

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
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KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2054 SD2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY

BY

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

March 15, 2026

Aloha Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice-Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, 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 SD2.

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 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2 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 SD2 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 SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2054 SD2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Palekana Lehulehu
(House Committee on Public Safety)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i
(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 18, 2026

9:30 AM

Lumi 411

Aloha e Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, a me Members of Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Palekana Lehulehu:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2054 SD2** which clarifies that the Hawai‘i National Guard may not assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or another state’s National Guard operating in Hawai‘i when the Governor has objected to that deployment. OHA appreciates the recent amendments requiring that any gubernatorial objection be made in a written determination that clearly identifies the deployment or operation at issue, states the factual basis for the objection, specifies its geographic scope and duration, is provided to relevant state officials, and is maintained as a public record subject to confidentiality requirements.

OHA supports measures that preserve clear lines of state authority, democratic accountability, and community trust in the use of military and law enforcement resources within Hawai‘i. The amendments in this measure strengthen that framework by ensuring that any objection by the Governor is formal, transparent, and administratively clear, rather than informal or uncertain in application. This added specificity is important both for sound governance and for providing notice to the officials responsible for implementation.

For Native Hawaiian communities and other populations that have historically experienced over-policing, displacement, and the harms of militarization, clarity and restraint in the use of armed forces in civilian contexts is especially important. Hawai‘i’s history, including the overthrow and the long legacy of militarization, gives these questions particular weight here. When military resources are used in civilian settings without clear local accountability, the effect on public trust can be profound, especially among Kānaka Maoli.

This bill does not interfere with actions required by federal or state law, nor does it limit the Guard's role in disaster response or true emergencies. Rather, it establishes a guardrail against discretionary assistance to outside deployments that lack the consent of Hawai'i's elected state leadership. In doing so, it helps ensure that public safety operations involving military resources remain transparent, narrowly controlled, and accountable to the people of Hawai'i. For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS SB2054 SD2**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



**TESTIMONY ON SB 2054 SD2
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Committee on Public Safety
Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 9:30 AM
Conference Room 411 or via Videoconference

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") offers comments on SB 2054 SD2.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

This is an emotional and sensitive issue, not only for Hawai'i but for cities and states across the nation that are grappling with questions about the proper balance of state authority, federal authority, and the role of the National Guard. These debates touch on constitutional boundaries, community trust, and the real-world consequences for the men and women who serve.

While we appreciate the intent of this measure, if enacted, SB 2054 SD2 could place Hawai'i National Guardsmen and women in an impossible position. If federal authorities activate the Guard under existing federal law, service members are legally obligated to follow those orders. SB 2054 SD2, however, creates the possibility that the State could later determine those actions were unlawful, thus exposing Guardsmen and women to state criminal liability.

Hawai'i hosts the Indo-Pacific's most critical military commands. The Guard plays a key role in that ecosystem—supporting federal missions, responding to emergencies, and serving as a bridge between state and federal authorities.



The Governor already controls whether Hawai'i National Guard forces are deployed under state authority. What the Governor cannot do and what SB 2054 SD2 attempts to change is override federal authority when the Guard is federalized. But that is a constitutional issue, not a statutory one, and should not be altered by state legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



MARCH 18, 2026

SENATE BILL 2054 SD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: PBS

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
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Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SB 2054 SD2, relating to public safety, which 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.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai‘i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, and ensuring survivors—regardless of immigration status—can access safety, services, and justice. Many victims of exploitation in the islands are migrants. To ensure their path to safety from sexual and gender harm, we must defend their fundamental rights.

This measure is an important safeguard that protects Hawai‘i’s civil liberties and community safety by ensuring that military forces are not used in ways that undermine civilian governance or local oversight. Across the United States, the use of National Guard troops in domestic law enforcement contexts has increased in recent years, especially regarding enhanced immigration enforcement and political protests.

While the National Guard plays a vital role in disaster response and emergency management, deployments involving civil unrest, immigration enforcement, or federal policing actions have raised serious legal and civil rights concerns. In several recent instances, federal deployments of military forces into civilian contexts have prompted legal challenges and court scrutiny. Courts have reaffirmed the longstanding principle that military forces should

not be used as a substitute for civilian law enforcement except in the most extreme circumstances.

