



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO  
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WRITTEN TESTIMONY

Testimony COMMENTING on HB2576, HD2, SD1  
RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date and Time: THURS., April 9, 2026 at 10:03 AM

Room Number: 016

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** There is no cost to the Department of Health (Department).
- 2 **Department Position:** The Department offers comments and recommended amendments on
- 3 this measure relating to background checks for licensed healthcare facilities.
- 4 **Department Testimony:** The Office of Health Care Assurance (OHCA) provides the following
- 5 testimony on behalf of the Department. We support the intent of the measure to help clarify
- 6 and streamline the background check requirements for healthcare facilities.
- 7 The Department wishes to highlight our continuing concern regarding the uncertainty of formal
- 8 FBI approval of the revised statutory language. The FBI must review and approve the amended
- 9 statute for Hawai'i to continue to access national fingerprint-based criminal history record
- 10 information for licensed healthcare facilities.
- 11 If the FBI does not approve the proposed statutory amendments, the State would lose the
- 12 ability to conduct any fingerprint-based background checks for ALL healthcare facilities until the
- 13 statutory language is revised again, resubmitted to the FBI, and subsequently approved – this
- 14 could take months or even years. This interruption would have significant operational impacts

1 on healthcare facilities, delay the onboarding of essential workers, and impede our ability to  
2 ensure patient safety.

3 We respectfully request that this risk be considered as the measure moves forward and that  
4 clarity and compliance with FBI requirements remain a priority to avoid any disruption to  
5 fingerprinting authority.

6 **Offered Amendments:**

7 **Page 8, lines 5-9:** ...required for individuals, including students who:

8 (i) Are licensed physicians or physician assistants credentialed by a hospital licensed  
9 under section 321-14.5; or

10 (ii) Have submitted fingerprint as a condition of their licensure; and

11 (iii) Will be working or volunteering at a hospital licensed under section 321-14.5.

12 **Page 9, line 8:** ...name-based background check biennially; provided that a check of out-of-state  
13 records shall not be required if the individual has not lived or been employed outside the State  
14 since the individual's last background check.

15 **Page 13, lines 4-7:** Fingerprint-based background check or name-based background check  
16 record information pursuant to this section shall be used exclusively by the department or its  
17 designee, for the sole purpose of determining whether an...

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



## THE QUEEN'S HEALTH SYSTEMS

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To: The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members, Senate Committee on Judiciary

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

Date: April 9, 2026

Re: Support of HB2576 HD2 SD1 - Relating to Background Checks.

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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 testimony in **support** of HB2576 HD2 SD1, which clarifies and streamlines background check requirements for healthcare facility applicants, operators, and direct patient access workers. We share the Department of Health's interest in ensuring the safety of healthcare facilities; which is why we adhere to stringent background checks that meet state, federal, and industry standards – including those required by CMS and The Joint Commission. HB2576 HD2 SD1 will provide much needed clarity of existing statute and streamline the background check requirements for applicants, operators, employees, and volunteers at healthcare facilities.

We fully support the proposed amendments put forth by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH). Thank you for hearing this important measure and for allowing Queen's to provide testimony in support.

*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.*

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 10:03 am  
Conference Room 016 & Video Conference

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson  
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: HB 2576, HD2, SD1 – Testimony In Support  
Relating To Background Checks**

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My name is Michael Robinson, Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over seventy locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH strongly supports HB 2576, HD2, SD1 which requires prospective applicants, operators, employees, and adult volunteers at healthcare facilities to undergo initial background checks which include criminal history, abuse, and neglect, and to submit these results to the Department of Health (DOH) upon request as a condition of licensure. The measure clarifies and streamlines background check requirements for healthcare facility applicants, operators, and direct patient access employees. HB 2576, HD2, SD1 represents a consensus reached by the DOH, Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH), hospitals and community partners.

HPH currently conducts comprehensive background checks on more than 7,500 employees, including statewide and federal criminal history searches, credential and education verification, and license-related disciplinary reviews through a long-standing, trusted vendor. These background checks do not utilize fingerprints and instead utilize an individual's social security number, legal names and aliases to meet federal program participation requirements and accreditation standards, including Joint Commission requirements.

**There are no Federal statutes or regulations requiring hospitals to subject any of its employees to FBI fingerprinting for purposes of conducting background checks.** As such, HB 2576, HD2 is consistent with federal law. Some states require fingerprinting as a condition of professional licensure. For example, in Hawaii licensed health professionals such as APRNs, RNs, LPNs, and security guards—are already required to submit fingerprints to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs.

