and neighborhoods.

HB 2445 does not interfere with lawful immigration enforcement. Rather, it ensures that Hawai‘i’s public education system is prepared to respond to enforcement activity in a manner that minimizes harm to students, preserves trust in schools, and avoids unnecessary disruption to learning.

Conclusion

HB 2445 is a measured and responsible approach that strengthens student safety by requiring thoughtful planning at the Department level, rather than reactive decision-making at individual schools. It respects the rule of law while recognizing Hawai‘i’s unique community context and the need to protect students’ well-being.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB 2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:56:45 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:58:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dawn Wakukawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

It really speaks to the current events that the DOE must develop policies around immigrant enforcement. ALL STUDENTS should be safe and access education.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:09:41 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Katy Hintzen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

For the safety and well being of all children it is vital that our schools have proactive plans for how to deal with immigration enforcement activities on or near school property. I urge you to support this bill to help protect our children from fear and trauma.

Thank you,

Katy

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:22:25 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

To: Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair
Members of the House Economic Development & Technology Committee

From: Keoni Roosevelt Randolph

Subject: Support of HB2445, Relating to Student Safety

Aloha Kākou, my name is Keoni Randolph, I'm senior at Hilo High School, and I live in House District 2. I am testifying today firmly in support of House Bill 2445 to help combat the contentious misconduct of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) on or near school campuses in the State of Hawai'i.

The Supreme Court decision Plyler v. Doe 1982 affirms that all students, regardless of their immigration status, have certain rights under federal and state law to public education. Yet, these very rights have been outright denied by the federal government that once fought to enforce them. On January 20, 2025, the Trump administration revoked an Obama-era memorandum preventing ICE from conducting immigration enforcement in certain areas such as schools, hospitals, and places of worship. With these protections virtually erased at the federal level, the resulting consequences have proved disastrous not only throughout the country but also among our own residents, ravaging our Aina and local communities.

Research from The Migration Policy Institute finds that of the estimated 42,000 undocumented immigrants in Hawaii, 26% have children under 18 who are citizens, while 7% have children who are not. Under any normal circumstances, these numbers wouldn't be significant, but the circumstances we face today are anything but normal. Zena Stenvik, the Superintendent for the Columbia Heights Public School District in Minnesota, warns, "(p)eople who are here with legal documentation are fearful, as I think there have been many reports that ICE agents have taken citizens of the United States... (t)hey are driving around our schools, circling our schools. I have seen it with my own eyes. They are at our bus stops following our buses, and they have been on my school property multiple times."

House Bill 2445 was proposed as a direct response to this chaos, requiring the department to develop, adopt, and implement a standardized emergency response plan for public schools to address immigration enforcement activities occurring on or near school campuses during instructional hours or school-sponsored activities. These plans must protect student safety and emotional while minimizing the disruption to our educational environment, and are meant to provide clear guidance and education to school admin and staff when immigration enforcement activity occurs nearby.

The reality is that under the current state of our country, the time for deference has long past. If we don't take affirmative action soon, the safety and well-being of Hawai'i Public School Students will be in severe jeopardy. Remember, these aren't just statistics; this bill is for the well-being of thousands of our family, friends, neighbors, aunties, uncles, and co-workers. Just because the housefire has reached our room yet, doesn't mean that we won't get burnt too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:42:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| muhtadia rice | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I **strongly support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Muhtadia Rice

Kailua, Hawaii

Testimony In SUPPORT of HB2445

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

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

My name is Jeremiah Brown, I am a teacher at Waipahu High School. I am in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

ICE and Border Patrol have targeted schools for immigration enforcement, most recently in Minneapolis, and Chicago and Los Angeles before that. Agents have detained parents and children at pick-up and drop-off times, staked out areas close to schools, and have even used school property as staging locations. Teachers have worked with families to transport their children to and from school, to organize community patrols near schools, and have taken other measures to ensure student safety. In locations of aggressive immigration enforcement, students have stopped going to school out of fear. This is completely unacceptable and there is no reason to think it can't happen here in Hawai'i.

While the DOE has issued guidance on what to do when law enforcement enters a school campus, I feel it is short on specifics and requires contacting complex area superintendents who will probably be miles away from the location. I also think that it doesn't adequately address the very likely scenario of immigration enforcement agents operating near a school at drop-off or dismissal time. I believe that a more detailed and specific plan should be created and rolled out across the DOE, drawing on the experiences of other school districts who have already faced this threat to their school communities.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:42:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ashley de Coligny | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Ashley de Coligny, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 10:20:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:12:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lynn Otaguro | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is Lynn Otaguro and I strongly support the passage of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

In particular, by requiring that the DOE create a plan for schools to deal with nearby immigration enforcement, HB 2445 will provide educators with guidance so that they can keep students safe. It will help to ensure that schools remain places of safety and learning.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:27:20 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Angelia Kirkhart | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Students deserve an emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:52:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Mariko Miho | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Carolyn Mariko Miho

Individual

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: February 6, 2026

To: Chair **Greggor Ilagan**, Vice Chair **Ikaika Hussey**, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is **Carolyn Mariko Miho** and I submit testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

As a grandchild of two grandfathers arrested in their own homes in Hawai`i during World War II as enemy aliens without due process and detained in Department of Justice camps throughout the war, I understand how fear-based enforcement fractures families and communities.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Carolyn Mariko Miho

[Individual/ O`ahu / House District 47]

[himariko@me.com]

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:21:17 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill because it is our kuleana to ensure safety and due process for everyone in Hawai'i.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:30:47 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Shay Chan Hodges | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

I am in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540.

Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

We respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony..

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:44:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:03:08 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kayo Malik | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Testimony of Kayo Malik
In SUPPORT of HB2445**

Aloha,

My name is Kayo Malik, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kayo Malik

Maui

kayoda7@hotmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:48:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deanna Espinas | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support this bill. Thank you.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:14:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Julie Matsumoto | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony in Support of HB2445

Committee on ECD | 6 February 2026

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

My name is Julie Matsumoto, and I am a student from Mililani High School. I am writing in support of HB2445, a bill relating to student safety.

This bill would require the DOE to develop and implement a standardized emergency response plan to manage immigration enforcement activities occurring at or near public schools.

I stand in strong support of HB2445 because schools are meant to be places of learning, not fear. Unannounced immigration enforcement near campuses can cause panic, especially for students from immigrant families, many of whom are U.S. citizens themselves. A standardized response plan ensures students are not exposed to unnecessary trauma during the school day. As a public high school student and descendant of immigrants, I can attest to the fact it is impossible to focus on learning when classmates are crying, panicking, or afraid they may not see their family after school. No student should ever have to choose between their safety and their education.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Julie Matsumoto

Mililani High School

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:21:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| 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 HB2445, which directs the Department of Education to develop a comprehensive emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near school campuses.

