



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
**KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB2562**  
**RELATING TO WORKPLACE VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS.**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

February 6, 2026

Room 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** N/A.

2 **Department Testimony:** Healthcare facilities such as hospitals that are licensed by the  
3 Department of Health are also required to be accredited by an entity approved by the U.S.  
4 Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, such as the Joint Commission.

5 In 2022, the Joint Commission issued new and revised consensus-based standards that  
6 implement a framework for effective hospital workplace violence prevention systems, including  
7 leadership oversight, policies and procedures, reporting systems, data collection and analysis,  
8 post-incident strategies, training, and education, extending these workplace violence  
9 prevention requirements across all of its accreditation programs.

10 Healthcare facilities must meet these standards or risk losing accreditation and their license to  
11 operate in the State of Hawaii. As a result, a formal program enforced by state agencies, and in  
12 particular the Department of Health, is unsupported by the data and duplicative. To that end,  
13 the Legislature may consider requiring healthcare facilities to publicly report workplace  
14 violence statistics on their campuses for purposes of transparency, public education, and  
15 employee recruitment and retention.

16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII  
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS  
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA

February 6, 2026

To: The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Chair,  
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the House Committee on Health

Date: Friday, February 6, 2026  
Time: 9:00 a.m.  
Place: Conference Room 329, State Capitol

From: Jade T. Butay, Director  
Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR)

**Re: H.B. 2562 RELATING TO WORKPLACE VIOLENCE  
IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS**

**I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION**

The **DLIR appreciates the intent** of this measure, which seeks to strengthen protections against workplace violence and enhance worker safety and well-being. The Department recognizes the growing concern over the frequency and severity of workplace violence incidents and supports efforts that promote prevention, reporting, and accountability.

**II. CURRENT LAW**

§396-4 assigns DLIR responsibility for administering and enforcing occupational safety and health laws in the State through the adoption of Federal Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) standards by rulemaking. These standards are enforced by the Hawaii Occupational Safety and Health Division (HIOSH) to prevent work-related injuries and illnesses.

Currently, OSHA—and therefore HIOSH—does not have a standard that specifically addresses workplace violence. However, HIOSH retains enforcement authority under the General Duty Clause, which requires employers to provide employment and workplaces free from recognized hazards that are causing or are likely to cause death or serious physical harm. When workplace violence hazards are recognized and feasible means of abatement exist, HIOSH may enforce employer obligations under this authority.

In addition, HIOSH may rely on industry consensus standards, guidance documents,

and recognized best practices as evidence when prosecuting General Duty Clause violations, as appropriate.

### **III. COMMENTS ON THE HOUSE BILL**

DLIR appreciates the objectives of this bill and acknowledges the Legislature's intent to establish clearer expectations for workplace violence prevention, particularly within health care settings. The Department notes, however, that HIOSH already enforces broad safety and health requirements applicable to all employers under Hawai'i Administrative Rules §12-60-2(b), which address safe work practices, hazard identification, inspections, and safety and health training.

These existing provisions provide sufficient flexibility and authority for HIOSH to address workplace violence hazards across industries, including health care, without the need for industry-specific OSHA standards. This approach ensures consistency with Hawai'i's federally approved State Plan while allowing enforcement to adapt to evolving workplace risks.

Where feasible, the Department recommends careful consideration of enforcement roles to avoid overlapping regulatory obligations while preserving DLIR's statutory responsibility for occupational safety and health enforcement under HRS Chapter 396.





**Rosalee Agas-Yuu, RN**  
President

1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96815  
Tel: (808) 531-1628  
Fax: (808) 524-2760

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## **In Strong Support of HB 2562: Relating to Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings**

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

My name is Rosalee Agas-Yuu, and I am the President of Hawai'i Nurses' Association, OPEIU Local 50 and a registered nurse in Hawai'i. I have been a nurse for 33 years. I testify **in strong support of HB 2562.**

Over the years, I have been hearing reports that fellow healthcare workers from various facilities are being subject to workplace violence at the bedside. As a bedside nurse, the fear is real - the realization that you are in danger and there is a delayed response to your need to protect yourself and those around you. As a Union for healthcare workers, this topic has been brought up at the bargaining tables with mixed results. I have heard many nurses' testimonies to employers and the anguish is real for many.