For those licensed professionals in our workforce, requiring fingerprints would duplicate existing processes for that class of professionals and create unnecessary administrative burdens with questionable marginal benefit to patient safety given current safeguards.

Additionally, as an employer, HPH is cognizant of Hawai'i Employment laws aimed at protecting employees from discriminatory hiring practices. Under HRS §378-2.5, employers are limited on how far back they may inquire into and consider conviction records. Employers are additionally required to ensure that any conviction is rationally related to job duties. The state's contracted vendor utilizes an algorithm that flags certain petty misdemeanors as *automatically disqualifying without regard for look-back periods or job relevance*. Moreover, FBI fingerprint checks reveal all forms of an individual's criminal history, including arrest records which employers are prohibited from considering, as opposed to being limited to actual convictions. Thus, the name-based background checks that have been conducted by HPH without incident for years are by far more reliable and are in compliance with Hawai'i Employment laws.

A cumbersome, broad-based fingerprinting process may inadvertently prevent workers qualified under Hawai'i laws entry into the healthcare workforce . This can delay hiring, divert resources from patient care, and adversely impact individuals who may be suitable candidates. The streamlined procedures in HB 2576, HD2, SD1 enables healthcare providers and workers to efficiently enter the workforce while assuring that the security of patients is addressed.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



## Hawaii Medical Association

1360 South Beretania Street, Suite 200 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96814  
Phone: 808.536.7702 • Fax: 808.528.2376 • hawaiimedicalassociation.org

### SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Date: April 9, 2026  
From: Hawaii Medical Association (HMA)  
Elizabeth Ann Ignacio MD - Chair, HMA Public Policy Committee

**RE HB 2576 HD2 SD1** RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS. Healthcare Facilities; Background Checks; Applicants; Operators; Third-Party Employers

#### **Position: Support**

This measure would clarify and streamline background check requirements for healthcare facility applicants, operators, and direct patient access workers. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

HMA supports this measure as amended. Protecting patient safety is paramount. HMA appreciates the progress on this measure for clarification and alignment on specific background check operations. The revised bill maintains reasonable background review processes that safeguard vulnerable individuals while avoiding unnecessary duplication or administrative burden.

Thank you for allowing the Hawaii Medical Association to testify in support of this measure.

### REFERENCES AND QUICK LINKS

Hawai'i Medical Board. *Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Professional and Vocational Licensing Division*, State of Hawai'i, <https://cca.hawaii.gov/pvl/boards/medical/>

Interstate Medical Licensure Compact. *Interstate Medical Licensure Compact Commission*, <https://imlcc.com/>

#### **2026 Hawaii Medical Association Public Policy Coordination Team**

Elizabeth A Ignacio, MD, Chair • Robert Carlisle, MD, Vice Chair • Christina Marzo, MD, Vice Chair  
Linda Rosehill, JD, Government Relations • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

#### **2026 Hawaii Medical Association Officers**

Nadine Tenn-Salle, MD, President • Jerald Garcia, MD, President Elect • Elizabeth Ann Ignacio, MD, • Immediate Past President  
Laeton Pang, MD, Treasurer • Thomas Kosasa, MD, Secretary • Marc Alexander, Executive Director

HB 2576 – Related to Background Checks: Senate Hearing JDC 04-09-26-1

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Thank you for hearing HB 2576, for which I am submitting written testimony in strong support.

As Clinical Director of the Eye Surgery Center of Hawaii, I fully endorse the proposed exemption for healthcare professionals already credentialed by an acute care hospital.

Our independent, state-licensed ambulatory surgery center specializes in cataract, glaucoma, retina, and other vision-restoring procedures. We depend on more than sixty medical professionals—including ophthalmologists and anesthesiologists—who hold active privileges at Hawaii Pacific Health and other hospital systems.

These providers already complete rigorous background checks during hospital credentialing. Requiring duplicative FBI fingerprint checks for the same care in our outpatient setting adds unnecessary burden without improving patient safety. Granting the exemption would improve workforce flexibility, help meet Hawaii's growing demand for timely eye care, and maintain the highest standards of quality.

This is sound public policy that will benefit patients across our islands. Thank you for your consideration. I am available if you need additional information.

Best regards,

Ronald Walker, MBA, RN

Clinical Director

Eye Surgery Center of Hawaii

808-356-4300

[rwalker@eyesurgeryhi.com](mailto:rwalker@eyesurgeryhi.com)

April 8, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard  
Members of the Committee

**Re: HB 2576 HD 2 SD 1 – Relating to Background Checks – Support**

Aloha kākou!