This principle is embedded in the Posse Comitatus Act of 1878, which generally prohibits federal military forces from executing domestic laws unless expressly authorized by Congress. The law reflects a core democratic safeguard: the prevention of military involvement in routine civilian policing. Legal scholars and civil rights organizations have increasingly warned that the growing use of military forces in domestic enforcement roles risks escalating tensions during protests, increasing the likelihood of violence, and eroding public trust in government institutions.

The constitutional relationship between the states and the federal government with respect to the National Guard is complex, but deliberate. The National Guard operates under a dual state-federal structure, meaning it can serve both state missions under the Governor and federal missions under presidential authority. In *Perpich v. Department of Defense* (1990), the United States Supreme Court affirmed that the National Guard maintains this dual status, recognizing both the federal government's authority to activate National Guard units and the historic role of state militias under state leadership.

This structure reflects the framers' concern about centralized military power and their intent to preserve meaningful state oversight over militia forces. Measures like this reinforce that balance by ensuring Hawai'i's National Guard cannot be used to facilitate federal operations in the State when the Governor has determined such deployments are inappropriate or countervail the regular administration of peace of public safety.

The importance of protecting state sovereignty is especially significant in Hawai'i. The islands have a long and complicated history involving military authority and federal intervention. In 1893, the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom was supported by U.S. military forces, demonstrating how military involvement in political affairs can have profound and lasting consequences for democratic governance and indigenous sovereignty. Later, during World War II, Hawai'i was placed under martial law for nearly three years, with civilian courts suspended and military authorities exercising broad control over civilian life.

These historical experiences serve as powerful reminders of why clear boundaries between military power and civilian governance remain essential. Today, Hawai‘i continues to host one of the largest concentrations of U.S. military installations in the world relative to its population. While the military plays an important role in disaster response, this reality also underscores the need for strong protections ensuring that military forces are not used in ways that undermine local authority or civil rights.

Across the country, immigrant communities have reported increased fear when militarized enforcement operations occur in their neighborhoods. This dynamic can undermine public safety by eroding trust between residents and public institutions. By ensuring that Hawai‘i’s National Guard cannot be compelled to support federal deployments that the Governor has opposed, this proposal preserves community trust and reinforces the principle that public safety in Hawai‘i should remain grounded in civilian institutions accountable to the people of this State.

At a time when domestic deployments of military forces are increasingly contested across the country, this measure ensures that Hawai‘i maintains clear oversight of how military resources within the State may be used.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance

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



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

HEARING: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 9:30 am; Conference Room 411 and via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2054, SD2 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, Rep. Poepoe for Maui Nui, Rep. Woodson of Maui, 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, SD2**, 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, SD2**, 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 2**, 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 over a light blue horizontal line.

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



TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2054 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Rep. Della Au Bellati, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026 | Letter Date: March 16, 2026

Dear Chair Bellati, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committees:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB2054, SD2, which prohibits the Hawai'i National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the National Guard of another state operating in Hawai'i when the Governor has objected to those deployments.

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing immigrant justice in Hawai'i, TLC supports due process, fair and accountable public safety institutions, and policies that strengthen public trust. SB2054, SD2 advances these principles by reinforcing democratic accountability and state rights, ensuring that state resources are applied in ways consistent with the priorities of Hawai'i's elected leadership and communities.

SB2054, SD2 clarifies that when the Governor objects to a federal or out-of-state deployment, Hawai'i's National Guard may not provide personnel, equipment, or logistical support for that operation. The amendments provide a clearer implementation framework, specifying that the Governor's objection must be made through a written determination that identifies the factual basis, scope, and duration of the objection.

SB2054, SD2 preserves the Guard's primary role in serving Hawai'i's safety and emergency needs, and prevents the diversion of state resources to contested operations that undermine community trust. The importance of this clarity is underscored by recent alarming efforts by the Trump administration to federalize and deploy National Guard units in other states where the Governors publicly rejected those deployments, including California, Illinois, and Oregon. When large-scale federal deployments occur without the consent of state leaders, they can create fear and instability in local communities – especially among immigrant communities and people of color.