All healthcare workers are at risk for injury, both physical and mental, everyday at work. There is a need for real, enforceable protections for them at the workplace. As we all know, our job is to make sure all our patients are cared for and their safety is our priority. This bill will ensure that every facility recognizes workplace violence as a priority.

Let us enhance safety for all who are in a healthcare facility - all the healthcare workers, their patients and the public.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify for HB 2562.

Sincerely,

Rosalee Agas-Yuu

President

Hawai'i Nurses' Association, OPEIU Local 50

**Name of addressee**

Date

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**Name of addressee**

Date

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

**House Committee on Health**

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

**House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness**

To: Chair Lisa Marten  
Vice Chair Ikaika Olds

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

**Re: Submitting Comments**  
**HB 2562, Relating to Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings**

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

Thank you for the opportunity to provide **comments** on this measure, which seeks to address issues surrounding workplace violence in health care settings. Hospitals and health care facilities share the legislature's concern about violence against health care workers and recognize the real and growing challenges faced by frontline staff, particularly in emergency departments and behavioral health settings. Ensuring the safety of patients, staff, and visitors is a fundamental responsibility of every health care provider.

Acute care hospitals operate under extensive state and federal expectations related to workplace safety and violence prevention. At the federal level, hospitals follow Occupational Safety and Health Administration guidance on preventing workplace violence in health care and social service settings, which emphasizes hazard identification, incident reporting, staff training, and post-incident response. While these guidelines are not a single prescriptive federal standard, they are widely relied upon and integrated into hospital safety and risk management programs. In addition, hospitals participating in Medicare and Medicaid must maintain a safe

environment of care, which includes requirements related to safety management, staff training, and incident response.

Nationally-recognized accrediting organizations also require hospitals to address workplace violence. For example, since 2022, The Joint Commission has required accredited hospitals to maintain comprehensive workplace violence prevention programs. These standards require organizations to assess risks, implement prevention and mitigation strategies, train staff in de-escalation and response, track and analyze incidents, and take corrective action when needed. Compliance with these accreditation standards is routinely surveyed and directly tied to a hospital's ability to participate in federal health care programs.

Consistent with these federal and accreditation expectations, hospitals in Hawaii already maintain workplace violence prevention policies, zero-tolerance statements, incident reporting systems, staff education on de-escalation techniques, and coordinated response protocols involving clinical leadership, security, and, when appropriate, law enforcement. Many facilities also conduct regular risk assessments, deploy trained security personnel, and tailor safety strategies to specific units based on patient acuity and community needs. These efforts reflect an ongoing commitment to protecting the health care workforce while continuing to provide timely access to care for patients in crisis.

Our members remain committed to working collaboratively with policymakers, regulators, labor representatives, and frontline staff to strengthen workplace violence prevention in a way that is effective, evidence-based, and operationally workable. We appreciate the legislature's focus on this important issue and look forward to continued dialogue to ensure that any new requirements build upon the efforts made by healthcare providers to keep employees safe.



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

**RE: HOUSE BILL NO. 2562, RELATING TO WORKPLACE VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS.**

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS THE INTENT** of House Bill No. 2562, RELATING TO WORKPLACE VIOLENCE IN HEALTH CARE SETTINGS.

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

This bill, as received by your Committee, would establish minimum statewide requirements for health care facilities to:

- (1) Prevent, respond to, and address workplace violence;
- (2) Protect health care workers from retaliation; and
- (3) Enhance safety for patients, health care workers, and the public.

This measure would take effect upon its approval.

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

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

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

With that said, many of the action steps that would be required under this bill have already been implemented at our FQHCs out of necessity but to the extent stringent budgetary constraints permit. If this measure becomes law, FQHCs will likely have to divert funding away from patient services to purchase equipment and train staff. Also, with the enactment of H.R. 1 on July 1, 2025, and the likely shifting of patients away from Medicaid to the uninsured population, health care providers are already bracing for a dramatic increase in indigent costs that will have to be borne by providers. At this critical time, any additional costs to providers, including FQHCs, will have a detrimental impact on patient services and threaten the viability of providers.