This bill is fundamentally about ensuring our schools remain safe, stable places where all children can learn without fear or disruption. I respectfully urge you to support this important measure for the following reasons:

Students need stability to learn. When children are afraid or uncertain, their ability to focus on education is significantly compromised. A clear, well-communicated plan helps prevent trauma and disruption during what can be confusing and fast-moving situations.

Educators deserve clear guidance. Our teachers, principals, and staff work incredibly hard to support our students. They should not be left to improvise responses during stressful situations. A standardized protocol with clear roles helps prevent mistakes and ensures consistent, appropriate responses.

Families need to trust our schools. When families feel confident that their children will be safe and protected at school, attendance improves and students receive better support at home. This trust is essential for student success and family engagement in our school communities.

Consistency protects all students. A statewide plan ensures that every child in Hawaii receives the same level of protection and care, regardless of which school they attend or which island they live on.

Planning ahead is basic preparedness. Just as we have fire drills and lockdown protocols, having an emergency plan for immigration enforcement activity is simply responsible preparation. It allows everyone to know what to do before a crisis occurs, reducing panic and misinformation.

This centers children, not politics. Whatever our individual views on immigration policy may be, I believe we can all agree that schools must remain safe, stable environments for learning.

HB2445 focuses on protecting students and supporting educators—goals that transcend political differences.

This bill represents thoughtful, proactive planning that prioritizes student safety, family trust, and educational continuity. I respectfully ask for your support of HB2445.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Ezgi Green

Waiialua, O'ahu

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:21:21 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony of Rev. Amy Wake
Wesley United Methodist Church
In SUPPORT of HB2445
Hearing Date: Friday, February 6
To: Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is Rev. Amy Wake, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Rev. Amy Wake
Oahu, Kahala
pastoramywake@gmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:02:01 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cristina De Leon | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Cristina De Leon

Individual

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: February 6, 2026

To: Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and Members of the Committee

Aloha Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Cristina De Leon, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Cristina De Leon
Upcounty Maui

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:22:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nancy Convard | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Nancy Convard

Individual Citizen

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: [Month Day, 2026]

To: Chair [Name], Vice Chair [Name], and Members of the Committee

Aloha ChairR ep. Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy Convard, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Nancy Convard

nconvard@gmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:26:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Danielle Goren | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Danielle Goren, and, as a resident of Lahaina, Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, Hawai'i

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:31:11 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bella Nakagawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Bella Nakagawa and I am a Senior at Mililani High School. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

As a student, I believe that school should be a safe harbor, a place where every student, regardless of their background or immigration status, can focus on learning without fear. Unfortunately, for many of my classmates, that peace of mind is fragile. Education is a Right, Not a Privilege. When immigration enforcement activities occur near schools, it creates an atmosphere of fear that disrupts the entire learning community. Students who are worried that they or their family members might be detained cannot focus on their exams, their friendships, or their future. This bill ensures that the focus remains on education by establishing clear boundaries and protocols. Standardized Safety Means Equity. Without a statewide plan, different schools might handle these situations differently, leading to confusion and unnecessary risk. A standardized, transparent policy ensures that every school in our state has a clear, legal, and compassionate plan to handle these situations. It provides guidance on how to handle interactions with law enforcement, how to verify warrants, and how to protect student records, which is crucial for our safety. Prohibiting School Personnel from Assisting. I strongly support the provision that prohibits school personnel from assisting in immigration enforcement beyond what is legally required. Our teachers and administrators are mentors and educators, not law enforcement agents. Their primary responsibility is the well-being of their students. As a senior preparing to graduate, I want to know that I am leaving behind a school system that protects all students. I urge this committee to support HB2445 to ensure our schools remain safe, welcoming environments for all.

Thank you for your time and for prioritizing the safety of all students.

Sincerely,

Bella Nakagawa

Mililani High School

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:40:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Christine Nakagawa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill is important to me as I believe all students should feel safe going to school and should be protected. They should not have to worry about their safety.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:04:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nandita Sharma | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2445 - School Emergency Plan for Immigration Enforcement Activity.

There is no greater responsibility that legislators - and all of us - have than to protect children from monsters. The Trump administration is currently detaining hundreds (if not more, as they are not providing accurate data) of children, some of them infants, simply because of their status as "undocumented." Whatever you think of immigration law and controls, this is unconscionable. It is never OK to keep children in cages. Never.

Trump's "mass deportation" policies have already affected children in HI schools. It is absolutely horrifying for parents, children, and the community alike to know that DHS agents are entering schools and spirited away children.

Schools are important community spaces of learning and must be protected. This legislation provides clear guidance on how to ensure that they are safe for all children, regardless of their immigration status.

You have a deep and very real responsibility to do something to prevent this from happening. It may take courage to stand up to the Trump administration, but if courage cannot be summoned in the defense of children, then it is wholly absent. Please do the right thing and pass this bill!

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:37:15 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Georgia L Hoopes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB2445.

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:44:13 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Dana Fulton | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully strongly *support* House Bill 2445, which would require the **Department of Education** to develop, implement, and regularly update a standardized emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity occurring on or near public school campuses. Ensuring that our keiki at school are safe in stable and supportive environments which is essential for all students to learn and thrive without fear or disruption.

Unplanned or uncoordinated enforcement activity can cause significant **emotional distress, fear, and interruption of instruction** for children and families — particularly those from immigrant or mixed-status households which is MANY here in Hawai'i. Teachers feel like safety for many students, let's support that in our communities. This bill prioritizes the **safety, well-being, and continuity of education**, which is a foundation of a thriving community, by providing clear guidance, training, and protocols for school staff and administrators to respond appropriately when enforcement activity occurs nearby. Let's help teachers help their students in every way possible.

By specifying procedures for law enforcement presence, protecting students from unnecessary questioning or removal, safeguarding student information, and requiring **multilingual communication and trauma-informed training**, this measure promotes trust between families and schools and supports educators in fulfilling their core mission — educating and protecting students.

HB 2445 also ensures that staff receive **training on legal requirements and student protection**, including appropriate referral to legal counsel when enforcement officials seek access, while expressly prohibiting personnel from having to determine immigration status.