SB2054, SD2 draws a clear bright line: when Hawai'i's Governor objects to a deployment, Hawai'i's National Guard cannot be used to support that operation. We urge the Committee to pass this important measure.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Legal Clinic
and Board President Amefil Agbayani,

Christina Sablan
Community & Policy Advocate



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 16, 2026

House Committee on Public Safety
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2054

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. The experiences of our sister locals elsewhere in the U.S., including Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, make clear to us that it is necessary to take action to rein in ICE and DHS across the country.

We do not want our union members, their families, or anyone else in our community to be targeted, terrorized, assaulted, kidnapped, or killed by government agents or anyone else. We do not want their rights to be violated. All people should be treated with respect and dignity.

We urge your support of SB 2054. This measure is an important step toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.

**Testimony of Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association
In SUPPORT of SB3251 SD2**

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

My name is Wilfredo Tungol and I am the Advocacy Chair of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA). We submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD2**, which prohibits certain state departments—including the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Attorney General—from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

HFLA is concerned about the due process and civil rights of immigrants in our community

Public safety depends on community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families already fear that interactions with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences. SB3251 SD2 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived—or used—as an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement. Past performance of ICE and BP officers shows their insensitivities to the rights of immigrants or protesters who are advocating for their rights. Thus, they should not be allowed to serve as local law enforcement officers should they apply.

This bill also promotes accountability and clarity in hiring practices. It establishes a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy and community standing of state agencies. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed. The ECD committee has an important role in advancing this community trust measure before it proceeds to its next referral in Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wilfredo Tungol
HFLA Advocacy Chair
808-387-7412

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 9:30 am
Conference Room 411 and via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2054, SD2 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Aloha Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, Rep. Poepoe for Maui Nui, Rep. Woodson of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui – The People in Action Maui. I am writing today in **strong support of SB 2054, SD2**, 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.

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

As an attorney, it has been hard to witness what is happening on the mainland. It was especially chilling to see state national guard being deployed over the objection of the governors of the state whose guard was deployed and over the objection of the governors of the state they were deployed to. It is beyond the scope of the intended purpose of the national guard for them to engage in law enforcement matters in the manner that they were. I was living in St Paul, Minnesota at the time that the state national guard was deployed there, at the request of the governor, and in response to civil unrest. I remember walking with my daughter down the street in my neighborhood, and having the guard there, with their military vehicles and weapons. It was unnerving then. More recently, I visited my daughter at graduate school in Baltimore while the national guard was deployed in Washington, DC. I traveled to DC and the presence of the national guard there made it feel like I was not in the United States anymore. DC always has a ton of law enforcement presence, but I have never seen anything like the national guard in their military garb, carrying weapons like that. It felt dystopian.

I live on Maui, and I remember when the Hawaii National Guard was deployed here to assist after the 2023 wildfires. The image in my mind, like the popular imagination, is that our national guard is here to help us in the event of a disaster. I want to keep it that way. I do not want our Guard deployed over the objection of the governor, simply as a matter of public safety and state's rights, and there is also the broader issue of costs and care. It seemed that there was uncertainty about who was paying for the forced deployments on the mainland, and that the Guard were not properly provided for or housed. Hawaii cannot and should not bear the financial cost, the reputational cost, or the readiness cost of deploying our Guard over the objection of the governor. That is why I respectfully request your vote in support of SB 2054, SD2.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:11:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Kay	Matriarchy Rising & Kona Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of YVETTE KAY

In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD2

Committee on Public Safety

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Yvette Kay and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD2, which 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 those deployments.

I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI

I am the leader of Matriarchy Rising and on the leadership team of Kona Indivisible. I am testifying as an individual / on behalf of [Organization]. [Optional: One sentence about your work with immigrant communities, public safety, or civil liberties.

