



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2054
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Palekana Lehulehu, a
me ke Kuleana Pū‘ali Koa
Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ikehu, a me ka Pilina
O Nā Aupuni
Hawai‘i State Capitol

Pepeluai 10, 2026

3:07 PM

Lumi 224

Aloha e Chair Fukunaga, Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Lee, Vice Chair Chang, Members of Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Palekana Lehulehu, a me ke Kuleana Pū‘ali Koa and Members of Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ke Ikehu, a me ka Pilina O Nā Aupuni:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2054** which clarifies the Hawai‘i National Guard may not be used to 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 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.

For Native Hawaiian communities and other historically over-policed or disproportionately impacted populations, clarity and restraint in the use of military-style forces in civilian contexts is especially important to maintaining public trust and preventing unnecessary escalation. Hawai‘i’s history, including the overthrow and the long legacy of militarization, means that deployments of armed forces in civilian contexts can have an outsized impact on community trust, particularly among Kānaka Maoli. Guard deployments can be appropriate and necessary in disasters and true emergencies, but the decision-making chain should remain transparent and accountable to the people of Hawai‘i through their elected state leadership.

SB2054 does not interfere with deployments required by federal or state law, nor does it limit emergency response capacity; rather, it establishes a guardrail against the discretionary use of Hawai‘i Guard resources to support outside deployments over the Governor’s objection. This measure promotes sound governance, respects state authority within our federal system, and helps ensure that public safety operations involving military forces remain carefully controlled and locally accountable. For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS SB2054**.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STEPHEN F. LOGAN
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

PHILLIP L. MALLORY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
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TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2054
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
AND
COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

February 9, 2026

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Chang, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

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.

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 be enacted, it would create a complex and potentially precarious situation for Hawaii 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 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 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 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



STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2054

Relating to Public Safety and Hawaii National Guard Deployment

To the Honorable Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, I, Abby Simmons as Chair respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support** of SB2054.

SB2054 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the National Guard of another state operating in Hawaii when the Governor has formally objected to those deployments. This bill establishes a clear and necessary boundary for the use of state resources and authority.

This legislation is important because it reinforces state sovereignty and democratic accountability when large-scale deployments occur in our communities. Hawaii's resources, personnel, and institutions should not be used to support operations that our elected Governor has formally opposed. SB2054 ensures that decisions affecting public safety and civil liberties remain grounded in local leadership and accountability.

When major deployments occur without local alignment, communities can experience fear, confusion, and serious civil rights concerns—particularly when federal law enforcement is involved. SB2054 creates clarity and stability by affirming that, when the Governor objects, the Hawaii National Guard cannot be used as a support arm for that operation.

This bill recognizes that the Hawaii National Guard exists first and foremost to serve Hawaii's people. It exists to respond to emergencies, natural disasters, and public safety needs within our state. SB2054 prevents the Guard from being drawn into disputed federal or out-of-state operations that may not reflect local priorities or community consent.

SB2054 is fundamentally a governance and accountability measure. It ties cooperation directly to the judgment of an elected state decision-maker. It provides clear guidance to Guard leadership: when the Governor objects, state resources are not to be used to assist that deployment. This removes uncertainty and prevents conflicting directives.

The bill also protects community trust by helping prevent the perception of unnecessary militarization or escalation in contested situations. It helps avoid mission creep, in which limited "support" roles can quietly expand into operational involvement without proper

Testimony in Strong Support of SB2054

oversight. By establishing firm limits, SB2054 promotes transparency and public understanding of where the state stands.

Importantly, SB2054 does not weaken Hawai'i's emergency response capacity. The bill preserves the Governor's authority to deploy the Guard for disasters, emergencies, and public safety needs under existing law. This measure is not about limiting the Guard's essential role, it is about preventing inappropriate cooperation when a deployment has been formally opposed.

At a time when communities are increasingly concerned about civil liberties, public trust, and government accountability, SB2054 provides an important safeguard. It affirms that Hawai'i will govern itself with integrity, transparency, and respect for democratic leadership.

For these reasons, the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports SB2054 and respectfully urges the Committee to pass this important measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your continued commitment to the people of Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)
Chair
Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:21:20 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan B Roberts Emery	Testifying for Green Party of Hawai'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and honorable members of committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery , as co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, we stand in Strong Support of SB2054. Transparency is very important during this time of great upheaval and mismanagement in our nation. We need to stand with our people not create "Us vs Them" scenarios, we are all in the same canoe. SB2054 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.

Simple ,clear , and transparent Green Party of Hawai'i supports SB2054.

Aloha First,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2054, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

SENATE COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS AND ENERGY & INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

February 10, 2026

To the Honorable Chairs and Members of the Committees:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB2054**. 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. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

P.O. Box 37158, Honolulu, HI 96837-0158

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Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 10, 2026

3:07 PM

Room 325 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

SUPPORT FOR SB 2054 - PROHIBITS HI NATIONAL GUARD FROM ASSISTING FEDERAL TROOPS

Aloha Chairs Fukunaga and Wakai, Vice Chairs Lee and Chang and Members of the Committees!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for almost three decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,667 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on February 2, 2026. We are always mindful that 799 of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

We appreciate this opportunity to express our **STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2054** 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. This

bill reinforces state sovereignty and democratic accountability when federal or out-of-state forces operate in Hawai‘i. It ensures Hawai‘i resources are not used to support deployments the Governor has formally opposed.

THIS IS A GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY BILL: it ties cooperation to an elected state decision-maker’s objection.

CREATES CLARITY FOR GUARD LEADERSHIP: when the Governor objects, the rule is straightforward – no state resources are to be used to assist that deployment. As we have all sadly witnessed, when large-scale deployments occur without local alignment, communities experience fear, confusion, and civil-rights concerns – especially if the deployment involves federal law enforcement activity.

SB2054 CREATES A CLEAR BOUNDARY: if Hawai‘i’s Governor objects, Hawai‘i’s National Guard cannot be used as a support arm for that operation and prevents the Guard from being pulled into disputed federal/out-of-state operations.

