



**STATE HEALTH PLANNING
AND DEVELOPMENT AGENCY**
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH - KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO

JOSH GREEN, MD
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII
KE KIA'ĀINA O KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII

KENNETH S. FINK, MD, MGA, MPH
DIRECTOR OF HEALTH
KA LUNA HO'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

March 12, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Honorable Members

FROM: John C. (Jack) Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA, and Sr. Advisor to
Governor Josh Green, MD on Healthcare Innovation

RE: **SB 2055-SD1 -- RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS**

HEARING: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 @ 2:00 pm; Conference Room 325

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB2055-SD1, with comments.

This bill is intended to create a clear, accessible way for people in Hawai'i to report and get help for harms or misconduct tied to certain federal enforcement activities, such as troop deployments, federal law enforcement actions, or immigration enforcement operations. By establishing a 24/7 statewide helpline and a secure reporting system, the bill aims to connect impacted individuals to appropriate services (legal, social, crisis, and school supports), while also improving transparency and accountability through regular public reporting on trends and outcomes.

This bill strengthens Hawai'i's ability to detect and respond to community harm by creating a consistent front door for people to access timely crisis support, behavioral health resources, and other wraparound services, especially for residents facing language, disability, or access barriers. De-identified trend data can help health and human services partners spot emerging issues, reduce preventable health consequences from trauma and disruption, and better target resources where they're most needed.

This bill supports a more coordinated, data-informed safety net that helps Hawai'i respond earlier and more effectively to community needs, while reinforcing transparency and equity in how services are planned and delivered.

Thank you for hearing SB2055-SD1 and mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin MD, Administrator, SHPDA



HAWAI‘I CIVIL RIGHTS COMMISSION KOMIKINA PONO KĪWILA O HAWAI‘I

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 411, HONOLULU, HI 96813 · PHONE: (808) 586-8636 · FAX: (808) 586-8655 · TDD: (808) 586-8692

DATE: Tuesday, March 17, 2026
TIME: 2:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 325 &
Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

To:

[COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS](#)

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Alphonso Braggs, Chair

and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. 2055 SD1 Relating to Civil Rights

Testimony in SUPPORT

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) carries out the Hawai‘i constitutional mandate that no person shall be discriminated against in the exercise of their civil rights. Art. I, Sec. 5. HCRC has enforcement jurisdiction over Hawai‘i’s laws prohibiting discrimination in employment (Chapter 378, Part I, HRS), housing (Chapter 515, HRS), public accommodations (Chapter 489, HRS), and access to state and state-funded services (HRS § 368-1.5).

The Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission (HCRC) strongly supports SB2055 SD1 because it establishes a clear, accessible, and trustworthy system for residents to report civil rights harms. This measure reflects our commitment to protecting civil rights under Article I,

Section 5 of the Hawai'i Constitution and honors foundational Native Hawaiian values that guide our stewardship of community wellbeing and public resources.

Key Points

1. **Helpline Availability:** While the bill aims to provide a twenty-four-hour helpline, we propose partnering with the Aloha United Way (AUW) to utilize its existing 211 system, which does not operate a true 24/7 intake. The current AUW 211 platform offers live response from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, with voicemail and callback services outside these hours. State employees cannot work in shifts that cover all twenty-four hours due to legal, contractual, and budgetary limitations tied to state personnel policies and collective bargaining agreements. Therefore, to ensure the feasibility of the helpline, we recommend clarifying the hours of operation in the final bill, with the possibility of expanding to full 24-hour live coverage as resources and partnerships grow.
2. **Scope of Reporting and Jurisdiction for HCRC:** The reporting mechanism should clearly state that it is available for reporting civil rights violations under state law, as well as those involving federal actors such as troop deployments, federal law enforcement, or immigration enforcement operations. However, HCRC will investigate only those issues for which it has jurisdiction under chapter 368, HRS. Reports received through the helpline that fall outside HCRC's jurisdiction, including some federal actions, will be collected and included in aggregated data; callers will be connected to appropriate resources but investigations will not proceed on those matters.

3. **Collaboration with Aloha United Way:** HCRC has met with AUW, who supports the concept of integrating the helpline into the existing 211 system. We are actively working to design a collaborative framework that aligns with the Commission's mission and ensures practical, cost-effective implementation should this bill pass. Both HCRC and AUW anticipate that implementing the measure will require a full calendar year to build out the necessary infrastructure, coordinate staffing and resources, and ensure seamless service delivery.
4. **Scope of collected information for AUW:** To support AUW's continued good standing with federal partners, and to ensure clarity about the helpline's purpose, it would be helpful to specify that intake will focus on civil rights matters under Hawai'i law. This clarification keeps the emphasis on state-level concerns and provides AUW with an added layer of clarity in the event of federal review.
5. **Timing for implementation:** HCRC and AUW request at least one calendar year as the lead time for implementation. This will allow for proper Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) execution, procurement of the database, staff training, and public notification, guidance, and outreach.