**Be that as it may, because this is such a critical issue, the HPCA wishes to work with the Legislature to adjust the implementation timing of this measure to ensure that FQHCs are financial capable of meeting these new requirements.**

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Greg Takayama, Chair  
The Honorable Sue L. Keohokapu-Loy, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Health

The Honorable Lisa Marten, Chair  
The Honorable Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair  
Members, House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness

From: Jace Mikulanec, Director, Government Relations, The Queen's Health Systems

Date: February 6, 2026

Re: Comments on HB2562 - Relating to Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings

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The Queen's Health Systems (Queen's) is a nonprofit corporation that provides expanded health care capabilities to the people of Hawai'i and the Pacific Basin. Since the founding of the first Queen's hospital in 1859 by Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV, it has been our mission to provide quality health care services in perpetuity for Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i. Over the years, the organization has grown to four hospitals, and more than 10,000 affiliated physicians, caregivers, and dedicated medical staff statewide. As the preeminent health care system in Hawai'i, Queen's strives to provide superior patient care that is constantly advancing through education and research.

Queen's appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB2562, which establishes statewide health care worker safety and workplace violence prevention requirements for health care facilities. As the incidence of workplace violence in health care facilities continues to increase, we share and appreciate the Committee's interest in helping to ensure healthcare workforce safety is prioritized. Queen's has taken, and continues to take, necessary steps to expand security measures in our systems; most recently by installing metal detectors at main entry points to facilities and also instituting a personal safety system called Strongline Pro - allowing each caregiver and staff to have a duress alarm on their employee badge that, when activated, will allow security to immediately respond to the exact location where an incident is occurring.

Additionally, Queen's maintains robust workplace violence policies and procedures to respond to workplace violence with incident reporting protocols, de-escalation training, and coordinated responses. We would also note that hospital facilities are highly regulated by state and federal government as well as within the industry; we would urge the Committee to ensure that policy sent forth in HB2562 supports, and does not duplicate, requirements or policies that hospitals already have in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on HB2562.

*The mission of The Queen's Health System is to fulfill the intent of Queen Emma and King Kamehameha IV to provide in perpetuity quality health care services to improve the well-being of Native Hawaiians and all of the people of Hawai'i.*



**Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Health**

**HEARING: Friday February 6, 9:00 A.M.**

**PLACE: Room 329 Hawai'i State Capitol and via videoconference**

**HB2562 – Relating to Workplace Violence in Health Care Settings**

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the House Committee on Health, Chair Sayama, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the House Committee on Labor, and Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance, thank you for hearing this measure, HB2562, which aims to establish statewide health care worker safety and workplace violence prevention requirements for health care facilities. **Hawai'i - American Nurses Association (Hawai'i-ANA) is in strong support of HB2562.**

Hawai'i-American Nurses Association (Hawai'i- ANA) is the professional association for over 17,000 registered nurses who live and work in Hawai'i. Our mission is to advocate for the improvement of the healthcare system in the communities where we live and work.

Hawai'i-ANA surveyed licensed nurses who live in Hawai'i in late 2025 to identify their priority interests, and this was a top priority. Nurses in Hawai'i are well aware that assaults in the workplace can be prosecuted under current law in Hawai'i, however that has occurred only rarely since that law took effect. It seems that the process is cumbersome for hospital administration to be expected to call police into the hospital to begin the process. And the violence on nurses continues in our

workplace. We need measures in place to prevent these assaults from occurring. Those measures are very thoughtfully laid out in this bill, with necessary monitoring and enforcement carried out by our Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and Department of Health. Nurses of Hawai'i applaud the purpose of this bill.

Hawai'i-ANA thanks the Committees for considering this measure and respectfully requests your favorable consideration.



Contact information for Hawai'i – American Nurses Association:

Chair of Advocacy Committee: Linda Beechinor, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

President: Denise Cohen, PhD, APRN, FNP-BC

Executive Director: Elizabeth Kahakua, RN, BSN

phone (808) 779-3001 500 Lunalilo Home Road, #27-E, Honolulu HI 96825

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:44:53 PM

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

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

Comments:

Aloha I am a registered nurse of over a decade. Several years ago I was attacked as I was discharging a patient. Without any provocation without any warning without any threats- the patient punched and choked me in full view of other patients including a child and mother. The same individual who is known to the community stabbed someone else shortly afterwards and was prosecuted for it. I continue to be haunted by the incident. I don't know if I have ptsd from it but I definitely needed therapy and missed weeks of work afterwards. Currently my facilities security is not allowed to put hands on anyone, Not allowed to restrain or remove anyone. They write a report of any incident and call 911 only. I continue to worry about my safety in the same event. Thank you for anything that can be done for nurse and staff safety. - Daniel James RN

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:02:14 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noelle Yoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

My name is Noelle Yoza, and I am a registered nurse at Straub Benioff Medical Center. I have been a nurse for 14 years. I testify in strong support of HB2562.