FEDERAL INTERVENTION ABRIDGES STATE’S RIGHTS TO CONTROL HOW OUR OWN RESOURCES ARE USED WHEN IT COMES TO DEPLOYMENTS IN OUR COMMUNITIES.

PROTECTS COMMUNITY TRUST: Prevents perceived “militarization” or escalation in contested deployments.

HELPS AVOID MISSION CREEP: Cooperation can quickly expand from “support” to operational involvement without clear limits.

PROMOTES TRANSPARENCY: The public can understand where the state stands when the Governor objects.

SB 2054 continues to allow the Guard to perform its core duties under state law for emergencies/disasters as authorized; SB 2054 is about assisting objected-to deployments - not ending the Guard’s public safety role.

We encourage the committees to pass SB 2054 to protect not only our Hawai‘i National Guard, but all of Hawai‘i’s multi-cultural communities.

Mahalo nui for allowing Community Alliance on Prisons to support this important measure!

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:54:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of SB2054

Relating to Public Safety

Senate Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs (PSM/EIG) and Judiciary (JDC)

Public Hearing: February 10, 2026

Aloha Chair(s) and Members of the Committees,

My name is Austin Martin, Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii and Alternate Libertarian National Committee Member for Region 1. I am testifying today on behalf of many of your voters and constituents, as a concerned citizen, and as the original drafter of the core concept that has evolved into SB2054.

In February-early March 2025, I drafted and presented an initial version of this measure —often referred to in discussions as the "Defend Hawaii Act" — to Governor Josh Green and other state leaders. Representatives expressed strong interest and recommended submitting it for review by the National Association of Democratic Governors. They also advised that the Attorney General's office would review and help develop the bill text for introduction.

Throughout 2025, we held multiple discussions regarding timing, including the possibility of a special session (though legislative logistics did not align at that time). Conversations continued into 2026, incorporating input on the evolving legal environment, seamless integration into existing statutes (particularly HRS §121-30), and pathways for bipartisan support.

I am deeply grateful to Governor Green, the Attorney General's office, the eight Democratic senators sponsoring this bill, legislative staff, and all involved legislators and agencies for their thoughtful refinements. Their collaborative efforts have produced a stronger, more precise measure that fits effectively within Hawaii law while remaining constitutionally sound.

The original intent of my draft was to provide a clear state-level check against the adverse federalization or compelled involvement of the Hawaii National Guard — including to prevent our Guard from being used to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state

National Guard forces operating in Hawaii over the Governor's objection. While some elements from the initial proposal (such as certain overseas deployment restrictions) have been refined or replaced, SB2054 still retains and strengthens the essential safeguard: upholding the Governor's authority and protecting Hawaii's interests in the dual state-federal structure of the National Guard.

This bill represents a measured, principled step toward defending Hawaii's sovereignty and the proper balance of power. I urge the committees to advance SB2054 and recommend its passage.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, consideration, and dedication to this important issue.

Sincerely,

Austin Martin

Chair, Libertarian Party of Hawaii

LNC Alternate for Region 1

Hilo, Hawaii



Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee

February 10, 2026 3:07 pm, CR 224 and Videoconference
SB2054 Hawaii National Guard Deployment

TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER SB2054

This bill would amend Section 121-30 of HRS to prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from supporting any operation of another state's National Guard, or by federal troops or law enforcement, if the Governor has objected to the deployment. This change is required because the federal administration has been sending federal agencies and state national guard troops into states which have objected to their presence. In some cases the courts have found these federal actions illegal or unconstitutional. HB2054 would provide at least some defense to these unwanted intrusions.

The League of Women Voters supports an open governmental system that is representative, accountable and responsive. SB2054 is one way to preserve the State's responsiveness to local needs and helps establish responsibility and accountability for unwanted federal incursions.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Stephen Munkelt

IN SUPPORT OF DEFEND HAWAII: SB2054

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii **strongly supports** SB2054 (the **Defend Hawaii Bill**) and we are proud to have helped in these efforts. While this version is narrower than our original proposal, it remains a historic, pragmatic, and urgently needed victory for Hawaii’s liberty, autonomy, constitutional rights, and the original public meaning of the Second Amendment.

SB2054 amends Hawaii Revised Statutes §121-30 by adding a clear, enforceable prohibition:

“Except as required by federal or state law, the commanding officer of any Hawaii National Guard unit under state control or Title 32 status shall not assist, cooperate with, or provide any resources to federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state National Guard units operating in Hawaii if the Governor has objected to those deployments”
(SB2054, §1(b), 2026).

This is a direct statutory shield that empowers Hawaii’s elected Governor to say “no” when unwanted federal forces seek to operate on our soil. It ensures Hawaii’s own militia remains first and foremost dedicated to protecting our people, responding to our disasters, and serving our communities.



Constitutional Foundations: State Sovereignty, Federalism, and the Tenth Amendment

The United States Constitution explicitly reserves for the states a primary authority over their militias. Article I, Section 8, Clauses 15 and 16 grant Congress power to “*provide for calling forth the Militia to execute the Laws of the Union, suppress Insurrections and repel Invasions*” and to “*provide for organizing, arming, and disciplining the Militia,*” but expressly reserve to the states the appointment of officers and the authority to train the militia “*according to the discipline prescribed by Congress*” (U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 16).

The Tenth Amendment reinforces this: “*The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people*” (U.S. Const. amend. X). The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that the National Guard remains a **state force** unless and until it is lawfully federalized under Title 10 (Perpich v. Dep’t of Def., 496 U.S. 334, 351 (1990) (“The National Guard is a state force unless and until it is federalized”)).

Federal statutes explicitly respect gubernatorial authority in Title 32 status: 32 U.S.C. § 502(f) allows requests for state participation, but governors retain command and control and may refuse.

Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 121 establishes the Governor as commander-in-chief of the state militia and National Guard when not in federal service (§121-2, §121-7).

On the Second Amendment: Preserving the Militia as a Bulwark of Liberty

LIFE, LIBERTY, PEACE



OLA
Protect our service members from being deployed into combat without constitutional authority.



MALUHIA
Keep the Hawaii Guard safe, out of combat, and ready for local emergencies. Hawaii's needs come first.



