

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA
PHILLIP L. MALLORY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2054
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
DIRECTOR
JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

February 23, 2026

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

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawaii National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB2054 SD1.

The primary objective of this legislation is to prevent the Hawaii National Guard from being deployed to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement agencies, or National Guard units from other states operating within Hawaii, particularly when the Governor opposes the deployment.

Should SB2054 SD1 be enacted, it would create a complex and potentially precarious situation for Hawaii National Guard Commanders and service members, exposing them to significant legal risks. These risks could manifest as both state and federal criminal liability. The dilemma arises from the legal obligation for service members to obey orders from their superiors, which stands in stark contrast to the possibility of being held accountable for those orders if they are later determined to be unlawful. For example, in recent instances of federal activations of Guardsmen pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 12406, service members complied with the directives issued to them, even as several states sought legal remedies to challenge the orders through lawsuits. Ultimately, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal activations were improper or illegal under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 12406. However, it is important to highlight that this critical ruling was issued only after the Guardsmen had already executed the orders they were given, thereby placing them at substantial legal risk. Thus, SB2054 SD1 could similarly expose our Hawaii Guardsmen to state criminal liability in parallel circumstances where the legality of their actions is subsequently challenged.

Moreover, it is crucial to consider the President's role as Commander in Chief, who is vested with the authority to deploy Title 10 forces to enforce federal law under the auspices of the Federal Insurrection Act, found in 10 U.S.C. §§ 251-255. Historically, this act has been invoked

by various presidential administrations, especially during pivotal national crises, such as the Civil Rights Era. During these tumultuous years, Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson invoked the Insurrection Act to deploy troops to enforce desegregation laws in Southern states. Frequently, these military deployments occurred despite strong vocal opposition from state governors and local elected officials. Notably, the military call-ups associated with the Insurrection Act were never successfully challenged in court as unlawful. However, if a state were to mount a successful legal challenge against the federal administration's actions regarding such a deployment, it could once again place our Guardsmen in a vulnerable position, exposing them to potential scrutiny and prosecution by state or federal authorities, contingent on the Supreme Court's prevailing interpretations.

In light of these substantial legal and ethical implications, I strongly urge you to consider the myriad potential consequences that the passage of SB2054 SD1 may have, not only for the Commanders and members of the Hawai'i National Guard but also for the broader governance landscape. This legislation has the potential to alter the operational dynamics of the Hawai'i National Guard, heightening uncertainty about the legal parameters within which they operate. Additionally, it warrants a thorough examination of the broader implications this bill could entail for the delicate balance of power and the relationship between state authority and federal governance. The potential passage of SB2054 SD1 could fundamentally challenge the operational readiness of the Hawai'i National Guard and may reverberate through the intricate web of state-federal relations.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for you to oppose this measure.

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2054 SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY

February 26, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB2054 SD1**. This bill aligns closely with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform's core principles regarding government accountability, civil liberties, and locally accountable public safety. By requiring the Hawai'i National Guard and state military personnel to refrain from cooperating with federal or out-of-state deployments when the Governor objects, the bill ensures that state resources are used ethically, transparently, and in service of the people of Hawai'i. This upholds the Platform's commitment that government should be "of, by and for the people" and accountable to them.

The measure also strengthens checks on executive and external power, reinforcing civil liberties and protecting residents from potential overreach by federal or external forces. The Platform emphasizes the importance of preventing oppression and ensuring that public safety laws are enforced fairly, equitably, and without discrimination. By giving the Governor statutory authority over state cooperation, this bill ensures that emergency and public safety operations remain locally accountable and aligned with Hawai'i's values and priorities.

Furthermore, this measure embodies the Platform's principle that true public safety requires both accountability and community-centered governance, allowing the state to protect its residents while maintaining ethical and lawful standards.

For these reasons, this bill is consistent with the values and priorities articulated in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform, and we respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2054 SD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

IN SUPPORT OF SB2054



The Libertarian Party of Hawaii strongly supports SB2054, the Defend Hawaii Bill. As Hawaii's leading voice for individual liberty, limited government, and constitutional fidelity, we have championed this measure from the start—through our Defend Hawaii campaign, activism packets, template testimonies, and direct advocacy. SB2054 prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from assisting federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state national guards in Hawaii when the Governor objects, thereby reclaiming state sovereignty over our militia and preventing its misuse in federal overreach. This is a pragmatic victory for the Bill of Rights. The government exists to protect rights, not to initiate force against the people.