The Governor serves as commander-in-chief of the Hawai‘i National Guard under state control. SB2054 SD2 codifies that authority by ensuring state military resources cannot be used to support federal deployments that Hawai‘i has not consented to. As federal military and law enforcement deployments to states have increased nationally—including for immigration enforcement and operations targeting civil unrest—it is essential that Hawai‘i have clear statutory guardrails that protect our state’s sovereignty and its ability to define its own public safety priorities.

This bill also matters for community trust and safety. Immigrant and mixed-status families should not fear that state Guard forces will be mobilized against them in civil immigration operations. SB2054 SD2 is narrowly tailored—it includes a carve-out for cases where assistance is required by federal or state law—while still establishing a meaningful, enforceable line. The Committee on Public Safety is exactly the right committee to advance this state sovereignty protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Yvette Kay

Leader of Matriarchy Rising and Leadership Team of Kona Indivisible

yvettekay_99@yahoo.com

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Kailua Kona, HI 96740

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:23:55 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am testifying in strong support of SB2054, which provides a vital and necessary clarification to state law by prohibiting the Hawai'i National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or another state's National Guard when the Governor has formally objected to their deployment within our islands.

This bill is fundamentally about sovereignty, democratic accountability, and the protection of community trust. The Hawai'i National Guard is a state institution, funded and maintained by the people of Hawai'i to serve our specific safety and emergency needs. Its mission is to protect our communities, not to be conscripted as a support force for federal or out-of-state operations that our own elected leadership has determined are not in the best interest of our state.

Recent history has shown us the profound dangers of unchecked federal deployments. We have witnessed the weaponization of National Guard units against American citizens in their own communities, an act that erodes public trust and escalates tensions.

SB2054 creates a clear, legal firewall to ensure such a scenario cannot unfold here without the state's consent. It establishes a necessary boundary: if the Governor of Hawai'i objects to a deployment, our state's resources—our soldiers and our equipment—will not be used to enable it. This is a direct exercise of the state's authority to control the use of its own assets within its borders.

The policy rationales for this bill are clear and compelling:

- **Governance & Accountability:** It ties critical decisions about military and law enforcement cooperation directly to our highest elected state official, ensuring democratic oversight.
- **Operational Clarity:** It provides unambiguous guidance to Guard leadership, removing them from a potential conflict of loyalties and stating plainly that when the Governor objects, the rule is "no assistance."
- **Protection of Community Trust:** It prevents the perception of a militarized, multi-layered force operating against the will of the community, thereby preserving the Guard's reputation as a protector of the people.

- **Prevention of Mission Creep:** Without this clear prohibition, "limited support" can quickly blur into direct operational involvement, drawing our personnel into missions they were never intended to serve.

This legislation does not hinder the Guard's essential duties. It in no way prevents the Guard from responding to hurricanes, wildfires, or other disasters under state authority. It is narrowly and precisely focused on one scenario: preventing our Guard from being used to bolster a deployment that our Governor has officially opposed.

In an era of deep political division and concerning precedents for the use of force domestically, SB2054 is a prudent and necessary measure to affirm state sovereignty, uphold democratic principles, and safeguard the bond between the Hawai'i National Guard and the people it is sworn to protect.

I urge you to pass SB2054.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:54:38 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret ANN Renick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support passage of this bill!

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:53:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Rivers	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).

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.

Aloha, Julie Rivers

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:19:56 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dwight T. Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a registered Hawaii voter, resident, member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). I am writing in strong support of SB2054 to 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.

Mahalo.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:25:15 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2054.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:44:50 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2054 SD2

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:44:11 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Support SB2054.

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.

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	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.

[Signed]Lois Langham

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:17:43 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 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-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:27:36 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Prohibiting state **National Guard** units from collaborating with federal agencies can help preserve state authority and protect local communities from federal overreach. The United States National Guard is primarily under the control of state governors unless federalized, and restricting cooperation with federal enforcement agencies ensures that state resources are used in ways that reflect the priorities and values of the state’s residents. Supporters argue that such policies strengthen accountability, prevent the militarization of local enforcement, and maintain a clear boundary between state public safety roles and federal immigration or enforcement actions.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 12:15:52 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 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, soon to be out of her job, nor anyone else.