KŪ'OKO'A
Empower Hawaii to defend its own Guard from executive overreach. Restore Constitutional limits on federal power.

The Second Amendment demands that we protect the exact structure and purpose the Framers enshrined:

“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State, the right of the people to keep and bear Arms, shall not be infringed.”

In *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008), the Supreme Court held that the operative clause protects an individual right of the people to keep and bear arms for lawful purposes, including self-defense. Yet the prefatory clause, *“A well regulated Militia, being necessary to the security of a free State”*, is not irrelevant. It declares the central purpose: to ensure that the body of the armed citizenry remains capable of defending the state and checking centralized power.

James Madison in *Federalist No. 46* explained that an armed populace loyal to state authority would form *“a barrier against the enterprises of ambition, more insurmountable than any which a simple government of any form can admit of.”* The militia was never limited to a standing government force; it was the people themselves, bearing their own arms.

SB2054 protects this constitutional design by ensuring that Hawaii’s organized militia and their National Guard, cannot be commandeered by federal authorities against the state’s will. By preserving the independence of the state-controlled force, this measure helps maintain the broader militia system that the Framers intended as the ultimate safeguard of a free state.

Why This Bill Is Essential for Hawaii

Our Guard is not a federal auxiliary. It is Hawaii’s, trained, equipped, and commanded by our Governor for our unique island needs. SB2054 ensures that these needed resources cannot be diverted for federal priorities over the Governor’s objection. This bill protects individual liberties by preventing



deployment of armed state forces into domestic situations without clear state consent. It upholds the non-aggression principle and the original meaning of the Second Amendment as a check on centralized military power and command.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii has fought for protections like this for decades. SB2054 is the direct result of our advocacy, our drafting, and our persistent public pressure. Its passage is a win for liberty, a win for the Second Amendment, and a win for Hawaii.

We urge the Committee to **pass SB2054 unanimously and without amendments that weaken**. Advance the Defend Hawaii Bill to the full Senate and to the House. Let Hawaii lead the nation in reclaiming state sovereignty over its own National Guard and in honoring the Framers' vision of an armed and free people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. We are available for questions and ready to provide additional materials, including our original Defend Hawaii Act draft and the full activism packet.

In Liberty,

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

References

District of Columbia v. Heller, 554 U.S. 570 (2008). <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/554/570/>

The Federalist No. 46 (James Madison).
<https://guides.loc.gov/federalist-papers/text-41-50#s-lg-box-wrapper-25493407>

U.S. Const. art. I, § 8, cl. 15–16; amend. X. <https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/article-1/>

32 U.S.C. § 502(f). <https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/32/502>

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<https://www.libertarianhawaii.com/post/defend-hawaii-update-support-sb2054>



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

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

In SUPPORT of SB2054

Relating to Public Safety

Hearing: Tuesday, February 10, 2026, 3:07PM (EIG/PSM), Room 224 & Videoconference

Aloha Chairs Wakai and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Chang and Lee, and Members of the Committees,

My name is **Liza Ryan Gill**, and I submit this testimony **on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) in strong support of SB2054.**

HCIR is a statewide coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai‘i’s shared future. SB2054 is an important public safety and governance measure that reinforces state sovereignty, democratic accountability, and community trust.

SB2054 amends Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit 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 formally objected to those deployments.** This clear statutory boundary ensures that Hawai‘i’s resources are not used to support operations that lack alignment with the State’s elected leadership.

This bill matters because large-scale deployments—particularly those involving federal law enforcement—can generate fear, confusion, and serious civil-rights concerns within communities. Immigrant and migrant communities are especially vulnerable to the chilling effects of perceived militarization or escalated enforcement activity. SB2054 provides clarity and reassurance by affirming that, when the Governor objects, Hawai‘i’s National Guard will not be used as a support arm for that contested deployment.

SB2054 is fundamentally a governance and accountability bill. It respects the Guard’s mission to serve Hawai‘i’s emergency and disaster response needs, while preventing mission creep into disputed federal or out-of-state operations. It also provides straightforward guidance to Guard leadership, promotes transparency for the public, and preserves community trust by clearly defining the limits of state cooperation.

For these reasons, the **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SB2054.**



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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Liza Ryan Gill

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 9, 2026

Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair
Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

And

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2054, SB 2057, and SB 3322

Chairs Wakai and Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Chang and Lee, 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, SB 2057 and SB 3322. These measures are important steps toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.



Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C.

*Alahea Corporate Tower
1100 Alahea St., Fl. 20, Suite B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

LATE

**Senate Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs**

Tuesday, February 10, 2026, TIME: 3:07 PM, Conference Room 224

Re: Testimony of Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara in **Strong Support** of **S.B. 2054**, Relating to **PUBLIC SAFETY**

Chair Wakai, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Committees:

As a civil rights attorney I submit this testimony in **strong support** of S.B. 2054, which would amend Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 121-30 to **prohibit 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.**

SB 2054 protects the rights of Hawai'i's people. The Hawai'i Constitution supports this bill.

Our state's armed forces answer to elected civilian leadership *viz a vie* **Article V, Section 5** and **Article I, Section 16**:

Article V, Section 5 is unambiguous: the Governor "shall be **commander in chief of the armed forces of the State.**" The Governor "may call out such forces to execute the laws, **suppress or prevent** insurrection **or lawless violence or repel invasion.**"

Under **Article I, Section 16**, "[t]he **military shall be held in strict subordination to the civil power.**" These provisions establish that. When the Governor, as the people's elected commander in chief, formally objects to an outside military or law enforcement deployment, the Hawai'i National Guard is not free to assist that deployment on its own initiative. If there was any doubt about this latest Trump scenario, SB 2054 makes it very clear.

When the Governor determines that an outside deployment threatens our residents' rights and registers a formal objection, *state resources should not be used to support operations that may **undermine the constitutional protections** Hawai'i affords its people.* For example:

Our Constitution in **Article I, Section 6** recognizes a right to privacy that "shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest" and with **Article I, Section 7** protects against "unreasonable searches, seizures and invasions of privacy". **Article I, Section 5** guarantees due process, equal protection, and freedom from discrimination based on race, religion, sex, or ancestry. Native Hawaiian traditional and cultural rights are secured by **Article XII, Section 7.**ⁱ

This bill addresses a real and present concern. Over the past year, the federal government attempted to deploy National Guard forces into California, Illinois, and Oregon over the objections of those states' governors. Federal courts blocked these deployments. What happened in those states can happen in Hawai'i. SB 2054 ensures that if it does, our Guard will not be drawn into operations our elected leadership opposes.