This plan respects lawful enforcement while anchoring responses in **student safety and constitutional rights**, maintaining educational stability, and helping schools focus on learning rather than crisis. I urge the Committee to *support HB 2445* to strengthen safety, protection, and peace of mind for keiki, 'ohanas, and communities across Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:24:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Calliah Bolosan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is Calliah Bolosan and I am a junior at Waiialua High and Intermediate School. I am writing in strong support of HB2445.

This issue is deeply personal to me, as I am a third-generation immigrant. Despite being born in Hawai'i, I have never forgotten the courage it took for my grandparents to drop everything they had in the Philippines to build a life here. I grew up hearing their stories of their struggles and their deep belief that school was a unique place; a place where their children and grandchildren would be judged solely on their merit and hardwork.

For a child to learn, they must first feel safe. When there is ambiguity or fear regarding immigration enforcement on school grounds, that safety net is torn. It doesn't just affect the student in question; it creates a climate of anxiety that ripples through entire classrooms and communities.

Our state has thrived because we protect and welcome those who come here to contribute. This bill ensures that the same "door" my grandparents walked through, remains open and safe for the next generation. As someone who has seen the long term-effects of a safe and inclusive education system, I urge you to pass HB2445. Let's ensure that every child within Hawai'i, no matter their family's journey, can walk into a classroom and feel they are safe and BELONG.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Calliah Bolosan

11th Grade Waiialua High School

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:34:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2445. I believe it is vitally important in order to create a safety protocol for all of our student body and to set clear boundaries. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:47:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| DIANNE WINTER BROOKINS | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is Dianne Winter Brookins, and I submit testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dianne Winter Brookins

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:55:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristen Kelly | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Student Safety is essential

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:57:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ana Trovinger | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Ana Trovinger, and as a parent with children in public school here in Hawai'i, I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Our schools should exemplify safety and stability, serving as nurturing environments where students can thrive. A standardized plan will empower educators with clear guidance, ensuring that student safety and privacy are prioritized, while also minimizing confusion and panic during emergencies. This approach allows for an uninterrupted learning experience, enabling families to trust that our schools are ready and prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ana Trovinger

O'ahu

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:18:56 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Shannon Rudolph | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:39:50 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Inge Detlefsen | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I couldn't imagine sending a child to school these days not knowing what the school would do if ICE is outside the gate, or attempting to get entry. Schools should make plans taking into account families' needs and inform parents and the community.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:02:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Daphne Loren | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Daphne Loren

[Individual]

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: February 6th, 2026

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is Daphne Loren, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

As an undergraduate student at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa, I have friends, colleagues, and professors who are all concerned about ICE coming onto campus. I'm concerned for the safety and wellbeing of my peers and friends who are here on visas, and also for those who are citizens but may still be targeted by I.C.E. violence because they belong to marginalized groups. Several student organizations at U.H.M. are currently collecting signatures for a petition to make our campus a sanctuary system, which will be sent to the U.H. president. We all want to study and live in peace, and without a clear emergency response for I.C.E. activity in or at public schools, we will not feel prepared or safe.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daphne Loren

O‘ahu

tea.loren.456@gmail.com | (510) 618-9231

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:19:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2445 that protects student safety. HB2445 ensures DOE has a standardized response to keep students safe, calm, and accounted for—especially during confusing, fast-moving situations, such as if immigration enforcement activity occurs at or near campus.

Aloha members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am Jade Kuhiiki, A junior at Wai'anae Highschool Serving as the Student Body President and fulfilling each student voice that is begging to be heard.

As a student, it is very crucial that we address the fear surrounding our community and our state. We witness the countless events regarding the federal immigration and customs enforcement and we realize one thing at the end of the day, this is in our nation, and this will eventually be an event that won't require electronic devices to visually see. It will happen in front of our eyes and we will always remember it. I have witnessed a student who has gone through an extremely traumatic event, being interrogated by federal enforcements while witnessing her father, her only caretaker, being stripped away from their once stable family. She shared that this is a void that continues to consume her mental, physical, and spiritual well-being, that witnessing her father who has never done one wrong or illegal action was something that cannot be unseen. Noemi has to live a life depending on a document that is estimated to take 7 months to over 20+ years for approval just to receive that stability.

I support the idea of implementing an emergency response plan that can counter the hindering fear that our students carry is just enough to help our students feel at peace. There are many students who are unheard, and struggling besides from Noemi. Even ICE prohibited in a public school zone will allow us to fully breathe, and be able to carry on without feeling like we're doing something wrong. How many students will be interrogated, harassed, or even forced to be concluded as "illegal" until our nation realizes that we are still children confused and afraid. There may be nothing we can fix for our nation, but there is still a possibility that our state may be at peace, and that our youth, our future is at peace without that thought in the back of their mind when they see visual representation of enforcement on social media. Students and Children shouldn't be a part of this corrupted nationwide issue.

I would like to personally thank the Economic Development & Technology Committee for acknowledging this ongoing issue as it addresses student and public safety efficiently. I humbly request that you consider the voices of the youth and the voices of the future for Noemi and those who are currently petrified to speak upon this problem.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Jade Kuhiiki

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:16:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Testimony of Jesse Hutchison
[Individual]
In SUPPORT of HB2445**

Aloha,

My name is Jesse Hutchison, and I submit testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Jesse Hutchison

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:44:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nancy J. Budd | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540**

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Nancy J. Budd and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540**. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process and transparency. It is critical that our state provide these protections so all of our citizens, including vulnerable immigrant and mixed-status families in particular, can access essential services without fear and survivors can seek help and safely cooperate with authorities.

State and county participation in civil immigration enforcement near sensitive locations such as schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and courts must be prohibited. People must be able to safely access education, health care, emergency services and courts without fear. Every day we see masked and violent federal “agents” attacking and abducting people, including minors, on streets, at schools and as they enter court buildings to attend hearings. This must stop.

Secretive or masked enforcement undermines due process and public trust. Transparency is essential to constitutional accountability—especially for immigrant communities.

287(g) programs lead to racial profiling, unlawful detention, and fear of law enforcement. Ending deputization keeps local resources focused on community safety—not federal immigration enforcement.

No one should be questioned by immigration authorities without understanding their rights. The TRUTH Act ensures consent, language access, and transparency—core principles of due process.

A single extra day in a sentence can trigger mandatory detention or deportation under federal law. This reform promotes proportional sentencing and prevents unnecessary family separation.

Survivors should never be punished for seeking help. Standardized policies ensure survivors can report crimes safely, support law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and access the protections guaranteed under federal law.