Please move this bill forward.

lynne matusow

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:04:30 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:10:33 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054. 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 MULTIPLE 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, which according to court decisions is 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 current 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.

Kathleen "kate" Dickson

Waikiki

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:46:16 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denize Machit	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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Denize Machit

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:29:30 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally, as a combat veteran, 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.

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-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:29:48 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malialani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e kāua,

I am writing today in strong support of SB2054.

As we continue to watch the Federal Government move against individual State Governments and use violence against citizens, it is important that the National Guard not be hijacked and utilized in the Presidential cabinet's agenda against civil rights.

I urge the committee to support this bill.

Me ka mahalo nui,

Malialani Dullanty

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
March 14, 2026

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair, House Committee on Public Safety
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice-Chair
Members of the House Committee on Public Safety

Aloha, Representatives,

**I am writing this testimony in support of SB2054 SD2, "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 SD2**.

Mahalo,

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

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:36:10 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 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-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:56:15 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2054 SD2.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:04:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a member of Indivisible. Thank you for supporting this bill.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:28:24 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Llanes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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.

Mahalo,

Bridget Llanes, Waianae

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:20:25 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative Della Au Bellati, Chair, Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair, Representative Kanani Souza from my district, and all Committee Members,

I am a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. I am writing today to provide testimony in strong support of SB2054 SD2. This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit the 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, Minneapolis, and 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.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:28:34 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 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). 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.

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:46:39 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Mura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2054 SD2

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:33:16 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Thank you!

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:42:53 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill to prevent our Hawaii National Guard from supporting Federal deployments to Hawaii. I'm a member of East Hawaii Indivisible.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:50:02 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2054. This measure strengthens clarity in Hawai‘i law by reaffirming the role of the State’s elected leadership in determining when state military resources may assist federal forces or other states’ National Guard units operating within Hawai‘i. Importantly, SB2054 preserves the Governor’s full authority to activate the Hawai‘i National Guard for disasters, emergencies, civil defense, and mutual aid under existing compacts.

The primary value of SB2054 is that it provides clear statutory guidance regarding when state-controlled military resources may be used in operations within Hawai‘i that do not have the consent of the Governor. Clear lines of authority strengthen accountability, reduce operational ambiguity, and reinforce public trust when military personnel operate in civilian environments.

Concerns have been raised that the bill could expose Guardsmen to legal risk if conflicting state and federal authorities arise. However, SB2054 does not alter the federal government’s authority to activate National Guard members under Title 10 or the President’s authority under the Insurrection Act. In those circumstances, Guardsmen are federalized and operate under federal command. SB2054 addresses only the use of state-controlled resources operating under state authority. Clarifying that distinction actually helps reduce uncertainty by delineating when personnel are operating under state versus federal command structures.

The bill also does not prevent lawful federal operations from occurring within Hawai‘i. Federal forces retain the authority granted to them under federal law. SB2054 simply ensures that Hawai‘i’s state military assets are not required to assist such operations absent the consent of Hawai‘i’s elected leadership, unless required by law. This approach respects the constitutional framework in which both state and federal governments possess defined authorities.

The United States Constitution contemplates a balance between federal authority and state authority over the militia. Article I, Section 8 provides Congress the power to call forth the militia for specific purposes, while reserving to the states the authority over training and appointment of officers. The Tenth Amendment further affirms that powers not delegated to the federal government remain with the states and the people. SB2054 reflects this long-standing federalist structure by reaffirming the state's role in determining how its own resources are used within its jurisdiction.

From a governance standpoint, the measure promotes transparency and accountability in situations involving the presence of armed forces in civilian communities. Clear statutory guidance ensures that service members, commanders, and civilian authorities operate with well-defined legal parameters. This clarity benefits both the public and the men and women of the Hawai'i National Guard who serve honorably under difficult and complex circumstances.