- **It reinforces local accountability and clear lines of authority when outside forces operate in Hawai'i.** Article I, Section 1 of our Constitution vests all political power in the people. The Governor is the people's representative on matters of state military authority. SB 2054 ensures commanding officers do not unilaterally cooperate with outside forces operating over the Governor's objection.
- **It helps prevent escalation, confusion, and community fear during sensitive operations.** Hawai'i is a small, tightly knit state. When outside military or law enforcement forces operate in our communities over the Governor's objection, and the Hawai'i National Guard is seen assisting them, it sends a contradictory and alarming message. SB 2054 prevents that confusion.
- **It creates a clear standard for Guard leadership and public transparency.** Today, commanding officers facing the *unprecedented experience of a request to assist the Governor's objected-to deployment* could now look to unequivocal statutory guidance. SB 2054 removes ambiguity: if the Governor has objected, do not assist. That clarity protects Guard members and gives the public confidence in their government.
- **It ensures Hawai'i resources are not used to assist deployments Hawai'i's elected leadership has formally objected to.** The bill covers time, money, facilities, property, equipment, personnel, data, and all other state resources. If the Governor has determined that a deployment is not in Hawai'i's interest, the state's Guard should not be spending Hawai'i taxpayer resources to support it.

The bill is carefully drafted. It does not, e.g., prevent the Guard from responding to genuine emergencies, cooperating with federal agencies on consensual missions, or complying with any binding federal legal obligation.

I respectfully urge the Committees to pass SB 2054. Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum

ⁱ Native Hawaiian tenant rights indisputably derive from three distinct sources. Article XII of the Hawaii Constitution protects rights of ahupua's tenants who are descendants of native Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, HRS § 7-1 enumerates the certain rights of access to the property of others that are held by native tenants, such as the right to gather fruit, plants, and timber, and the right to obtain drinking water, running water, the right of way and HRS § 1-1 allows the state to establish certain customary Hawaiian rights beyond those found in § 7-1. *Pai 'Ohana v. United States*, 76 F.3d 280, 1996 U.S. App. LEXIS 1460 (9th Cir. Haw. 1996).



LATE

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2054
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair	Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair
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February 9, 2026

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB2054, 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 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 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. This bill 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 federal deployments occur without the consent of state leaders, they can create fear and instability in local communities – especially among immigrant communities and communities of color.

SB2054 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 Dr. Amefil Agbayani,

Christina Sablan
Community & Policy Advocate



LATE

Committee: Senate Committee Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 9, 2026, at 3:07 PM
Place: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB 2054, Relating to Public Safety**

Dear Chair Wakai, Chair Fukunaga, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) writes in **support of SB 2054**, which would prohibit the Hawai'i National Guard from being commandeered to serve federal operations that run counter to the safety and interests of Hawaii's communities.

Throughout the continent, we have witnessed President Trump deploy troops and militarized federal agents into cities to scare our communities.¹ This blending of law enforcement agencies with military units in a single deportation force is a recipe for the abuse of civil rights – including excessive use of force, racial profiling, and illegal detention.

In Hawai'i, we have seen federal agents taking our immigrant neighbors.² Immigration enforcement has spiked in Hawai'i as compared to previous years: between January 20, 2025 and October 15, 2025, detainers nearly doubled, administrative arrests more than tripled, and detention stays nearly tripled, as compared to the same period in 2024.³ We know that throughout the country, most people being held in detention have not been convicted of a crime.⁴

We must prevent our local authorities, including the Hawai'i National Guard, from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors

¹ Planas R and Witherspoon A. (2026, January 28). The federal agents deployed in Trump's immigration crackdown – visualized. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/19/donald-trump-immigration-crackdown>

² Leonard, M. (2026, January 6). Hawai'i ICE arrests and detentions in 2025 spiked from year before. Honolulu Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2026/01/hawaii-ice-arrests-detentions-2025-far-exceed-2024/>

³ Hausman, D. (2025). "U.S. immigration enforcement data." California Law Review Online, 16 (13).

⁴ Hausman, D. (2025).

away from their families and hurting our communities. Our state and local policies should ensure our law enforcement agencies do not support this gross federal overreach.

It is our kuleana to protect our neighbors' rights to live without fear. For the above reasons, we respectfully request that you pass SB 2054.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving Hawai'i for over 50 years.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 8:32:09 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 10:10:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please support.
Judith White, Psy. D.
Kapaa

Member, Kauai Indivisible

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:53:28 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2054.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:52:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a combat veteran, I am disturbed and disgusted by the way service members are being activated against fellow American citizens as a means to intimidate.

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

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:47:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill to stop our Hawaii National Guard from assisting ICE.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 8:24:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY support SB2054. I am submitting this as a concerned citizen and a member of Indivisible Hawaii. Mahalo.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:52:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Howard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2054. I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:01:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. This is not the purpose of this unit and they have not been trained for this.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 11:29:09 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:02:37 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:07:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this Bill.

Mahalo.

Kanani Kai

Member Hawaii Indivisible

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:18:24 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 12:46:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Los	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alyssa Los, and I strongly support SB2054, which places limits on the deployment of the Hawai‘i National Guard when the Governor objects.

The Hawai‘i National Guard exists to protect and serve our people in times of genuine need. Their highest and best use is in disaster response, emergency preparedness, humanitarian assistance, and public health support—roles they have fulfilled with honor during wildfires, hurricanes, pandemics, and other crises affecting our islands.

SB2054 is necessary to ensure that the Guard is not misused for purposes that create harm, fear, or chaos within our communities. National Guard members should not be placed in situations where they are asked to intimidate, police, or endanger civilians or immigrants within the United States. Such deployments undermine public trust, escalate tensions, and divert critical resources away from true emergencies.