LeadingAge Pacific West is pleased to support House Bill 2576 HD 2 SD 1 which would clarify the background check requirement process for employees, applicants and volunteers working in health care settings in Hawaii.

LeadingAge Pacific West is a leading advocate for quality, mission-driven housing, care and services for older adults. Our nonprofit members include providers of affordable senior housing, residential care facilities for the elderly (assisted living), life plan communities, skilled nursing care, home and community-based services, home health and hospice care.

The current background process is arduous and time-consuming for employers. It is important to ensure the safety of residents living in our member communities; it is also imperative that changes are made to the current process to support recruitment and retention of a high-quality caregiver and clinical workforce. HB 2576 HD 2 SD 1 provides a much-needed first step to expedite the process by allowing health care employers to utilize additional background check vendors to conduct background checks in Hawaii. In addition, we support recent amendments to the bill that allows for one-time finger printing and eliminates duplicate finger printing requirements for clinical and professional licensure. While we believe additional changes to the overall process would be helpful, this measure is a step in the right direction.

For these reasons, LeadingAge Pacific West is pleased to support HB 2576 HD 2 SD 1 and urges you pass the measure.

Sincerely,  
Amber King  
Vice President, Legislative Affairs

# SURGICARE OF HAWAII

500 Ala Moana Blvd. Tower 1, Suite 1B Honolulu, HI 96813

Thursday, April 9, 2026, 10:03 am  
Conference Room 016 & Video Conference

## **Senate Committee on Judiciary**

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

From: Brandy Kirstein, DNP, MBA, FNP-C, APRN  
Administrator, Surgicare of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i Pacific Health

Re: **HB 2576, HD2, SD1 – Testimony in Support and Requesting Amendment  
Relating To Background Checks**

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My name is Brandy Kirstein, and I am the administrator of Surgicare of Hawai'i (SOH). Surgicare is a multispecialty for-profit ambulatory surgery center which is accredited by AAHC, with five operating rooms and two procedure rooms. Originally opened in 1983, the facility is managed by Hawai'i Pacific Health (HPH). At SOH we provide care to 25-40 patients per day.

SOH supports HB 2576, HD2, SD1 which requires applicants, operators, employees, and adult volunteers at healthcare facilities to undergo background checks which include criminal history, abuse, and neglect, and to submit these results to the Department of Health (DOH) upon request as a condition of licensure. Because many of the doctors at SOH also perform procedures at other hospitals as well as facilities, we believe an additional amendment of exempting workers who have been credentialed by a hospital licensed under section 31-14.5 as previously suggested by the Healthcare Association of Hawai'i (HAH) would eliminate duplication of background check processes and enhance the efficacy of performing background checks for all providers.

We would like to add that our physicians who provide care at our facility are not employed by us. Our physicians are employed by HPH and go through the same rigorous background checks and credentialing as do our 70-75 employees and health care providers who are similarly employed and who undergo similar background checks. These background checks do not utilize fingerprints and instead utilize an individual's social security number, legal names and aliases to meet federal program participation requirements and accreditation standards. Additionally, we require drug testing. Thus, it would be duplicative and unnecessary for Surgicare to conduct additional background checks on the providers and staff at our facility.

We also note that in Hawai'i licensed health professionals such as APRNs, RNs, LPNs, and security guards are already required to submit fingerprints to the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs as a condition of professional licensure. For these licensed professionals on our staff, the requirements under HB 2576 duplicate existing processes and create unnecessary administrative burdens with questionable marginal benefit to patient safety given current safeguards.

As Surgicare works with more than 170 physicians who use multiple facilities, it would be burdensome for those physicians to be subject to background check requirements at every facility. For example, a physician may perform certain procedures at SOH or another ambulatory facility and may also conduct rounds on patients at a skilled facility. Requiring these same providers to undergo separate fingerprinting each time they practice in another licensed setting would create duplicative administrative burdens without meaningfully enhancing safety, given that their qualifications and background have already been thoroughly vetted through HPH's credentialing process. Health care providers employed by HPH go through extensive credentialing before they are permitted to practice at any of our facilities, including ambulatory surgical centers. Those providers include doctors of medicine and osteopathy, dentists, podiatrists and clinical psychologists, and APRNs who are licensed and recognized by the Board of Nursing. Allied health professionals employed by HPH must also submit to the credentialing process. Allied health professionals include certified ocularists, certified registered nurse anesthetists, certified nurse specialists, licensed clinical social workers, licensed mental health counselors, nurse practitioners, optometrists and physician assistants. Therefore, we respectfully suggest the following amendment.