SB2054 therefore represents a prudent reaffirmation of constitutional structure, civilian control, and clear operational authority. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to support this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**Testimony of Jeremiah Brown
In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD2**

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair
Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

Dear Chair Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair Stanley Chang, and members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs; Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee, and members of Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054, a measure relating to public safety that prohibits the Hawai'i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the National Guard of another state operating in Hawai'i when the Governor has objected to those deployments.

I am teacher and I am testifying as an individual. We have seen the Trump administration send National Guard units across state borders to assist with immigration enforcement operations. For example, Texas National Guard units were sent to Chicago. There is no reason to think this couldn't happen here in Hawai'i at some point in the future.

SB2054 SD2 is important because it reinforces local accountability and clear lines of authority when outside forces operate in Hawai'i. When the Governor has formally objected to a deployment, Hawai'i should not be required to provide personnel, resources, or operational support that could expand or legitimize that deployment. This bill creates a straightforward guardrail: if Hawai'i's Governor objects, Hawai'i resources should not be used to assist that operation. It also provides clarity for National Guard leadership and helps prevent mission creep where "support" activities gradually become deeper involvement. Just as importantly, SB2054 SD2 helps protect community trust. Large-scale or controversial deployments can increase fear and confusion, especially in communities that have reason to worry about aggressive enforcement. When residents feel their state is aligned with transparency and accountability, they are more likely to trust public institutions and cooperate during true emergencies. For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:13:40 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2054. 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-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:48:02 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, 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.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:13:19 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	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

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:03:57 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

protect our NTional Guardfrom being used for this kind of unconstitutional activity

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:35:03 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB2054 which 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.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:24:32 AM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	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.

Jane Aquino, Indivisible

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:40:15 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 10:50 am

LATE

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

Comments:

SB2054 SD2 LIMITS NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT – Danielle Goren Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in **strong support of SB2054 SD2** personally, as a resident of Lahaina, Hawai‘i, and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN), a member of the ACLU, and a member of the Hawaii Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

SB2054 SD2 would prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist or cooperate 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.

The Governor serves as commander-in-chief of the Hawai‘i National Guard under state control. SB2054 SD2 codifies that authority by ensuring state military resources cannot be used to support federal deployments that Hawai‘i has not consented to. As federal military and law enforcement deployments to states have increased nationally—including for immigration enforcement and operations targeting civil unrest—it is essential that Hawai‘i have clear statutory guardrails that protect our state’s sovereignty and its ability to define its own public safety priorities.

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.

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.

This bill also matters for community trust and safety. Immigrant and mixed-status families should not fear that state Guard forces will be mobilized against them in civil immigration operations. SB2054 SD2 is narrowly tailored—it includes a carve-out for cases where assistance is required by federal or state law—while still establishing a meaningful, enforceable line. The

Committee on Public Safety is exactly the right committee to advance this state sovereignty protection.

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-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:46:48 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

LATE

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Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 10:49 am

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

Comments:

Testimony of Rev. Amy Wake

In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD2

Committee on Public Safety

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Rev. Amy Wake, pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Kahala, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD2, which 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 those deployments

The Governor serves as commander-in-chief of the Hawai‘i National Guard under state control. SB2054 SD2 codifies that authority by ensuring state military resources cannot be used to support federal deployments that Hawai‘i has not consented to. As federal military and law enforcement deployments to states have increased nationally—including for immigration enforcement and operations targeting civil unrest—it is essential that Hawai‘i have clear

statutory guardrails that protect our state's sovereignty and its ability to define its own public safety priorities.

This bill also matters for community trust and safety. Immigrant and mixed-status families should not fear that state Guard forces will be mobilized against them in civil immigration operations. SB2054 SD2 is narrowly tailored—it includes a carve-out for cases where assistance is required by federal or state law—while still establishing a meaningful, enforceable line. The Committee on Public Safety is exactly the right committee to advance this state sovereignty protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Rev. Amy Wake

Lead Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church

Pastoramywake@gmail.com

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:28:07 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 1:31 pm

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Perez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Andrew Perez

In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD2

Committee on Public Safety

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Andrew Perez, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD2, which 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 those deployments.