As a state with a long history of valuing community care, cultural respect, and collective well-being, Hawai‘i must draw a clear line between supporting public safety and militarizing civilian life. When Guard members are used in ways that harm vulnerable populations, it damages not only those communities but also the integrity and morale of the service members themselves.

This bill appropriately reinforces the Governor’s authority to object to deployments that do not align with Hawai‘i’s values or the intended mission of the National Guard. It helps ensure that Guard resources remain focused on:

- Disaster relief and climate-related emergencies
- Public health response and medical support
- Infrastructure recovery and humanitarian aid
- Community safety without intimidation or violence

SB2054 protects civilians, immigrants, and service members alike by ensuring deployments are lawful, ethical, and mission-appropriate.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass SB2054.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify and for your commitment to the people of Hawai‘i.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 1:40:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally, as a resident of Lahaina, Hawai'i, and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

This Bill would amend HI Rev. Stat. §121-30 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.

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 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

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:08:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pollock	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.

Robert Pollock

Kula

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 2:50:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:34:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Burns	Individual	Comments	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.

Peter Burns

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 3:59:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators:

I must admit this bill is quite stupid and demonstrates the ignorance of those who wrote it. People who decide to want this type of law do not understand that the National Guard is a federal agency and branch of the US Military that falls under the US Army which is governed by the President of the United States. Not the governor of said state for which it is placed. The governor of said state can only authorize their movement in a state of emergency for the state. If the President of the USA gives an order to activate that National Guard unit they must fulfill that lawful order or face court martial. The National Guard falls under the dictates of the Uniform Code of Military Justice first. Laws such as this have no bearing on what a Guardsman can do and cannot do if the federal government activates their unit.

As you can see, I respectfully oppose this bill. As a prior honorably discharged veteran of the US Military, I am extremely against this. If you want change then send a message to the federal government through the congressional delegation. Do not create laws which can cause a military service member to be dishonorably discharged. Use some common sense.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, AT2(AW) - Disabled American Veteran

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:07:12 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill 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.

Mahalo.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 4:43:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Shizuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I stand in strong support of SB2054.

Similar to my stance for SB2057:

We've all seen the lawlessness that has been occurring around this country. The US Constitution is no longer being followed and ICE has been the fist to do the damage. Ensuring that Hawaii National Guard is not assisting in that operation is needed, as we shouldn't be.

We should be actively preventing ICE operations in Hawaii. Maybe the bill should be amended to prevent ICE operations over the next 2 years.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Keoni Shizuma

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:10:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Hamada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1054.

Please help keep our neighbors and community members from being compelled to turn against us in service to a federal oligarchy.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 6:57:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Hughey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs Committee on Economic Development and Hawaii Around the World

DATE: Tuesday, February 10, 2026 TIME: 3:07 PM PLACE: Conference Room 224 & Videoconference RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2054

Honorable Chair Wakai, Honorable Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Justin Hughey and I am writing in strong support of SB2054.

This measure is a vital step in protecting Hawaii’s sovereignty, ensuring the ethical use of our local resources, and maintaining public trust in our military and National Guard institutions. I support this bill for the following reasons:

- **Protecting Hawaii’s Resources:** Hawaii’s taxpayers and local resources should not be leveraged to support deployments or operations that our state’s elected leadership has formally objected to. This bill ensures that our assets remain aligned with the values and official positions of our State government.
- **Reinforcing Local Accountability:** When outside forces operate within our islands, it is essential to have clear lines of authority. SB2054 reinforces the principle that local leadership must have oversight and a say in activities occurring on Hawaii soil, preventing jurisdictional overreach.
- **Preventing Escalation and Community Fear:** Sensitive military or quasi-military operations can often lead to confusion and anxiety within our local communities. By requiring formal alignment with state leadership, this bill helps prevent unnecessary escalation and ensures that the public is not left in the dark during sensitive maneuvers.
- **Public Transparency and Guard Leadership:** This bill sets a high standard for Hawaii National Guard leadership. It fosters a culture of transparency, ensuring that the public and our legislators are informed and that there is a clear, statutory framework for decision-making regarding deployments.

SB2054 provides the necessary checks and balances to ensure that Hawaii’s military involvement is always consistent with the will of its people and their elected representatives.

I respectfully urge the committees to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Justin Hughey

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 7:47:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Tesitimony in support. Thank you.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:31:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Nakamoto	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Chairs Fukunaga and Wakai, Vice Chairs Lee and Chang and Members of the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Governmental Affairs

My name is Francis M. Nakamoto and I support SB 2054 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.

The Hawai'i National Guard serve to protect the People of the State of Hawaii, not subjugate, oppress, arrest or deport them. Our local men and women who wear the uniform of the Hawai'i Guard enlisted with the intent of serving the defense of the United States in time of war, provide rescue and relief in time of natural disasters and otherwise serve and protect the lives and property of ALL Hawai'i's residents, both citizens and non-citizens alike.

They did not sign up to help federal agents round up undocumented or unauthorized immigrants. That is the exclusive job of ICE, CBP and other immigration enforcement agents. And they certainly did not enlist to randomly confront persons in Hawai'i for interrogation based on the color of their skin, their manner of speech or place of work or residence. They surely didn't sacrifice their weekends, take time away from the families and employment to train and maintain their guard skills to aid in the apprehension, arrest, detention and deportation of their neighbors, relatives and fellow residents who have lived productive, peaceful and crime-free lives in Hawai'i for years.

The horrendous history of ICE and CBP in Minnesota, where federal agents have harassed, detained, assaulted, deported, committed wholesale deprivation of due process of law and even killed persons while performing their immigration deportation duties, provides little reason for the Hawai'i National Guard to assist, protect or be accomplices to their immoral and criminal behaviors. Certainly, our Guardsmen and women should never be placed in the position of being required to harm Hawai'i's residents or assist others to do such harm.

On the contrary, the Hawaii National Guard should be trained now to serve as a bulwark against any UNLAWFUL, CRIMINAL or UNCONSTITUTIONAL actions in any ICE/CBP surge into Hawaii that will certainly out-number and out-gun our local police officers, who are charged with the responsibility of preserving the due process of law and the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i.