*Amend Section 2, Subsection (c), paragraph (2) on page 8, lines 6-8 to exempt individuals who are credentialed by a hospital from the fingerprint requirement:*

(2) An initial name-based background check;

provided that a fingerprint-based background check shall not be required for individuals, including students, who will be working or volunteering at or who are credentialed by a hospital licensed under section 321-14.5 and individuals who have submitted fingerprints as a condition of their licensure.

We are also concerned that the utilization of the state's contracted vendor may result in outcomes that do not conform with what is required under Hawaii employment law under HRS 371-2.6 to prevent discriminatory hiring practices. Per HRS 371-2.6 an employer may only consider an individual's criminal conviction *if the conviction bears a rational relationship to the duties and responsibilities of the position and protected look back periods state in statute.* However it is our understanding that the state's contracted vendor utilizes an algorithm that flags certain petty misdemeanors as automatically disqualifying without regard for those protected look-back periods (7 years for felonies and 5 years for misdemeanors), job relevance and potentially in some cases where a conviction of a crime has not occurred but the individual has only been arrested and fingerprinted. In these instances, it is our concern that the state's contracted vendor's

algorithm may adversely impact on individuals who may be suitable candidates despite past, low-level offenses.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



**April 9, 2026 at 10:03 am**  
**Conference Room 016**

**Senate Committee on Judiciary**

To: Chair Karl Rhoads  
Vice Chair Mike Gabbard

From: Hilton R. Raethel  
President and CEO  
Healthcare Association of Hawaii

Re: **Testimony in Support**  
**HB 2576 HD 2 SD 1, Relating to Background Checks**

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 healthcare 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 testimony **in support** of this measure. Protecting vulnerable individuals is a core responsibility for every healthcare provider, and comprehensive background checks are already a standard part of hiring and onboarding processes. Facilities routinely conduct robust name-based screenings that include multi-state criminal database searches, county-level court record reviews, sex offender registry checks, abuse and neglect registry checks, OIG exclusion list screening, and the use of unique identifiers to detect aliases or prior identities. These layered tools are designed specifically for healthcare settings and are meaningful safeguards.

We understand DOH's perspective that fingerprinting should be required for employees working in home- and residential-based settings. We recognize that the risk profile in those settings can differ from that of hospitals and understand DOH's interest in retaining fingerprinting requirements for facilities outside the hospital setting based on those distinctions. This bill does, however, recognize that hospitals have comprehensive background checks in place, and that the passage of this measure would not result in the rolling back of safety or oversight in any meaningful way. Importantly, DOH is not currently requiring or enforcing the use of fingerprint-based background checks for hospitals.

This proposal is focused on reducing unnecessary duplication, cost, and administrative burden—particularly where individuals have already been vetted through other rigorous processes such as licensure or hospital credentialing. We share the Department of Health's goal of ensuring patient

safety and believe these amendments maintain that standard while making the process more efficient and workable in practice.

We would respectfully request some minor amendments, which we have discussed with DOH:

1. We request the following amendments on page 8, lines 1-8. This amendment would acknowledge that licensed physicians and physician assistants who are credentialed by hospitals do not need to be fingerprinted. This amendment is necessary because these types of providers often furnish care in other settings such as ambulatory surgical centers or skilled nursing facilities on a consistent but limited basis – therefore, fingerprinting these individuals would create a major burden for these residential or community-based settings of care without much benefit. The credentialing process is already extremely thorough and would unearth any problematic findings—as a result, we believe these individuals should not be subject to fingerprinting requirements.

The amendments would also clarify the statute and ensure the exemptions are clear and easy to understand.

(2) [~~Provide consent to the department or its designee to conduct background checks.~~] An initial name-based background check; provided that a fingerprint-based background check shall not be required for individuals, including students, who:

- (i) Will [~~will~~] be working or volunteering at a hospital licensed under section 321-14.5;
- (ii) Are licensed physicians or physician assistants credentialed by a hospital licensed under section 321-14.5; or [~~and~~]
- (iii) Have [~~individuals who have~~] submitted fingerprints as a condition of their licensure.

2. We would request an amendment at page 9, line 8 that would clarify that a name-based background check done after an initial or biennial check would not need to include national databases as long as the individual has not lived or worked in another state during that period:

(d) All operators and direct patient access employees of a healthcare facility, and, in the case of any healthcare facility operated in a private residence, all adults living in the home other than the clients shall provide consent to the department or its designee to conduct and shall undergo a name-based background check biennially; provided that a check of out-of-state records shall not be required if the individual has not lived or been employed outside the State since the individual's last background check.