Financial Request

We respectfully request appropriations to support the successful implementation of SB2055 SD1, including:

1. Annual personnel costs ranging from \$350,000 to \$430,000 for two (2) civil rights investigators, one (1) data analyst, one (1) program manager, and one (1) administrative support.

2. Contract funding for the AUW 211 intake system estimated at \$500,000 per year to ensure robust coverage and support services.
3. Website and database development costs are estimated between \$70,000 and \$225,000 for initial build and ongoing maintenance.

These figures reflect comparable state contracts and staffing needs; they are necessary for the program to be fully operational and sustainable on day one. We appreciate the Committee's consideration and continued commitment to advancing civil rights in Hawai'i. SB2055 SD1 provides essential tools to protect families, strengthen public trust, and support our diverse communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to share our testimony in support and provide these comments.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2055, SD1 - RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing today in **strong support** of **SB 2055, SD1**, Relating to Civil Rights. This measure requires the Civil Rights Commission (CRC) to establish a 24-hour intake helpline to report harms from federal deployments in Hawai'i, with monthly reporting, an annual report, and an annual public hearing. It also appropriates funds for staffing and implementation (including contracting with Aloha United Way and data/website development).

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and across Hawai'i. Formed after the August 2023 Maui wildfires, we have since grown into an organization providing pro bono immigration legal services, Know Your Rights education, and rapid response coordination for immigrant residents statewide.

In partnership with our coalition, we have:

- Distributed over 3,500 constitutional rights flyers
- Trained 700+ community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Provided 50+ trainings for service providers, employers, and community leaders
- Responded to over 450 tipline calls related to federal enforcement activity
- Trained 60+ volunteer observers in verification, peaceful documentation and de-escalation

These direct experiences ground our testimony. We have seen how fear and confusion about immigration enforcement undermine recovery, safety, and trust — especially among wildfire survivors and victims of domestic violence. Our EPA Maui volunteer observers are trained to verify and document federal enforcement activity in public spaces, including through recording, as the First Amendment allows. They do this work because transparency protects everyone. The deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti at the hands of federal agents in Minneapolis have deeply shaken our volunteers. These two observers and community members were doing the same kind of constitutionally protected work our observers do. The video of their deaths is chilling. And the only reason their story is being told at all is because other volunteer observers were present to document what happened.

It is the violation of constitutional rights by federal agents — not the act of observing — that puts people like our volunteers at risk. Not only of having their rights infringed, but of bodily harm or death. Despite these dangers, EPA Maui volunteers remain committed to protecting our community members and ensuring that government activity in public spaces is documented. Senate Bill 2055, SD1 is important



because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources. That is why we urge you to support and fund SB 2055, SD1, so those who have their civil rights violated by federal agents can have access to support and accountability.

Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms and the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports.

Taking photographs and videos in public spaces, including recording law enforcement officers carrying out their duties, is a constitutional right protected by the First Amendment. Senate Bill 2055 SD1 reaffirms that right by providing access to public resources, support and accountability when law enforcement unlawfully interferes with it. It is for this reason that **we strongly support SB 2055 SD1** and respectfully respect that you vote in support of the bill.

Sinceramente,

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

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:20:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Plkachu Billionaire	Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands & ohana Unity Party	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

****STRONG SUPPORT**** of SB2055 SD1 Relating to Civil Rights H

Aloha Chair(s) and Members of the Committees,

My name is Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM, Chairman of the Ohana Unity Party, representing the Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands. As a steadfast advocate for the protection of our lāhui, civil rights, cultural sovereignty, family unity, and resistance to external overreach that harms our communities, I submit this testimony in ****STRONG SUPPORT**** of SB2055 SD1.

This essential bill requires the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour, toll-free helpline for individuals harmed—or whose ‘ohana have been harmed—by federal troop deployments, federal law enforcement, or immigration enforcement operations in our State.

It provides critical assistance (resource referrals, legal/social support, crisis intervention), accepts anonymized reports of misconduct, ensures confidentiality, maintains a secure database, and mandates transparent reporting: monthly preliminary reports (with disclaimers), an annual aggregated report to the Legislature (detailing numbers, agencies, patterns like excessive force or racial profiling, and recommendations), and at least one annual public hearing.