We are aware of opposition from the Hawaii National Guard, including concerns in testimony that the bill could create legal risks or liabilities for commanders and service members such as conflicts between state and federal obligations, potential exposure to prosecution or claims for non-assistance, and issues from dual-status frameworks. These concerns fundamentally misunderstand the bill's narrow and protective scope.

This measure:

- Does not compel disobedience to lawful federal orders;
- Does not apply when the Guard is federalized under Title 10 (under federal command);
- Does not interfere with actions required by existing federal or state law (with clear carve-outs);
- Does not impose new personal liabilities.

It clarifies boundaries to eliminate ambiguity and reduce risk. Limited to state-controlled units (Title 32 or state active duty) and triggered only by the Governor's explicit objection to specific in-state deployments, SB2054 aligns duties with the 10th Amendment's reservation of powers, shields Guard members from being forced into constitutionally dubious federal operations (such as those violating the 4th Amendment), and ensures they follow clear, lawful gubernatorial directives. This bill is aimed at reducing exposure rather than increasing it. Historical state refusals to assist in certain federal actions demonstrate that such assertions of authority do not lead to widespread individual jeopardy.



The 10th Amendment reserves to the state all powers not delegated to the federal government. Authority over unfederalized state militias is a core reserved power. SB2054 enforces this by preventing compelled state assistance that dilutes Hawaii's control and turns our Guard into an arm of federal agendas that may conflict with local priorities or constitutional limits.

The 2nd Amendment declares a well-regulated Militia necessary to the security of a free state. Hawaii's citizen-soldiers are dedicated to defending our islands, responding to disasters, and protecting communities. By barring unauthorized federal or out-of-state cooperation, SB2054 preserves this militia's integrity, ensuring it serves Hawaii's interests rather than being diverted to domestic enforcement or other missions that could infringe on individual rights or undermine public trust. This honors the Founders' vision of armed, self-reliant citizens as a check against tyranny.

Furthermore, SB2054 bolsters 4th Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. It prevents state resources from enabling federal actions that violate privacy and liberty. In Hawaii, with our unique cultural heritage, Native Hawaiian sensitivities to external overreach, and isolation in the Pacific, withholding Guard support from such operations is essential to safeguarding residents' rights and preventing echoes of historical injustices.

We commend the bill's sponsors for advancing this critical reform. In an era of expanding federal power, SB2054 is a step toward restoring balance: less centralized coercion, more local self-determination, and true security through constitutional limits. Hawaii can lead the nation in defending liberty by passing this bill.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii urges the committee to pass SB2054 unanimously without weakening amendments. Let us reclaim our sovereignty, honor our Constitution, and **Defend Hawaii.**

In liberty,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:53:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Libertarian Party Testimony in Support of SB2054

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Austin Martin, and I am the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB2054, the Defend Hawaii Act, which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state National Guard units operating in Hawaii when the Governor has objected to their deployments. As someone who helped draft and advance this legislation, I am proud to see it progress, even in its refined form, as it upholds the core intent of safeguarding our state's sovereignty and protecting our residents from unwarranted federal overreach.

SB2054 strengthens the Governor's authority by ensuring that our National Guard — under state control or Title 32 status — cannot be compelled to support external forces against the state's wishes, except as required by federal or state law. This provision prevents the misuse of Hawaii's military resources in operations that may conflict with local priorities, such as controversial federal enforcement actions or uninvited interventions. By clarifying these boundaries, the bill reinforces the principles of federalism embedded in the U.S. Constitution, where states retain significant control over their militias as outlined in Article I, Section 8, and the Tenth Amendment.

This legislation is a vital step toward defending Hawaii's autonomy in an era of increasing federal encroachment. Our islands have a unique history and cultural identity that deserve protection from external impositions that could disrupt community harmony or infringe on civil liberties. For instance, it could prevent scenarios where the Guard is drawn into supporting federal raids or other operations that the people of Hawaii, through their elected Governor, deem inappropriate. As libertarians, we champion limited government, individual freedoms, and the right of states to resist overreaching central authority. SB2054 aligns perfectly with these values by empowering Hawaii to say "no" to unwanted federal involvement, thereby preserving the Guard's role in serving our state—whether in disaster relief, training, or genuine emergencies—rather than advancing agendas from Washington, D.C.