For these reasons, keep the Hawaii Guard out of any cooperative role with federal immigration enforcement agencies and support SB2054. Mahalo.

Francis M. Nakamoto

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/7/2026 10:43:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054. 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.

We have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies in a manner that has posed a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the lives of neighbors and people in communities. 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. This bill will be proactive to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the overreach we have seen in other cities and states.

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

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:05:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. It keeps Hawaii National Guard deployments accountable by blocking Guard assistance to federal or out-of-state forces when the Governor has formally objected--preventing escalation, confusion, and community fear.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 7:08:38 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:07:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanne Amberg	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.

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

Joanne Amberg

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:59:31 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:17:47 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brown	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). It would help throw sand into the illegal and evil machinery of the Trump administration to intimidate the population into submission to authoritarian rule. This is a small but important part of the critical effort to cripple and eventually destroy their attempt to end our 250 years of democratic rule. Please pass this bill!

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

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 10:44:41 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Peterson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Don't give ICE or Trump any help here. Thanks.

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

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 10, 2026

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 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—through its National Guard—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 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:07:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2054 to prevent the deployment of Hawaii National Guard troops to support Federal Troop actions within our State. The HNG should only be deployed to aid and protect our own citizens. Especially now, having observed the violence and chaos occurring in Minnesota as a direct result of the unlawful actions of DHS police, and reports from the White House that invasions of DHS into additional states is forthcoming.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:22:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thanks for supporting this bill. No state resources or funds should be devoted to supporting the unconstitutional activities against citizens of our country or against individuals who have done nothing wrong according to the Constitution. I am a member of Indivisible.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:22:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Hester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been an immigration activist for 8 years and have seen the absolute deterioration of this agency who is rogue and lawless. They have been emboldened by the President and DHS Secretary to arrest and detain anyone based on a quota system using racial profiling. We must not allow the National Guard in any way to participate in its cruelty, torture and even death of US citizens.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:32:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:38:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Gonzalez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill. Seeing what's happening on the continent is frightening and already happening here. The Hawaii National Guard is needed in Hawaii to address our needs not to chase down and intimidate our neighbors. I thank you in advance for supporting SB 2054

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:45:44 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the prohibition of the Hawaii National Guard to assist in the activities of immigration and customs enforcement.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:03:50 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony of Rev. Amy Wake

In SUPPORT of SB2054

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 10, 2026

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 Rev. Amy Wake and I am pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Kahala. 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.

SB2054 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—through its National Guard—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 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Rev. Amy Wake

Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church

pastoramywake@gmail.com

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:09:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill.

I am a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 12:51:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Public safety should not be sacrificed by Hawaii National Guard aiding ICE. ICE is dangerous!

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:07:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Shawhan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill that prevents the deployment of Hawaii National Guard to assist Federal when not approved by our state governor. We are in need of these guard rails to assure the public safety under tyranny.

mahalo,

Kathryn Shawhan

Kaneohe , Hawaii

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:22:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estrella S Marin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Estrella Marin as a resident of Hawaii I support SB2054. By prohibiting 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 also do volunterr with Indivisible of Hawaii.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 1:58:21 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona Eisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing you today in strong support of SB2054 as it relates to public safety. The Hawai'i National Guard should be prohibited from deploying to assist federal agents, such as ICE and CBP. These agencies have been instilling fear in recent months, as they have been both kidnapping and murdering both citizens and undocumented persons. Having our National Guard participate in this, shows the people of Hawai'i that the state is not on our side and is instead choosing to support state sanctioned terror. I urge you to please support SB2054.

Mahalo,

Mona Eisa, Honolulu, HI

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:45:48 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maris Leonhardy	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as a citizen and constituent to express my support of prohibiting the Hawai`i National Gaurd from deploying to assist federal troops.

Mahalo

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 2:54:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 4:49:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Kathryn Afable	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting SB2054.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 5:38:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alicia hedlesky	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

02/08/2026

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2054

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Chang, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee and Members of the Committees,

My name is Alicia Hedlesky, a resident of Moloa'a, Kauai and a member of Indivisible Hawaii. I am writing to strongly support SB2054 as one step to help protect the residents of Hawaii from federal overreach. Although I sincerely hope the same violent and aggressive tactics we've seen in LA, Chicago and Minneapolis doesn't occur here, we should be prepared and do everything in our power to protect the rights of everyone in Hawaii should it become necessary.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify on this important issue,

Alicia Hedlesky

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 6:05:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop the national gard from being used by the dictator taking over the USA

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:33:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Verschuur	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Chair and members of the PSM/EIG committee,

I am in strong support of SB2054. I DO NOT WANT our Hawaii National Guard to have ANYthing to do with ICE. Immigrants do not pose a security threat to our islands and should not be treated as criminals. I would like to see a bill outright forbidding ICE on our soil.

Sincerely,

Cynthia Lahilahi Verschuur

12-7002 Kaiheenalu St. # 4587

Pahoa, HI 96778

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:54:11 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

1. **Hawai'i should control how its own resources are used when it comes to deployments in our communities.** [OBJ]
2. **The Hawai'i National Guard exists to serve Hawai'i's safety and emergency needs; SB2054 prevents the Guard from being pulled into disputed federal/out-of-state operations.** [OBJ]
3. **This is a governance and accountability bill: it ties cooperation to an elected state decision-maker's objection.** [OBJ]
4. **It creates clarity for Guard leadership: when the Governor objects, the rule is straightforward—no state resources used to assist that deployment.** [OBJ]
5. **Protects community trust by preventing perceived "militarization" or escalation in contested deployments. (policy rationale)**
6. **Helps avoid mission creep: cooperation can quickly expand from "support" to operational involvement without clear limits. (policy rationale)**
7. **Promotes transparency: the public can understand where the state stands when the Governor objects. (policy rationale)**
8. **Still allows the Guard to perform its core duties under state law for emergencies/disasters as authorized—this is about assisting objected-to deployments, not ending the Guard's public safety role.**

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 8:59:03 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Coules	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.