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

Testimony of  
Jonathan Ching  
Head of Government Relations

Before:  
Senate Committee on Judiciary  
The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

April 9, 2026  
10:03 a.m.  
Conference Room 016  
Via Videoconference

**Re: HB 2576, HD2, SD1, Relating to Background Checks.**

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and committee members, thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 2576, HD2, SD1, which clarifies and streamlines background check requirements for applicants, operators, employees, and volunteers at healthcare facilities.

**Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i SUPPORTS HB 2576, HD2, SD1 and AMENDMENTS offered by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii.**

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i deeply appreciates the productive dialogue and continued efforts by the Healthcare Association of Hawaii (HAH) and the Department of Health (DOH) on this bill. We believe that everyone who will be impacted by this legislation, including patients, will benefit from this important effort.

Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i has always viewed the goal of this measure to update the current requirements to ensure patient safety without causing undue burden on an already-stressed health care system and its providers. While HB 2576, HD2, SD1, is a big improvement from current requirements, **Kaiser Permanente Hawai'i supports HAH's proposed amendments, which furthers the goal of reducing undue burden by removing redundancies in the background check process:**

*Exempting individuals who are credentialed by a licensed hospital from fingerprinting requirements*

Credentialing allows an individual to practice medicine in a specific facility. This process includes primary-source verification of an individual's education, training, malpractice history, and more. In addition to this process, individuals who work in a hospital licensed under HRS 321-14.5 will be required to undergo a name-based background check, as required by this bill.

This proposed amendment is sensible because the results provided by fingerprinting such providers are unlikely to differ from what is found through name-based background checks and the credentialing process.

*Not requiring review of out-of-state records for individuals who have not lived or been employed out of the State since their last background check*

If an individual lived in or had been employed in another state prior to seeking employment in Hawai‘i, this bill requires the review of out-of-state records as part of their initial background check. If the individual did not hold employment or lived elsewhere since their initial background check, there is no reason to review the same out-of-state records again during the individual’s biennial background check. Doing so may result in an unnecessary expense and burden that may be absorbed by the individual.

**Patient safety is of paramount importance to Kaiser Permanente Hawai‘i. HAH’s proposed amendments do not compromise this – they only seek to remove redundancies from the proposed process. We appreciate the committee’s consideration of HAH’s proposed amendments.**

Again, we deeply appreciate the engagement by DOH and HAH on these meaningful changes to current background check requirements and the opportunity to be part of this discussion.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify on this important measure.

**HB-2576-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:10:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/9/2026 10:03:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Johnnie-Mae L. Perry | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

2576 HB RELATING TO BACKGROUND CHECKS.

HB. No 2576 - Relating to Background Checks  
House Committee on Judiciary  
April 9, 2026 - 10:03 AM  
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE  
Conference Room 016, State Capitol  
By  
Gaudy Amaya

**Testimony in Support of HB 2576: Relating to Background Checks.**

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary,

Aloha, my name is Gaudy Amaya and I first would like to express my sincere gratitude to the Committee for the opportunity to testify in **strong support** of HB 2576. I'm submitting this testimony on my own behalf as a concerned citizen and social work student dedicated to the protection and well-being of our community.

I believe this measure is a vital step forward toward safeguarding Hawaii's most vulnerable residents. Especially those who rely on the integrity of our healthcare system for their daily care and survival. HB 2576 prioritizes safety by closing dangerous loopholes in our current screening processes. By expanding background checks beyond medical staff to include every individual who has access to a patient or their personal things, this bill acknowledges that risk is not limited to clinical interactions. Anyone with proximity to a vulnerable person holds a position of trust that must be verified.

Furthermore, the mandate to cross reference both local records and FBI national records is a critical security measure. It ensures that perpetrators can not evade their criminal history simply by moving to Hawai'i. Safety is not a one time event but an ongoing necessity, the requirement for biennial checks ensure continuous safety. It ensures ongoing compliance by granting the DOH the power to revoke or suspend licenses if an individual refuses these checks.

HB 2576 sets necessary boundaries by blocking those with a history of violence, theft or forgery from these sensitive roles. This bill provides patients and families with the assurance that their loved ones are protected while in a healthcare facility. As a social work student, I understand how important risk mitigation for vulnerable populations is to maintain long-term, stable and safe environments.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB2576. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Gaudy Amaya