I have been hit, yelled at, and threatened by patients while in the workplace. Some patients have a know history of physical or verbal abuse, and I have been scared to go in to some patients' rooms to take care of them. There are no protections to take care of healthcare workers and keep patients accountable for their actions.

This bill would protect workers who speak up and require hospitals to take real action to prevent workplace violence. Please pass HB2562.

Mahalo,

Noelle Yoza, Honolulu, Hawaii

**To:** House Committee on Health  
**Re:** HB2562 - STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

My name is Janae Akima, and I am a Registered Nurse at Kuakini Medical Center. I have been a nurse for 5 years. I testify in strong support of HB2562.

As a nurse, I have been subjected to workplace violence both physically and verbally from both patients and visitors. My experiences include being grabbed by the wrists and shaken by a patient that was twice my size. In a separate incident, a patient and family member were screaming profanities such as "f\*cking cunt" and "stupid b\*tch" down the hallway at multiple nurses.

We as nurses, need more protection from assault and battery. I became a nurse to save lives, not to have to protect my own life every day.

This bill would protect workers who speak up and require hospitals to take real action to prevent workplace violence. Please pass HB2562.

Mahalo,  
Janae Akima, Aiea, Hawaii

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:25:39 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Polly Slade	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

My name is Polly Slade, and I am a registered nurse at KMCWC. I have been a nurse for 30 years. I testify in strong support of this Bill.

I have experienced aggressive/violent behavior from patients and visitors and at times felt unsafe at my work place.

This bill would protect workers who speak up and require hospitals to take real action to prevent workplace violence. Please pass HB2562.

Mahalo,

Polly Slade, Honolulu, Hawaii

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:13:54 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Courtney Kacir	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

My name is Courtney Kacir, and I am a registered nurse at Kapiolani Medical Center, I have been a nurse for 27 years. I testify in strong support of HB2562.

Over the years I have been yelled at, called names, scratched, pinched, kicked, punched, had my butt grabbed by the spouse of a patient, and had a doctor use his privates to pin me up against a med counter. The list goes on and on. I believe the worst form of harassment is the type I'm currently enduring...creating a feeling of uselessness. I was hired to function as a critical care nurse however, my main duties are functioning as the nurses aide, ward clerk, and Med Surg nurse.

This bill would protect workers who speak up and require hospitals to take real action to prevent workplace violence. Please pass HB2562.

Mahalo,

Courtney Kacir, Honolulu, Hawaii

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:00:24 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Adam De Marchi	HNA at The Queen’s Medical Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: House Committee on Health

Re: HB2562 - STRONG SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

Adam De Marchi, a registered nurse with 15 years of experience, currently at The Queen’s Medical Center, in the position of Behavioral Emergency Support Team, testifies in strong support of HB2562. He reports that workplace violence is a routine part of his daily work and that verbal abuse, threats, and physical violence from patients and visitors are frequently minimized by hospital leadership. He states that existing “zero tolerance” policies are ineffective, accountability measures such as behavioral contracts are rarely enforced, and staff are often blamed while violent behavior is downplayed. Mr. De Marchi asserts that hospital administration lacks the authority or willingness to take meaningful action, and that legislation is necessary to ensure accountability, protect workers who report violence, and require hospitals to implement effective workplace violence prevention measures. He urges the Committee to pass HB2562 to help create safer working conditions for healthcare staff.

This bill would protect workers who speak up and require hospitals to take real action to prevent workplace violence. Please pass HB2562.

Mahalo,  
Adam De Marchi  
Honolulu, Hawaii

**To:** House Committee on Health

**Re:** HB2562 - STRONG SUPPORT

# Aloha Chair Takayama and committee members,

My name is Megan and I am a registered nurse at kapiolani in the pediatric icu. I have been a nurse for 6 years and I strongly support this bill.