The Governor serves as commander-in-chief of the Hawai‘i National Guard under state control. SB2054 SD2 codifies that authority by ensuring state military resources cannot be used to support federal deployments that Hawai‘i has not consented to. As federal military and law enforcement deployments to states have increased nationally—including for immigration enforcement and operations targeting civil unrest—it is essential that Hawai‘i

have clear statutory guardrails that protect our state's sovereignty and its ability to define its own public safety priorities.

This bill also matters for community trust and safety. Immigrant and mixed-status families should not fear that state Guard forces will be mobilized against them in civil immigration operations. SB2054 SD2 is narrowly tailored—it includes a carve-out for cases where assistance is required by federal or state law—while still establishing a meaningful, enforceable line. The Committee on Public Safety is exactly the right committee to advance this state sovereignty protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrew Perez

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:56:12 AM
Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

LATE

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Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 1:32 pm

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Cucco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD2, which 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 those deployments.

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:12:28 PM
Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 1:33 pm

LATE

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

Comments:

SB2054 SD2 LIMITS NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT – Testimony in Support

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

I am writing in **strong support of SB2054 SD2** personally, as a resident of Lahaina, Hawai‘i, and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN), a member of the ACLU, and a member of the Hawaii Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

SB2054 SD2 would prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist or cooperate 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.

The Governor serves as commander-in-chief of the Hawai‘i National Guard under state control. SB2054 SD2 codifies that authority by ensuring state military resources cannot be used to support federal deployments that Hawai‘i has not consented to. As federal military and law enforcement deployments to states have increased nationally—including for immigration enforcement and operations targeting civil unrest—it is essential that Hawai‘i have clear statutory guardrails that protect our state’s sovereignty and its ability to define its own public safety priorities.

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.

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.

This bill also matters for community trust and safety. Immigrant and mixed-status families should not fear that state Guard forces will be mobilized against them in civil immigration operations. SB2054 SD2 is narrowly tailored—it includes a carve-out for cases where assistance is required by federal or state law—while still establishing a meaningful, enforceable line. The Committee on Public Safety is exactly the right committee to advance this state sovereignty protection.

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,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, Hawai'i

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:17:18 PM

Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

RECEIVED
Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 1:34 pm

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Elders	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Pamela Elders

In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD2

Committee on Public Safety

Representative Della Au Belatti, Chair

Representative Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Della Au Belatti, Vice Chair Kim Coco Iwamoto, and members of the Committee on Public Safety,

My name is Pamela Elders, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD2, which 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 those deployments.

I live in Laupahoehoe on Hawaii Island, and over the last year, have become increasingly concerned about how federal and state troops are being commandeered to carry out illegal

activities to intimidate and terrorize our people. I believe the Trump administration will try to use troops to threaten free and fair elections in our State. We must take pre-emptive action.

The Governor serves as commander-in-chief of the Hawai'i National Guard under state control. SB2054 SD2 codifies that authority by ensuring state military resources cannot be used to support federal deployments that Hawai'i has not consented to. As federal military and law enforcement deployments to states have increased nationally—including for immigration enforcement and operations targeting civil unrest—it is essential that Hawai'i have clear statutory guardrails that protect our state's sovereignty and its ability to define its own public safety priorities.

This bill also matters for community trust and safety. Immigrant and mixed-status families should not fear that state Guard forces will be mobilized against them in civil immigration operations. SB2054 SD2 is narrowly tailored—it includes a carve-out for cases where assistance is required by federal or state law—while still establishing a meaningful, enforceable line. The Committee on Public Safety is exactly the right committee to advance this state sovereignty protection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD2. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Pamela Elders

Laupahoehoe, HI

SB-2054-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:23:29 PM
Testimony for PBS on 3/18/2026 9:30:00 AM

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Date & Time
Mar 17, 2026, 1:35 pm

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

Comments:

I support SB2054 because it:

- Ensures Hawai'i resources are not used to assist deployments Hawai'i's elected leadership has formally objected to.
- Reinforces local accountability and clear lines of authority when outside forces operate in Hawai'i.
- Helps prevent escalation, confusion, and community fear during sensitive operations.
- Creates a clear standard for Guard leadership and public transparency.

Please pass SB2054.