This bill would not preclude legitimate mobilizations under federal law, but would certainly help to affirm and uphold our State's rights when the situation isn't so clear cut. While the final

version is more focused than initial drafts, it maintains the essential spirit of prioritizing state control and constitutional fidelity. Passing this bill will set a precedent for other states, demonstrating Hawaii's commitment to self-determination and responsible governance. It enhances public safety by ensuring our resources are allocated where they are most needed: here at home.

I urge you to vote YES on SB2054 and advance this important measure to protect Hawaii's independence and the well-being of our people.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Martin

Chair, Libertarian Party of Hawaii



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING: Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 am, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2054, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2054, SD1**, which prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawaii when the governor has objected to the deployments.

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. The trust we have built has given us proximity to hear stories that rarely reach these chambers.

Here on Maui, about 600 members of the Hawaii National Guard were deployed to support our community with recovery after the 2023 wildfires. They provided needed support to Maui at that time and their service here strengthened the bond of respect and appreciation that Maui residents have for the Hawaii National Guard. Unfortunately, that good will is at risk because of what we have witnessed on the mainland. For months we have seen the national guard of other states federalized and deployed in states over the objection of the state's governor. This tactic of deploying a state's national guard over the objection of the state's governor to engage in federalized activity directed at residents of their home state has upended the public perception of the guard as trusted figures engaged in disaster relief and community support in times of need. Policing their friends, family members, and neighbors at the direction of the federal government has reportedly damaged relationships between the guard and the communities they serve, impaired readiness, and lowered morale. **We support SB 2054, SD1**, because use of the national guard by the federal government over the governor's objection would undermine trust in the Hawaii National Guard, unnecessarily heighten fear in the public, and interfere with readiness of the Guard to serve its intended state and community purposes.

On Maui, we are already witnessing an erosion of trust and an increase in fear as the result of aggressive federal agents and their vastly broadened scope of activity. Community members are afraid to go to work and children are unable to go to school. We have heard stories from healthcare providers of patients forgoing critical care, and from faith leaders that people feel unable to attend religious services due to fear of confrontation by federal agents. Trust in law enforcement of all kinds, even our local police departments, has eroded as a result. **We support SB 2054, SD 1**, as an appropriate protection of the mission of the Hawaii National Guard by codifying in state law that the Hawaii National Guard not be deployed over the objection of the governor.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Mendoza
Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*
El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:47:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2054 SD1 that prohibits the Hawai'i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawai'i when the governor has objected to the deployments. We've already seen on the continent where the National Guard was brought in to a state/city against the wishes of the Governor, Mayor, and people living in the community, and the horrific results that followed. Please pass this important measure to help prevent similar tragedies from occurring on our islands. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:24:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, which helps preserve our state's integrity and public policies regarding law enforcement. Our National Guard troops are putting their lives in danger and should not be asked to do so where the federal government is asking for their deployment in circumstances that our governor objects to the deployment.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:17:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2054.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:46:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2054.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:57:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:13:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB2054 because it reinforces democratic accountability, constitutional governance, and community-centered public safety, values that should unite legislators across the political spectrum.

At its core, this bill affirms a simple but vital principle: decisions about the deployment and use of the Hawai‘i National Guard within our state should remain accountable to Hawai‘i’s elected leadership and the people they serve. SB2054 ensures that when the Governor objects to an out-of-state National Guard deployment or the use of federal troops or federal law enforcement within Hawai‘i, state military resources are not compelled to assist in those operations unless required by law.

This is not a rejection of emergency response, disaster relief, or mutual aid. The bill explicitly preserves the Governor’s broad authority to activate the Guard for emergencies, civil defense, disaster response, and assistance under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. SB2054 simply draws a clear line between legitimate, consent-based cooperation and the use of state resources in operations that lack the approval of Hawai‘i’s chief executive.

From a constitutional perspective, SB2054 is well grounded. The U.S. Constitution reserves significant authority over state militias to the states, except where Congress has clearly exercised its enumerated powers. By reaffirming this balance, the bill protects federalism, prevents jurisdictional overreach, and reduces the risk of confusion or escalation during sensitive operations involving armed personnel.