From Los Angeles CA to Portland OR to Minneapolis MN communities have waited with trepidation to see where the military, local police departments, and National Guard will land. So far, the military and police have sided with ICE, regardless of the tactics employed. The Hawai'i National Guard is made up of our neighbors – fellow community members who signed on and have trained to protect their communities. They have a right to serve as protectors of the people of Hawai'i without harassment from the federal government or its agencies. The people of Hawai'i have a right to expect protection, when they see the National Guard.

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

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 9:47:51 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrie Ann Shirota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs and Committee Members.

President Trump has deployed thousands of military troops to cities in the continental United States— in an egregious abuse of power.

I strongly support SB2054 Relating to Public Safety 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— through its National Guard—to provide personnel, resources, or operational support that could expand or legitimize that deployment.

Sending armed federal agents and military troops into our communities is unjustified and dangerous - whether it's squash protestors, harm immigrants, or intimidate State and local leaders who dare to challenge the current U.S. President or future Presidents.

Please pass SB2024.

Sincerely,
Carrie Ann Shirota. Esq.

Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/8/2026 11:44:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Barbour	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii's National Guard is first and foremost a state force and thus should not be deployed when our elected officials object to it. I place my trust in our government to know when escalation is required, and deploying the national guard against the stated objections of the governor unnecessarily escalates tension. Other states national guard should also not operate in Hawaii without the governor's approval; if they do, this violates our state's sovereignty.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:00:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Trecker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2054.

Federal deployment of thousands of ICE agents throughout the United States has disrupted communities and threatened civil society and the rule of law. This proactive bill, to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with state or federal law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if our Governor objects to the deployment, sends a clear message that Hawaii strongly opposes President Trump's unlawful overreach.

Please pass SB2054. Thank you.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:38:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristy Gund	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 this 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

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 6:02:56 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

this protects our state's sovereignty

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 7:23:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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.

Mahalo, Gail Morrison

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:01:19 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I submit this testimony in strong support of SB2054.

SB2054 is a necessary measure to ensure that Hawai‘i’s resources, including the Hawai‘i National Guard, are not used to support federal or out-of-state deployments that Hawai‘i’s elected leadership has formally objected to. This bill reinforces clear lines of authority and democratic accountability, especially during sensitive operations that can generate fear, confusion, and escalation within our communities.

By establishing a clear standard for when the National Guard may assist external forces, SB2054 protects public transparency, supports responsible command decision-making, and affirms Hawai‘i’s right to object to deployments that do not align with the will or safety of its people. These safeguards are essential for maintaining trust and preventing unnecessary harm during moments of heightened tension.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass SB2054.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:16:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:16:35 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor McKenzie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I ask that you **STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2054** which prohibits the Hawai‘i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or another state’s National Guard operating in Hawai‘i when the Governor has objected to the deployments.

When the Governor has formally objected to a deployment, Hawai‘i should not be required—through its National Guard—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 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.** Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Taylor Ka‘ili McKenzie

Honolulu, O‘ahu

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:23:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Keep Hawaii safe from ICE over reach!

DSM, Waimea, Hawaii Island

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:55:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill, as it will help protect Hawai'i from being drawn into unwanted federal military or law enforcement operations.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:05:25 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	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.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:22:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:48:19 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Peter Wilson and I live in Pahoia on the Big Island and I support SB2054. I do not want any assistance given to the Department of Homeland Security or Immigration and Customs Enforcements of Border Patrol or any federal officers attempting to enforce the immigration efforts of the Trump administration. They are manifestly unconstitutional and have not been legally designed to conform to the Constitution of the United States of America. People have been killed, beaten, and unjustly detained and removed from their state with no Due Process or right of Habeas Corpus. If this governor did not invite them in then they have no right for any assistance in this state's citizens' lives. I thank you for listening to my opinion. Please support SB2054.

Peter Wilson

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:49:56 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bo Breda	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Bo Breda and I live in Pahoia on the Big Island and I support SB2054. I do not want any assistance given to the Department of Homeland Security or Immigration and Customs Enforcements of Border Patrol or any federal officers attempting to enforce the immigration efforts of the Trump administration. They are manifestly unconstitutional and have not been legally designed to conform to the Constitution of the United States of America. People have been killed, beaten, and unjustly detained and removed from their state with no Due Process or right of Habeas Corpus. If this governor did not invite them in then they have no right for any assistance in this state's citizens' lives. I thank you for listening to my opinion. Please support SB2054.

Bo Breda

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:51:27 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Passage of this bill is critical to ensure state sovereignty and prevent misuse and abuse of Hawaii taxpayer dollars. The resources of the State of Hawaii should never be permitted to be used against Hawaii's residents or those within its care or boundaries, and especially not for dangerous political campaigns, retribution, or violations of civil rights. It is essential to have strong legislation in place to support the decisions of the elected representatives of the state in the event that the federal government attempts to seize control of the state's armed forces, financial and personnel resources, or other state authority. Thank you for supporting this bill.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:56:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally as a 20-year veteran of the US Air Force 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.

National Guards are state assets that exist to support state initiatives. While in recent years, state National Guard forces have been leveraged heavily for overseas deployments along with active duty forces as part of the "Total Force" concept, it's important to remember that these forces exist to to serve states, not the federal government.

States must retain control over these forces, especially when a corrupt federal regime weaponizes them (literally) to support illegal and immoral secret police forces terrorizing citizens and stifling free speech in the name of "immigration enforcement." 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

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 12:07:10 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee. I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Minneapolis, Portland, Maine and several other cities in the US including now in the westside of Oahu in Waianae, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to our Ohana and a threat to society. I have heard recent testimony of neighbors here who have had very aggressive encounters with ICE that were without probably cause, and most likely motivated by skin color and social status.

The "President" of the United State has called upon the National Guard to support previous the violent and aggressive efforts of ICE to only escalate violence and create more harm.

Hawaii must act now before crisis comes to ourshores with massive force, to protect our guard and the people of the state from the unconstitutional overreach of the Trump Administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one peace of a defence 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.

in gratitude,

Bridget Llanes

To: Hawaii State Senate Committees on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
And Public Safety and Military Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Monday February 10, 2026, 3:07 PM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, CR 224 & Videoconference

Re: Judith Ann Armstrong supports SB2054 Relating to Public Safety

Dear Chairs Senator Glenn Wakai and Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chairs Senator Stanley Chang and Chris Lee and members of the Committees on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Public Safety and Military Affairs

I, Judith Ann Armstrong, 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.