With appropriations for staffing (investigators, data analysts, program managers), integration with Aloha United Way's 211 system, and website/database development, the bill equips the Commission to document and respond to federal actions that threaten our people's rights and well-being. Here are numbered, compelling reasons why the Committees should support and advance SB2055 SD1:

1. ****Protects Vulnerable Communities from Federal Overreach**** Federal deployments, law enforcement, and immigration operations have caused documented harms—including excessive force, unlawful searches/seizures, racial profiling, detention, and family separation—that disproportionately impact Native Hawaiians, immigrants, Pacific Islanders, and marginalized groups in our islands. A dedicated helpline provides immediate access to help and a safe channel to report incidents without fear.
2. ****Empowers Transparency and Accountability**** Monthly and annual reports (with redacted personally identifiable information) will reveal patterns and trends in federal misconduct, law

enforcement agencies involved, and needed policy/training improvements. This data-driven approach holds external powers accountable while informing state-level advocacy and protections.

3. ****Honors Native Hawaiian Rights and Cultural Integrity**** Federal actions often disrupt traditional practices, access to ‘āina, and ‘ohana structures protected under Article XII, Section 7 of the Hawai‘i State Constitution. By documenting harms and offering culturally sensitive referrals, the helpline supports pono stewardship and prevents erosion of our sovereignty and community resilience.

4. ****Provides Practical Resources and Crisis Support**** The helpline assists callers in accessing county/state programs, legal aid, social services, school crisis intervention, and more—bridging gaps for those facing immediate threats to liberty, property, health, or life. Features like voicemail, website access, translation, and disability accommodations ensure broad reach.

5. ****Advances Self-Sovereignty and Community Defense**** In an era of increasing federal interventions, this bill empowers Hawai‘i to monitor and respond independently, reducing reliance on external systems that may not prioritize our people's needs. It fosters ‘āina momona by safeguarding our ohana from harm and building evidence for stronger local protections—key steps toward true self-determination. SB2055 SD1 is a proactive, balanced measure that strengthens civil rights infrastructure without overstepping jurisdiction (investigations limited to Commission authority).

It reflects growing concerns over federal enforcement impacts and aligns with calls for community safety and justice. I urge the Committees to pass SB2055 SD1 unanimously and forward it swiftly. Our people deserve tools to document, heal from, and prevent harms inflicted by outside forces—let us stand in protection of our rights and sovereignty.

Mahalo nui loa for your kuleana in defending civil liberties and the well-being of Hawai‘i's communities.

Sincerely, Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire, HRM Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands, H.I.
Ohana Unity Party, Chairman



MARCH 17, 2026

SENATE BILL 2055 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

808-679-7454
kris@imuaalliance.org
www.imuaalliance.org
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SB 2055 SD1, relating to civil rights, which requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to submit reports of harms from federal deployments in the State; and requires the Civil Rights Commission to compile an annual report and hold an annual public hearing on data obtained through the helpline.

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

Research shows that aggressive immigration enforcement undermines public safety and survivors’ access to services. According to a study published in *Criminology & Public Policy* using National Crime Victimization Survey data, fear of deportation is associated with reduced reporting of violent crime among immigrant communities. Similarly, the National Institute of Justice has found that immigrants—especially in destination communities—are less likely to report crimes due to fear of immigration consequences.

This chilling effect is especially severe for survivors of sexual exploitation, gender violence, and trafficking. According to the Urban Institute and the National Domestic Violence Hotline, immigrant survivors frequently delay or avoid seeking help because abusers threaten deportation, and because survivors fear contact with law enforcement or government systems.

Quantitative data also dispels the myth that aggressive immigration enforcement is necessary for public safety. According to research by the Cato Institute and the American Immigration Council, immigrants—both documented and undocumented—are significantly less likely to commit crimes than U.S.-born citizens and are less likely to be incarcerated. Analysis of ICE data has shown that individuals accused of serious violent crimes

make up a small fraction of immigration arrests, indicating that most enforcement actions do not target dangerous individuals.

According to U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) annual enforcement reports, the agency conducts tens of thousands of interior arrests each year, with over 143,000 administrative arrests nationwide in FY 2023 and significant increases reported in FY 2024 and FY 2025. In Hawai‘i, ICE’s Honolulu Enforcement and Removal Operations (ERO) office has historically reported several hundred arrests annually, but these numbers have almost certainly increased significantly over the past year, with the Trump Administration’s mandates on enhanced immigration enforcement.

According to data compiled by the Transactional Records Access Clearinghouse (TRAC) at Syracuse University, a large share of people detained or arrested by Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) have no criminal convictions or only minor offenses. TRAC reports that among ICE detainees, 48,377 out of 65,735 individuals—nearly three-quarters—had no criminal conviction, and among those with convictions, many were for minor offenses such as traffic violations or other low-level infractions. These findings illustrate that immigration enforcement frequently impacts individuals who pose no public safety threat and who are deeply embedded in families and communities.