Together, these bills

- Protect families from separation
- Strengthen public safety
- Increase trust in public institutions
- Uphold essential constitutional rights and due process
- Affirm Hawaii's commitment to dignity and justice for all

I respectfully urge you to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Nancy J. Budd

Kaua'i Resident, attorney, and former Hawaii Board of Education member

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:45:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ken Stover | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

support

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:58:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James Tacker | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB2445. We need to protect people in Hawaii and hold ICE accountable.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:12:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jason Lewis | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Jason Lewis, and, as a resident of Lahaina, Hawai'i, I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis, Lahaina, Hawai'i

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:52:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Diann Karin Lynn | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

I am writing to submit my personal testimony in *strong* support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures provide essential community safety tools and support due process and transparency. We owe these guidelines and safeguards to our extensive immigrant community, as well as in support of ourselves and our own personal liberties. All residents, regardless of status, deserve to live in our communities and access essential services without fear.

The Maryland House and Senate gave overwhelming final approval this Tuesday to identical bills that will prohibit agreements between local police and federal immigration agencies, and are likewise working on other bills similar to ours. If they can do it, so can we! I strongly urge you to PASS these measures quickly out of committee and push for them to be also passed in the Senate where appropriate. From there please see they are expeditiously sent to the full legislature for emergency approval and forwarding to the Governor for signature. Time is of the essence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

D. K. Lynn
Honolulu

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:15:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ruta Jordans | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:43:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gabrielle Clark | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Gabrielle Clark and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I firmly believe that everyone, no matter their country of origin, deserves an equal opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy life. No one should fear for their safety in the pursuit of this. No one, no child, should go to school wondering if they won't make it back home. No one should avoid treating their health conditions out of fear of being detained. Having protected spaces, law enforcement transparency & accountability, accessible legal information, due process & fair opportunities for visas protects the mental health, physical health, and overall wellbeing of our community members. We would all be better for it.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Gabrielle Clark
O'ahu

gabbynclark@gmail.com / clarkgn@hawaii.edu

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:55:51 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kencho Gurung | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is Kencho Gurung, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency, so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

We respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Kencho Gurung, Hilo

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:35:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lee-Won Fulbright | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The measures in this bill are extremely important to me as a local Hawaii resident born and raised on Oahu, and to my community. Mahalo for fighting for immigrant justice and the safety of all people here.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:48:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yoon-Hi Fulbright | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Immigrant issues are very important to me. Please pass this bill.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:33:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Joie Yonamine | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is [Your Name], and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Joie Yonamine, Manoa

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:44:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2445.

Tina Marie Even
Waikoloa Village

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:50:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| LorrieAnn Santos | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2445 and I ask for your support of HB2445.

Support HB2445 because it requires DOE to develop a clear response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near schools.

Support HB2445 because it protects student safety and learning and reduces panic during emergencies.

Support HB2445 because it puts our keiki (children), 'ohana (families), and kaiaulu (community) first and beyond the reach of masked, unidentified, untrained, and unwarranted DHS / ICE individuals.

'O wau iho no,

Lorrie Ann Santos, Kane'ohe, O'ahu

Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 a.m.
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Joey Badua In SUPPORT of HB2445

Relating to Protected Community Locations

Rep. Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology

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

My name is **Joey Badua** and I submit testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

The intensity of immigration enforcement does not belong in schools. Witnessing an arrest disrupts the learning environment. Children should not have to fear being dropped off by their parent or walking into class could lead them to be separated from their family. Consequently, children will have a long-term fear of authorities in the event that ICE comes into their classroom. Educators should be trained to teach, support and protect the children. Thus, a standardized plan will give educators clear guidance to protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:26:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kelsey Mapa | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha! As a community member on Maui, I support this bill because it:

- Requires DOE to develop a clear response plan for immigration enforcement activity at/near schools.
- Protects student safety and learning and reduces panic during emergencies.

Mahalo for your time and attention to this matter!

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:05:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dyson Chee | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2445.

TESTIMONY TO HOUSE ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE

House Bill 2445

Aloha Kakōu, my name is Neil Jhed Sagun Melchor, a Freshman at Kealakehe High School on Hawai'i Island. I am testifying on my behalf—as a student, immigrant, and proud advocate for youth voices. I strongly support House Bill 2445.

From February 1st through the 3rd, 32 high school and middle school participants of the annual Secondary Student Conference, like myself, had the opportunity to observe Day 7 of the 2026 legislative session. Throughout this conference, each student had the opportunity to identify, discuss, and debate major youth issues through various activities that allowed us to engage and promote existing bills that directly impact our communities.

House Bill 2445 not only triumphed through our conference, but also deeply in my heart. As a child who immigrated to Hawai'i from the Philippines, I feel a responsibility to stand with my community to ensure that every student, regardless of background, feels safe and supported in school. Supporting this bill is not just about policy, it is about affirming that every student belongs. Hawai'i is home to over 260,000 immigrants, many of whom are passionate students, community members, and loving families who contribute to our schools and neighborhoods everyday.

On the south side of the Big Island, including areas near Konawaena schools where many of my friends live and go to school, the local coffee farms depend on a diverse workforce every year. This past season, some farmers reported fewer workers coming out of worry about immigration enforcement, even when they were legally permitted to work, creating fear in the community and uncertainty about work and family stability. During the conference, I also heard from other students who shared experiences of feeling unsafe or anxious at school because of immigration enforcement in our communities. Hearing their stories made me realize how urgent it is for every student to feel protected and supported at school. House Bill 2445 makes it possible for every student to go to school without fear and to focus on learning and thriving.

No student should ever be subject to fear, emotional distress, and educational disruption because of a background they did not choose. As a student who has built meaningful connections with my kumu, I believe every child should have the same opportunity to feel safe, loved, and comfortable within their classrooms. This bill ensures that every public school has a standardized emergency response for immigration enforcement actions near campuses, which instills and helps restore that sense of community, security, and trust back into our communities.

As the HSSC emblem reminds us, “Ua Mau ke Ea o ka ‘Āina i ka ‘Ōpio”, the life of the land is perpetuated in the youth, i hope my testimony helps ensure every student can feel safe, supported, and valued in our schools, so we can continue to grow and strengthen our communities in unison.

Mahalo for your time, consideration, and for supporting students all across the state.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:50:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert N Mansfield, Jr | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Robert Nawahine Mansfield Jr.

In support of HB 2445

Aloha Rep Greggor Ilagan, Chair, Rep Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair and members of the Committee On Economic Development & Technology.

I strongly support HB 2445 which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies - so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB 2445.

Mahalo and sincerely,

Robert Nawahine Mansfield Jr

96826

rnmsecretbonus@gmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:52:08 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kevin J Block | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Kevin Block and I submit testimony on behalf of myself and my law firm, Maui Immigration Law, LLC, in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540.

Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I have been deep in the trenches, helping the immigrant community through direct representation, advocacy and policy work for over a decade. It is vital for the overall health of the community that parents feel safe bringing their children to school. We have a moral and ethical obligation to protect out keiki.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kevin Block, Attorney at Law

Maui Immigration Law, LLC

Email: kevin@immigrationlawmaui.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:56:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Yvette Kay | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. My address is 77-356 Ainanani Street, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

I support HB2445. Developing and implementing an emergency response plan to address immigration enforcement activities at or near public schools by the Department of Education is very important to upholding people's constitutional rights.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:03:00 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gail Larson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Children are the most vulnerable of all of our citizens. We must protect them in every way possible. And naturally this means while they are in school!!

Please pass this bill.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:03:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Alyce Dodge | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: Feb.6, 2026

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

My name is Alyce Dodge, and I submit testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

As an educator, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alyce Dodge

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:09:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kiara Womack | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

I teach art on O‘ahu. I am a proud descendent of Mexican immigrants. I am an alum of Konawaena High School in Kealahou, South Kona, on Big Island. I have family members who still live in the South Kona coffee belt (so I go back often). My alma mater, Konawaena High School, is one school of many that is missing students as a result of immigration raids in the area. As many of you may know South Kona has been targeted due to the high, mostly Latine, immigrant population, many of whom work on coffee farms. Every time I go home I worry a family friend may have been disappeared. My testimony is coming from a highly privileged point-of-view, and I personally don’t live in constant fear the way so many Latine folks do right now.

I worry about relatives of mine who appear more Latine than I do in the white American imagination. I worry about keiki in the family going to school even though they are natural born citizens. I worry about kūpuna in my family who have been traumatized by decades of xenophobia and hate just so their children and great grandchildren and grandchildren and great nieces and nephew continue to be hated.

As an educator, this bill is important to me. it is important to pass clear legislation that builds protections around our haumāna and school workers as quickly as possible. This bill will help protect schools by instating a protocol. It is important to have protocols in place during moments of crisis so that school workers across Hawai‘i are on the same page and can work together to protect keiki and each other.

Mahalo palena ‘ole for taking the time to read my testimony.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:16:27 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Peter Matlock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Peter Matlock
Individual Testimony
In SUPPORT of HB2445
Hearing Date: February 6, 2026

Committee on Economic Development and Technology
Hawai'i State Legislature

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

My name is Peter Matlock and I am asking you to please support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

We all share the common goal that schools be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

HB2445 makes sure DOE has a clear, statewide plan for schools to protect students, prevent panic, and keep learning on track if immigration enforcement activity occurs at or near campus.

I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Peter Matlock

Hawai'i Island

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:20:55 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| janet Matlock | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

The Department of Education should be proactive, not reactive. Please instruct the DOE to develop, establish, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock

Kailua Kona

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:25:22 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Janille Casabar | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Janille Casabar

Konawaena Elementary School

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: [Friday, Feb 6, 2026 @ 8:30 AM](#)

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

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

My name is Janille Casabar, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

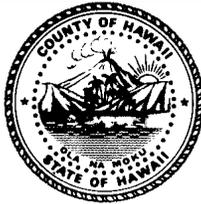
For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Janille Casabar

Konawaena Elementary, Island of Hawaii, Kealakekua

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



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

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 4, 2026
TO: House Committee on Economic Development and Technology
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: HB1870

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. Creating and implementing a standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:40:10 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Christina Puakea Busby | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Christina Busby. I am a resident of Honolulu, a former public school teacher, and a current PhD Candidate in the department of Educational Foundations at UH Manoa. I am urging you to please pass HB2445. Currently, the Hawaii DOE does not have standard procedures pertaining to ICE and Dept. of Homeland Security activity on or near school campuses. Instead, individual schools, principals, and teachers are doing what they can to understand their rights and establish emergency procedures -- if at all. Some schools have not concerned themselves with these matters at all, leaving their students and faculty vulnerable in unexpected situations where ICE may turn up at school. The DOE must take action to safeguard the constitutional rights of all students and staff members. They must develop standardized procedures so that schools can be prepared in case the unthinkable happens - students, teachers, or parents are abducted by ICE at school, as we have witnessed happening in various states around the US. It is important to be proactive. What happens if, like in Minneapolis, ICE agents turn up at schools with high populations of immigrants to detain staff members or students? What happens if, like in Minneapolis, they deploy chemical agents, such as tear gas, on students? What if, like in Minneapolis, they execute civilians on the street in broad daylight? Creating chaotic, dangerous, and traumatizing situations -- how are our schools and teachers to respond in these situations? This is no longer just hypotheticals -- these things are happening to real people across the country and they could very likely happen here, even in Hawaii. Please support this bill. By doing so, we support our teachers and students and help to keep our communities safe. Mahalo

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:59:58 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jenna Khan-Gates | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

My name is Jenna Khan-Gates, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

HB2445 is simple: it makes sure DOE has a clear, statewide plan so schools can protect students, prevent panic, and keep learning on track if immigration enforcement activity occurs at or near campus.

We respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jenna Khan-Gates

O'ahu resident

jennakhan7@gmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:12:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Corinne Solomon | Individual | Comments | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

The well being of students is important.

However, before requiring resources and money for training, implementation, etc, please provide the data to the public showing that this program is necessary.

Mahalo

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:33:51 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jonathan Simonds | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Please support HB2445, it is the bare minimum of protection we can offer to our children while they are at school developing critical social, emotional, and intellectual skills.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:53:03 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Nanea Lo | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nanea Lo, and I submit this testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must remain safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized emergency response plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during high-stress situations—ensuring that learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared to respond appropriately.

Clear protocols will also help school administrators and staff act consistently and lawfully, minimizing disruptions while safeguarding the rights of students and families. When schools are equipped with well-defined procedures, communities can have confidence that children’s wellbeing is the top priority.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to PASS HB2445.

me ke aloha ‘āina,

Nanea Lo, 96826

Carbon Cashback Hawai‘i Member

Hawai‘i Workers Center Board Member

Honolulu Tenants Union Member

Hawai‘i Tax Fairness Coalition

Clean Elections Hawai‘i Member

Feb. 5, 2026

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

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

Apologies for somewhat belated testimony – household emergencies yesterday.