Sincerely,

Judith Ann Armstrong

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:09:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynda Suesue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am appalled at the deadly use of force by ICE in the United States under this criminal, federal administration! Hawaii MUST resist and by passing legislation such as this to protect our residents and National Guard Members. I am a concerned mother, grandmother, Clinical Social Worker and member of Indivisible Hawaii. Thank you for supportng this bill

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:15:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Grabow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii Legislators,

It is important to have checks and balances to the powers of the Hawaii governor, and to maintain to purpose of the Hawaii National Guard.

Other state legislators have not allowed excessive 'Executive Emergency Proclamations" powers to their state governor.

But Hawaii has the most - 70 ongoing emergency proclamations so far, under Gov. Green!

Please support this bill, which ensures that the Hawaii National Guard (under state or Title 32 control) will NOT assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state Guard units in ways the Governor objects to—protecting state sovereignty, individual liberties, and constitutional principles against overreach.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:53:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2054 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 in our islands.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:57:38 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

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 the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

My name is Dianne Winter Brookins, 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 a recently retired attorney and a member of the Hawaii Coalition for Civil Rights (HCCR). I am testifying as an individual.

SB2054 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—through its National Guard—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 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. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Dianne Winter Brookins

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 1:58:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen A Valasek	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.

Karen Valasek

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 2:24:28 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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 maintain agency in this matter. Mahalo for your consideration.

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani
In SUPPORT of SB2054**

Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 10, 2026

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 Wendy Naomi Sodetani, 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 testifying as a Hawai'i resident, a writer, and U.S. citizen of Japanese ancestry. My grandparents came here from Hiroshima seeking safety, opportunity and better lives for their children and future generations. I recently retired from a community health center in Kalihi serving primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant populations. The latter are legally entitled to live and work in Hawai'i and U.S. under the Compact of Free Association (COFA). I am heartbroken to hear that our patients and their families now live in fear of deportation and being torn from their families here, and stay home from work, from school and even their medical appointments. They hide from federal agencies like ICE and Customs and Border Protection who do not seek to protect, but terrorize our community, immigrants and citizens alike.

I strongly support SB2054 and beg you to pass this measure to reinforce 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—through its National Guard—to provide personnel, resources, or operational support that could expand or legitimize that deployment. 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 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 and many more, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054. I implore you to protect our precious community and all who call it home. In Hawai'i, we are more than neighbors, we are 'ohana.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wendy Naomi Sodetani
Kaimuki resident
naomisodetani@gmail.com
(808) 741-0555

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 3:35:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:04:53 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this measure.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 4:52:55 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 5:18:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support prohibiting national guard from aiding federal troops on trumps command

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:26:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal N Barnett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you! I'm a member of Indivisible Hawai'i.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 8:35:56 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Rivers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii must stand with its citizens and not allow our National Guard troops to be used against them... we are their neighbors, their friends, their relatives... we must stand up to the facism that is being supported by the Trump adminstration before we lose all of our rights.

Mahalo for your consideration.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 9:48:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Dean	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.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/9/2026 10:18:07 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue. I have been horrified by how Trump has deployed the National Guard in several cities against the objections of State Governors. National Guards join to in order help people in situations of disasters. Instead, Trump has used them like they are his personal military to suppress people who are objecting to the crisis that he created. SB2054 will provide a line of defense against the abuse of power by the Federal Government.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:53:22 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i does not want to be the next La, Chicago or Minnesota. Our National Guard are for us and not to be used against us.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:54:48 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Patrick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an individual citizen and as a member of Indivisible West Oahu, I support this Bill which will 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. It is time to take action to defend our democracy.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:48:57 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a sovereign state, Hawai'i should prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 6:49:40 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is a common sense bill made necessary by Federal over reach. Stongly Support.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 8:53:09 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Shirts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:40:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aliza Gebin	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.

With aloha,

Aliza Gebin

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 9:45:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2054, which would prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from assisting the National Guard of another state or federal troops deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to that deployment. As we have seen in other states, the federal government is misusing National Guard troops and is attacking law abiding citizens. Hawaii must act now to prevent unlawful conduct and unconstitutional overreach of the federal government.

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 10:47:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

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.

I am writing today 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.

SB2054 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—through its National Guard—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 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona



COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair | Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair | Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 3:07 pm | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 224
State Capitol - 415 South Beretania Street

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

Chair Wakai, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Lee, 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**, 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** 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** 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', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 11:45:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Goernor should have the final say when it comes to safety of our people. Nowadays unfortunately the Federal government is out for themselves and cannot be trusted to do the right thing! Who would have thought?!?

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND
INTERGOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS
Sen. Glenn Wakai, Chair
Sen. Stanley Chang, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

LATE

HEARING:

Tuesday, February 10, 2026 at 3:07 pm | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 224
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

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

Aloha Chair Wakai, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chang, Vice Chair Lee, 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, 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.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

LATE

SB-2054

Submitted on: 2/10/2026 12:46:46 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/10/2026 3:07:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Joell Edwards. I am a resident of Wainiha, Kaua‘i, a small business owner, and a community advocate. I currently serve as Chair of the Kaua‘i County Democrats, but I am submitting this testimony in my personal capacity.

I am testifying in strong support of SB2054, which would prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from being deployed to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the National Guard of another state in Hawai‘i if the Governor has objected to the deployment. The bill clarifies that Hawai‘i’s National Guard should not be used in federal or interstate operations within the State when the duly elected state executive has expressly objected.

For communities like mine, living in a rural island setting far from many mainland resources, it’s important that decisions about public safety and the use of state-controlled resources remain anchored in local authority and accountability. This measure affirms that the State’s leadership—not external military or law enforcement entities—determines how and when Hawai‘i’s National Guard is used within our own communities.

Our island communities deserve policies that protect our sovereignty, respect civilian oversight, and ensure that local priorities guide how public resources are deployed. I respectfully urge your support of SB2054.