This past year has been the most challenging of my career. I and my coworkers have faced sexual harassment and verbal threats both in person and online with greater frequency. We have done everything we can by reporting it and alerting our superiors but they are not protecting us. Inappropriate language and asking nurses out on dates to even mentioning that they can get guns to push their way has left us feeling unsafe in our workplace. It has even gone so far as threats of doxing us online. Its affecting our lives both at work and at home. It came to a point where i was afraid to participate in activities with my Halau in the community out of fear of harm to me and my hula sisters if this person found me. My concerns fell on deaf ears and took months for action to actually happen but it was too late.

This bill would protect workers who speak up and require hospitals to take real action because right now I feel unheard and alone. Please pass HB 2562. Please help protect us.

Mahalo

Megan R. Kaneohe, Hawaii

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:59:47 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dedania Tyau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in support of HB2562.

Healthcare workers shouldn't have to worry about our safety as we're providing care and life-saving measures to our patients. A healthcare employer shouldn't rely on its nursing staff to deal with repetitive threats, screen patients, look through their belongings and potentially defuse or disarm a perpetrator.

We work in facilities where the property is more protected than the people who work in it. Where administrative offices have safety measures that our hospitals and clinics lack.

It's a sad state of healthcare when we have to negotiate hard for contract language that makes the employer accountable for workplace violence prevention and response. In my healthcare facility we've had to deal with guns, machetes, knives, and unknown substances. And we've had to worry about whether or not threats will become actual acts of violence.

Since some employers are not willing to take a more proactive approach in preventing and responding to healthcare violence, we ask that you put the bill through. It will help to provide the safe workplace environment that staff and patients require. Patient and healthcare workers' safety and lives are at stake.

Thank you

**LATE**

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:00:14 AM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Schumacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Workplace violence against healthcare workers has always been a problem in our industry. Unfortunately, it seems to be more common as of late. However, if that's due to an increase of attention via social media or an increase in violence, it's hard to say.

As a nurse that is currently trying to get back to caring for my patients after being injured on the job by an unruly and uncontrollable patient, this bill is very important to me. On August 8, I was caring for a patient that was actively swinging and trying to hit those of us trying to give him care. At one point, I was the only nurse in the room with him and had to try to restrain his arms to keep him from hitting me further. The same patient during the day had struck coworkers as well and already kicked me in the head. This interaction ended with me having multiple torn tendons in my shoulder.

after several months of physical therapy, trying to regain strength in my Shoulder, it was determined that I should have surgery to reattach these tendons and muscles that were no longer working. My surgery was completed in November and I started the road to recovery. In early December it was discovered that my surgical site had an infection. This led to another surgery and having to have the hardware holding the muscles in my shoulder together removed, being hospitalized for 8 days to receive IV antibiotics and having a semi-permanent line placed so that I could continue IV antibiotics for 6 weeks.

in mid February, I will be able to return to work for half the amount of hours that I would normally work and not be able to return to the full duties of my job. This has me unable to work as a nurse currently and unsure of the future of my career as a nurse.

**LATE**

**HB-2562**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:20:35 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

My name is Keoki Medeiros, and I have been serving as a registered nurse in Hawai‘i for over 14 years. I have worked at Queen’s Medical Center for more than 10 years, and I am here today in strong support of HB2562.

Throughout my career in emergency psychiatric care, I have witnessed and experienced workplace violence due to unsafe staffing and inadequate systems to protect frontline healthcare workers. I have been verbally threatened, physically assaulted, and placed in unsafe situations while caring for patients in severe mental health crisis.

In one incident, I was violently assaulted on the unit, knocked unconscious, and seriously injured. I was out of work for nearly three months. Instead of meaningful system changes, the focus often became, “What could you have done differently?” rather than addressing unsafe conditions.

We chose this profession to care for people in their most vulnerable moments. Our patients deserve compassionate, skilled care, and nurses deserve to provide that care in safe, supportive environments.

When violent behavior is allowed to continue without proper intervention or accountability, it puts everyone at risk. Violence against healthcare workers should never be accepted as part of the job. Zero tolerance is key.

HB2562 would require hospitals to take real, proactive steps to prevent workplace violence and protect employees who speak up. It is a critical step toward improving safety, retention, and quality of care in our hospitals.

I respectfully ask that you **STRONGLY** support and pass HB2562.