My name is John M. Knox, a retired socio-economic consultant and longtime Waimānalo resident. I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

When I was a boy, there was a TV show that took us back to the “thrilling days of yesteryear” when the Lone Ranger was a roving masked knight fighting for the good. The show often ended with grateful townsfolk asking, “Who was that masked man?” Today, that question is still being asked, but no longer gratefully. Transparency and humanity must be restored to law enforcement – ironically, by better laws!

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

John M. Knox
Waimānalo
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:53:47 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Kris Corrales | Individual | Support | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

Chair, vice chair, and members of the committee,

My name is Kris Eliseo Corrales, and I am a student at James Campbell High School. I stand before you today in strong support of House Bill 2445. I was one of over 160 students that attended the Secondary Student Conference earlier this week who advocated and supported this bill.

I am a proud family member of immigrants and a third-generation Mexican-American citizen. My grandparents immigrated in search of the American Dream, yet even as a citizen, I fear for the safety of myself and my peers.

The stories we see in the news aren't just headlines, they are a terrifying reality for students across the nation. Schools are reporting that 20-50% of their students are missing school in fear of being separated from their family.

The urgency of this bill cannot be overstated. With the 2025 Department of Homeland Security policy removing "protected status" from schools and hospitals, our campuses are now vulnerable to unpredicted raids. A 2023 report by the American Immigration Council finds that Hawai'i has over 250,000 immigrant residents and over 10,000 children. We cannot afford to wait for a tragedy to occur on our islands before we act.

HB 2445 establishes a necessary emergency response framework to govern immigration enforcement on and near public schools by ensuring students are not detained, questioned, or removed from schools without legal authorization.

The important aspect of this bill is that it does not impede on legal immigration enforcement. The bill's intended mandatory training for school admin, teachers, and staff on an established response plan is incredibly important to ensuring our schools are prepared, should a

We must be proactive, not reactive. Please help ensure our schools remain a safe haven for learning, not a place of fear.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 2445, RELATING TO STUDENT SAFETY.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 2445**, relating to student safety. House Bill 2445 requires the Department of Education to develop, establish, and implement a standardized emergency response plan governing immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

I currently volunteer as a Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide. I have helped train teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, parents and senior citizens on what their constitutional rights are, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and how to ensure these rights are not violated. I have also trained them how to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work, their schools and community service locations for interactions with federal agents.

I begin my training presentations with an overview of why knowing our rights is important:

- **AWARENESS:** Many people in our communities simply do not know their rights, so they also do not know when their rights are being violated. Federal agents can take advantage of our ignorance about our constitutional protections as a mechanism to deprive us of them.
- **EMPOWERMENT TO EXERCISE RIGHTS:** Know Your Rights education, in the school context for example, empowers people to be able to exercise their rights to protect themselves, their school, and their employees, students, and communities.
- **BUILD COLLECTIVE POWER:** The more people know their rights and how to exercise them, the more power they have when faced with immigration agents. Knowing your rights is the first step to collective safety.

I then move on to a slide of “Myth and Truth.” The myth is that immigration enforcement and mass deportation focuses on criminals, rapists, and people here “illegally.” What I have witnessed in person and what I have seen reported by credible sources (such as judicial orders), is that federal agents are:

- Detaining the spouses and parents of U.S. citizens, including respected Hawaii business owners, community leaders, and veterans.
- Arresting people at immigration court or check ins (if you are at immigration court or doing an immigration check in, you are going through the “legal” process).
- Ending “Temporary Protected Status” (DHS is trying to strip people here legally of their legal status. Fortunately the courts continue to block this as unlawful).

- Attempts to deport “unaccompanied minors” (children in the U.S. under the protection of the Office of Refugee Resettlement. Fortunately the courts have been able to block this as unlawful as well).

As a lawyer, when I witness federal agents repeatedly attempting to violate the constitutional rights of citizens and noncitizens alike, I find the rhetoric of our federal government describing immigrants as “illegals” ironic. Being in the United States in violation of immigration law is a civil infraction, it is not a crime. Violating the constitutional rights of people within the United States and defying court orders as our federal agents are doing is unlawful. The focus is on the wrong “illegals” these days.

My Know Your Rights trainings have expanded over the course of the last year to include a Prevention and Protection Plan, a process by which we take our understanding of our constitutional rights and engage with them practically in the real world to integrate them in our role as community leaders (school administrators, health care facilities, faith leaders) and into the spaces we lead so we can protect our students, patients, congregants, our friends and neighbors. Preparation for interactions with federal agents is a crucial skill so that communities are protected and rights are upheld. Our students, staff, friends and neighbors deserve our protection.

I **strongly support HB 2445** because I have real world experience as a responder in the aftermath of federal agents engaging in enforcement activity impacting schools. I have conducted rapidly convened training for staff at schools where federal agents have appeared looking for children and their families. I have heard the stories of teachers traumatized by federal agents coming to their home in the pre-dawn hours and subjecting them to questioning in their night clothes and blankets. At the request of school administrators I have facilitated virtual Know Your Rights training in Spanish for Spanish-speaking families of school children in communities traumatized by federal agents.

House Bill 2445 represents a necessary and positive step forward in enhancing school safety and preparing school administrators and staff to protect their communities from federal agents that are, unfortunately, often engaged in unlawful activity. I ask for your **support of HB 2445**.

Warmest aloha,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

HB-2445

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

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cynthia Groves | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

SUPPORT

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:19:25 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

please protect our students and families

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 4:19:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Hailey | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support this bill but only as a stopgap measure. This bill will not fix the problem. The problem is not that ICE agents are being disruptive. The problem is that law enforcement officers are kidnapping children from their schools. Therefore, the solution is to ban these agents from coming within a certain distance of the school.

If ICE agents are entering a school, they are doing it to kidnap children from said school. Whilst the legal training mentioned in the bill will help slow agents down, it does not ultimately stop the problem. No amount of teacher training can keep a child from being traumatized if they watch one of their classmates get dragged away screaming, or perhaps being used as bait to lure out their parents, as happened to Liam Ramos. Unless your plan is to instruct teachers to hand children over to their kidnappers with a smile to avoid "disruption to learning"?

My point is that this bill is a bandaid that you know isn't big enough. It looks nice - its congress saying 'look - we do care! we're trying!' whilst not actually having the courage to address the root issue. This bill is better than nothing, but only barely. It needs to be stronger. Ban ICE from our schools. Now.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:22:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In SUPPORT of HB2445

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

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

My name is Andrew Isoda, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Sincerely,
Andrew Isoda
Lahaina, Mau'i**

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:41:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Joell Edwards | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is Joell Edwards a resident and community leader from Kaua'i, and I respectfully submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which would require the Department of Education to develop a clear and consistent emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable, and trusted places for students to learn. When there is uncertainty around immigration enforcement, it creates fear and confusion—not just for students, but for families, teachers, and school staff. A clear, statewide plan would provide educators with guidance, protect student privacy, and ensure responses are lawful, calm, and centered on student safety.