From a public trust standpoint, the bill is equally important. In recent years, the deployment of military or militarized forces without clear local consent has raised concerns nationwide about transparency, legitimacy, and civil liberties. SB2054 helps ensure that any use of force within Hawai‘i’s communities reflects local values, clear lines of accountability, and democratic oversight; key ingredients for maintaining public confidence in public safety institutions.

Notably, legislation with similar intent has gained bipartisan traction in other states, supported by organizations across the ideological spectrum. This underscores that SB2054 is not partisan or ideological; it is a prudent governance measure that respects state authority, constitutional structure, and the principle that armed forces operating within a state should do so with the consent of that state’s elected leadership.

For these reasons, SB2054 deserves strong support. It strengthens public safety, protects civil authority, and affirms Hawai‘i’s right to self-governance within our federal system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:06:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2054 will provide one defense against federal overreach. I strongly urge its passage.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:52:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryl Nordstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Darryl Nordstrom

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:44:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Please do not allow our National Guard to become a political pawn or put them in the potential position of harming their own communities.
As a combat veteran I strongly support this bill.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:45:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. Our national guard members should not be forced to conduct operations such as have been done in mainland cities, with Minneapolis the prime example. The governor gets to decide, not Trump, not Noem, or anyone else.

Please move this bill forward.

lynne matusow

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:19:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both as a resident of Lahaina and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network.

This Bill would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit Hawai'i National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawai'i if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members.

Hawai'i must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 gives us one crucial tool of defense against the federal overreach and power that the administration is using to abuse our nation's citizens in violation of the Constitution. Please do your part in protecting our fragile democracy by passing SB2054.

Thank you for your commitment to our democracy,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, Hawai'i

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:34:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:42:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

Hawaii must act now to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

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

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:04:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elli Pace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill affirms the authority of Hawai‘i’s elected leadership to make decisions that directly affect our communities. When the Governor objects to a deployment within our state, that objection should carry meaningful weight. This measure strengthens state sovereignty, reinforces civilian oversight, and ensures that decisions involving military support in Hawai‘i reflect the will and best interests of our residents.

Clear lines of authority are essential to maintaining public trust. By establishing guardrails around deployments over gubernatorial objection, this bill promotes accountability, transparency, and respect for local governance.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass this measure.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:19:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

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

Gail Morrison

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:17:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muftiah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people.

As we have seen, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

I strongly urge its passage.

Mahalo for receiving my testimony.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:27:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:51:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:15:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2054 SD1. I believe codifying into state law a statute which helps guard against federal overreach and allows the governor to have agency in this matter. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:04:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry McDonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a common sense requirement, If our governor disagrees, then we say NO to deployment of the Hawaiian Guard. Period. BUT, he may need this law to give him the strength to stand up to the over reaching Federal government. Pass swiftly please

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:17:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill reinforces the principle that Hawaii’s military resources should be deployed to protect its communities, not to support external operations that may not align with state priorities or public safety needs. By placing this authority firmly in the hands of the governor, SB2054 SD1 ensures accountability, prevents mission creep, and upholds Hawaii’s right to self-determination in times of crisis. As an individual and a member of Indivisible, I support this bill and urge its passage.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 24, 2026

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha, Senators,

**I am writing this testimony in support of SB2054 SD1, "Relating to Public Safety"
(Limiting Hawai'i National Guard Deployment).**

Only **the Governor of Hawai'i, or his or her designated representative**, can be empowered to decide if and when the **Hawai'i National Guard** should be deployed. The Guard must not be deployed for any reason other than one specified by the Governor, and the Governor should **specify what the reason is and indicate, when possible, how long the Guard will be used for this purpose. There must be no deployment of the Hawai'i National Guard against the Governor's wishes or without his express permission.**

We citizens need you, our legislators, to act on this now, before any crisis comes to our island home, to protect the Guard and the people of Hawai'i from any unlawful, unconstitutional, or other sort of overreach of the federal government or any other government.

We citizens need the assurance that any decision to deploy the **Hawai'i National Guard comes from someone here in the islands who has the authority to do so.**

Please vote in favor of **SB2054 SD1**.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:18:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill prohibiting National Guard deployment in the state without the governor's approval.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:31:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Hollenbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:23:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Collat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

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

Aloha, Michael

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:37:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Leigh Knittle	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2054 LIMITS NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

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

Mary Leigh Knittle