We do not want to see what is happening on the continent happen here. In Hawai'i, we value our keiki and the hardworking 'ohana who support them. Our schools should never become places of fear or disruption for families simply trying to ensure their children can learn and thrive.

Without clear protocols, individual schools are left to navigate high-stress situations on their own, which can disrupt learning and erode trust between families and the education system. HB2445 helps ensure that schools are prepared, consistent, and focused on their core responsibility: educating and protecting our keiki.

All students deserve to feel safe at school, regardless of background or immigration status. This measure is a reasonable and necessary step to support students, families, and educators across Hawai'i.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Joell Edwards
Wainiha, Kaua'i

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:55:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ann Dorsey | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I urge you to support HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

Thank you

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:39:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Malea | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chairperson Ilagan and Vice chairperson Hussey of the ECD committee. My name is Malea and I am a student at Kalaheo High School. I strongly agree with HB2445. Immigration services at school are not appropriate as it is supposed to be a place where students should come to school feeling safe and not afraid.

Hawaii being a place filled with about 255,000 immigrants give or take and about 99,000 of those people being children either born from immigrants or immigrated here at a young age it doesn't give the right for a immigration service to be able to take a student out of school. Especially with their legal parent or guardian unaware. Students should not have to feel scared at school and parents or guardians should not have to worry about sending their kid to school everyday. There was that time where that missile was supposed to hit Hawaii and everybody was scared. Even though that day it was supposed to come was on a weekend when we went back to school the next day we had to follow an emergency protocol they came up with for us. Our parents had to pack us a ziploc bag full of snacks and write us a letter if they never saw us again. At that moment everyone was fearful for their kids or even for their own lives. Although they are two different topics they both carry the same meaning. Kids should never feel scared that they are going to be taken away from their families especially at school.

If HB2445 is passed I believe that it can help families from not worrying about sending their kids to school. A law that can encourage these immigration enforcers can support the schools and can avoid any further complication with students at school. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:38:07 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB 2445 because this is the world we live in now. At any time, ICE agents may enter school grounds in our state and demand that the school release a child into their custody. Protocols and procedures need to be established to protect children in the event this occurs. House Bill 2445 will ensure that the State Department of Education develops a standardized emergency response plan every public school in the state can follow in the event immigration enforcement activities occur on or near a public school.

Thank you for helping to protect innocent children in our schools from trauma by adopting House Bill 2445.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:44:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Meadow Dawn Stassens | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Meadow Dawn Stassens

Individual

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: [Feb 6, 2026]

To: Chair [Name], Vice Chair [Name], and Members of the Committee

Aloha Chair [Name], Vice Chair [Name], and Members of the Committee,

My name is Meadow Dawn Stassens and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Meadow Dawn Stassens

February 5, 2026

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Lotus Yasuda. I am a senior at Waipahu High School, serving as Chairperson of the Hawai'i State Student Council. Passing HB2445 will have a positive impact on the public school students, like me, within the Hawai'i Department of Education by outlining an emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity near or at our schools.

From Sunday, February 1, to Tuesday, February 3, we held our annual Secondary Student Conference, bringing together 165 students from 34 public schools across our islands to become civically engaged by learning about the legislative process and debating about this legislative session's bills. From this conference, HB2445 was voted the top bill, representing the greatest concern and priority for the students in attendance.

Throughout the debate, students emphasized the importance of school safety. One student from the Central District states, "Schools are meant to be places of learning rather than fear." Through establishing a clear protocol for addressing immigration enforcement activities, many delegates felt that students would feel safe knowing that their teachers and staff have a plan in place.

At Waipahu High School, around 70% of our student population is Filipino. Many of my peers within this percentage are first-generation immigrants from the Philippines. As a friend, I want to ensure that my friends feel secure in school. No student should have to fear for their life at school; **school is meant to be a "safe space."**

This bill is essential for the safety of our students, so I urge you to support HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lotus Yasuda
Waipahu High School
Hawai'i State Student Council

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:35:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Lu Kelley | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

My name is **Mary Lu Kelley** and I am submitting urgent testimony in **strong support of HB2445**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to **PASS HB2445**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
MaryLu Kelley

Koloa, Kauai

Mkelley323@gmail.com

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:37:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jahnavi Stassens | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Jahnavi Richter Stassens

Individual

In SUPPORT of HB2445

Hearing Date: [Feb 6, 2026]

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee

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

My name is Jahnavi Richter Stassens and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jahnavi Richter Stassens

February 5, 2026

**To: Representative Ilagan, Chair
Representative Hussey, Vice Chair
Members of the House Economic Development & Technology Committee
Re: SUPPORT for HB2445
Hearing: 02-06-2026, 8 AM**

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Mia Nishiguchi. I am a senior at Kalani High School, serving as the Hawai'i State Board of Education Student Member, and a member of the Hawai'i State Student Council. As a public school student born and raised in Hawai'i, I see firsthand how important it is for our campuses to remain places where students feel safe and supported, and can focus on learning. HB2445 would help ensure that a clear emergency response plan is established for immigration enforcement activity near or at schools.

From Sunday, February 1, to Tuesday, February 3, we held our annual Secondary Student Conference, bringing together 165 students from 34 public schools across our islands to become civically engaged by learning about the legislative process and debating bills from this legislative session. From this conference, HB2445 was voted the top bill, representing the greatest concern, current urgency, and priority for the students in attendance.

Throughout the debate, students emphasized that safety and stability are foundational to education. One delegate from the Central District shared, "Individuals who are immigrants face extreme fear in school." Having a transparent protocol in place would reassure students that educators and administrators are prepared, reducing anxiety and allowing classrooms to remain focused on instruction rather than uncertainty.

In California, chronic absenteeism has risen 22% due to concerns about local enforcement; HB2445 will help Hawai'i avoid similar outcomes by ensuring that families continue to trust schools as safe, nurturing environments for their children.

At Kalani High School, around 58% of our student body is Japanese. Many of my friends are first-generation immigrants from Japan, including through our extensive exchange program partnerships. HB2445 would not only support local families but also preserve the safety of our relationships and life-long bonds of international partners who choose Hawai'i's Public Schools for cultural exchange and educational collaboration. HB2445 would affirm the vision of a public high school graduate who is both globally competitive and locally committed.

This bill is essential for the safety of our students, so I urge you to support HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Mia Nishiguchi
Kalani High School
Hawai'i State Student Council

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:35:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Lorelei Nishiguchi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Representative Ilagan, Chair

Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

Members of the House Economic Development & Technology Committee

Re: SUPPORT for HB2445

Hearing: 02-06-2026, 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Lorelei Nishiguchi.

I wholeheartedly believe that our keiki should be safe in a school environment. As a parent of a public DOE school student I feel a deep responsibility to support this bill for my child and her classmates.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha,

Lorelei Nishiguchi

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:36:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kendrick Nishiguchi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To: Representative Ilagan, Chair

Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

Members of the House Economic Development & Technology Committee

Re: SUPPORT for HB2445

Hearing: 02-06-2026, 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Kendrick Nishiguchi.

ICE or any other immigration enforcement agencies have no place conducting their operations at public schools or any other teaching institutions. It is our responsibility to protect our keiki regardless of their ethnicity and nation of origin. The welfare and physical safety is paramount above any political agenda. Kids need to feel safe and as a Kalani HS parent myself, that is of the utmost importance to me.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha

Kendrick Nishiguchi

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:53:36 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nancy Manglallan-Yang | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Schools should be safe places. Children and their families should have safe access to education. Children are already at increased risk to gun violence without sufficient protection, they must be protected as much as possible from violence from ICE

February 5, 2026

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Gavin Antonio. I am a junior at Kaiser High School and also serve as the Hawai'i State Student Council's Recording Secretary. Through the passing of HB2445, which outlines an emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity near or at our schools, it will support the safety and well-being of both students and the staff and faculty beyond just the public school system.

The annual Secondary Student Conference was held from February 1st to the 3rd, bringing together 165 students from 34 public schools across Hawai'i. Participants improved their civic engagement through learning about the legislative process and debating bills from this legislative session. The public school system in Hawai'i is not perfect. There are such a varying amount of conditions and problems these schools across the islands face.

Yet, there was one topic that so many agreed upon as one of the greatest concerns for students today. A majority of these representatives in attendance voted in strong support of HB2445, receiving an outstanding count of 122 votes.

It is an objective fact that immigration enforcement activities have received an extreme amount of commentary and coverage in modern times, highlighted by some as a necessity and others as an atrocity. Regardless of how one views current immigration enforcement activities, whether positive or negative, it is an undeniable fact that it is growing increasingly more prevalent within the nation.

By failing to prepare for these changing policies, we are preparing our students and staff to fail in times of conflict. It is crucial that we prioritize the well-being of our students, staff, and faculty in any way that we can, and so I urge you to support HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Gavin Antonio
Kaiser High School
Hawai'i State Student Council

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:30:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| maile nakano | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Protect our students!

Show aloha

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 6:57:12 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jason Nakano | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Jason Nakano, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jason Nakano

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:55:43 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Charmel Bagaoisan | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

February 6, 2026

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Charmel Bagaoisan. I am a junior at Waipahu High School, serving as their Leeward District Student Council Representative. Passing HB2445 will have a positive impact on the public school students, like me, within the Hawai'i Department of Education by outlining an emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity near or at our schools.

It is important that other students feel safe in the environment they are in most of the time. They shouldn't have to fear every second of the so-called "safe-space" if they are going to be detained by I.C.E. Creating an emergency response plan in these situations will ensure safety to these students.

At Waipahu High School, around 70% of our student population is Filipino. Many of my peers within this percentage are first-generation immigrants from the Philippines. As a friend, I want to ensure that my friends feel secure in school. No student should have to fear for their life at school; school is meant to be a "safe space."

This bill is essential for the safety of our students, so I urge you to support HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Charmel Bagaoisan

Waipahu High School

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:13:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Stella Brown | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Stella Brown, I am a current senior from the Big Island, and I am writing to testify in favor of HB2445. As a state, it is in our best interest to protect our children and every student who is simply trying to have a normal childhood and get educated at school, and I believe implementing a standardized plan would help protect the children around our state. There are so many stories of children being impacted because of immigration enforcement, and if there is something we can do about it, we should. As someone who is very involved in my community, I have met so many awesome young students who deserve to be able to spend quality time at school and with their families. Thank you.

HB-2445

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:30:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Rebecca Haynes | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Rebecca Haynes, and I submit testimony in strong support of HB2445, which requires the Department of Education to develop a clear emergency response plan for immigration enforcement activity at or near public schools.

Schools must be safe, stable places for students to learn. A standardized plan will give educators clear guidance, protect student safety and privacy, and reduce confusion and panic during emergencies—so learning can continue and families can trust that schools are prepared.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to PASS HB2445. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Rebecca Haynes
Mililani / 96789

To: Representative Ilagan, Chair

Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

Members of the House Economic Development & Technology Committee

SUPPORT for HB2445

Hearing: 02-06-2026, 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Economic Development & Technology Committee,

I am writing in strong support of HB2445. My name is Princes Hanah Subia, a junior at Honoka'a High and Intermediate School, serving as the Class of 2027' President. Being a public school student born and raised in Hawai'i, I witnessed firsthand the importance of safety within our schools and Ohana. Passing HB2445 would not only allow for our students and staff to be protected by a law, but it would continue to allow regulated national immigration enforcement efforts.

From Sunday, February 1, to Tuesday, February 3, I attended the annual Secondary Student Conference, which brought together 165 students from 34 public schools across the Hawaiian Islands to become civically engaged by learning about the legislative process and debating bills from this legislative session. From this conference, HB2445 was voted the top bill, representing the greatest concern, current urgency, and priority for the students in attendance.

Throughout the debate, students emphasized that safety and stability are foundational to education. One delegate from the Central District shared, "Individuals who are immigrants face extreme fear in school." Similarly, being an immigrant myself, I express these concerns of fear and distraught. Having a transparent protocol in place would reassure students that educators and administrators are prepared, reducing anxiety and allowing classrooms to remain focused on instruction rather than uncertainty.

At Honoka'a High and Intermediate School more than 50% of our student body is Filipino. Many of my friends are first-generation immigrants from the Philippines, including myself. Additionally, our school collaborates with international programs to integrate foreign students within the Hawaii School System. HB2445 would not only support local families but also preserve the safety of our relationships and life-long bonds of international partners who choose Hawai'i's Public Schools for cultural exchange and educational collaboration. HB2445 would affirm the vision of a public high school achieving a diverse and inclusive student body.

This bill is essential for the safety of our students, so I urge you to support HB2445.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Princes Hanah Subia

Honoka'a High and Intermediate School

February 6, 2026