Similarly, an analysis reported by FactCheck.org found that as ICE arrests increased in recent years, the share of people arrested with no U.S. criminal convictions or pending charges rose substantially. Approximately 43 percent of those detained by ICE in January 2026 had no criminal convictions or pending charges according to the publicly available—and often incomplete—ICE data, and that this proportion has grown over time, rising from roughly 22% early in the administration to over 40% today. Factcheck further noted that according to the Department of Homeland Security, about 29% of detainees had criminal convictions, underscoring that immigration enforcement increasingly targets people without criminal records. These data contradict the Trump administration’s claims that enforcement is focused solely on individuals who have committed serious crimes.

This enforcement climate has profound consequences for survivors of sexual exploitation, domestic violence, and human trafficking. Survivors who are immigrants—especially those without lawful status—often fear that seeking help will expose them or their family members to detention or deportation. Service providers have documented that immigration enforcement activity deters reporting of crimes and increases vulnerability to exploitation. **SB 2055’s helpline would provide accurate information and referrals, reducing fear and misinformation while supporting survivors’ ability to access constitutionally protected services and legal protections.**

The helpline envisioned in this bill also supports constitutionally protected civil rights. Immigrants, regardless of status, are entitled to due process under the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments and protection against unreasonable searches and seizures under the Fourth Amendment. By providing

confidential, accurate information about rights and services, the helpline ensures that fear of immigration enforcement does not prevent individuals from accessing healthcare, victim services, or emergency assistance.

Recent events underscore the urgency of this legislation. Nationally, highly publicized ICE operations—including recent fatal confrontations during enforcement actions in Minneapolis—have intensified fear in immigrant communities and raised concerns about the risks of aggressive tactics. In Hawai‘i, local media have reported ICE enforcement actions over the past year that have been conducted without respect for due process protections or civil liberties for residents of our island home.

For migrant survivors of sexual exploitation and gender-based violence, these dynamics are devastating. When survivors fear deportation, they are less likely to report abuse, seek medical care, or cooperate with prosecutors, allowing perpetrators to continue harming others. This proposal would help ensure that survivors can seek help without fear and that public safety systems function effectively.

Strengthening statutory protections against inappropriate immigration-enforcement actions is essential to sustaining public trust. This measure will improve community safety and affirm that Hawai‘i is a place where everyone can seek help without fear.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 15, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2055

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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 2055. While this measure may not prevent abuses, it will be important for documenting them in hopes that somewhere, someday, the decisionmakers who unleashed the perpetrators of violence, abuse, and suffering on communities around the country may be held accountable.

Thank you.



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

**Testimony of Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)
In Strong Support of SB2055 SD1, Relating to Civil Rights**

**House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA)
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m.
Location: Via Videoconference, Conference Room 325**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) submits this testimony in **strong support of SB2055 SD1**.

This measure would require the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission to establish a **twenty-four-hour intake helpline** for individuals to submit reports of harms resulting from federal deployments in the State. It would also require the Commission to compile annual and monthly reports based on the information received, helping the State identify patterns, track harms, and inform policymakers and the public.

HCIR supports SB2055 SD1 because accountability begins with transparency, and communities cannot seek accountability if there is no safe, accessible, and trusted way to document harms in real time. This is especially true when people are frightened, limited-English proficient, uncertain about their rights, or unsure where to turn for help. Immigrant, refugee, and mixed-status families are often among those most vulnerable when federal agencies operate in ways that create intimidation, confusion, or fear of retaliation.

A statewide, 24/7 helpline housed through the Civil Rights Commission would create a clear and credible reporting pathway for people who experience or witness misconduct by federal law enforcement or military personnel operating in Hawai‘i. It would also help ensure that people harmed are connected to information, support, and resources instead of being left isolated after traumatic encounters.

This bill is also an important preparedness measure. Across the country, there have been repeated reports of federal enforcement actions that raise serious civil rights concerns, including operations marked by unclear identification, excessive force, intimidation, and barriers to accountability. Hawai‘i should be prepared to respond in an organized and effective manner if similar tactics are used here. A functioning intake and reporting structure will help the State



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

gather consistent information, identify trends, support impacted individuals and families, and better understand the scale and nature of federal activity occurring in our communities.

SB2055 SD1 is a practical and responsible step toward protecting civil rights in Hawai'i. It recognizes that if harms occur, the State should not be forced to rely on scattered anecdotes or informal reporting. Instead, Hawai'i should have a centralized mechanism to receive reports, preserve data, and ensure public officials and the Legislature have the information needed to respond.

For these reasons, HCIR respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS SB2055 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Liza Ryan Gill

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)

**Testimony of Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association
In SUPPORT of SB2055 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Wilfredo Tungol, the Advocacy Chair of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA) and we submit this testimony in **support of SB2055 SD1**, which requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a 24-hour intake helpline for individuals to report harms from federal deployments in the State, requires monthly and annual public reporting, and appropriates funds for staffing and implementation, including contracting with Aloha United Way.

SB2055 SD1 is important because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces those barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources. This is especially critical right now, as federal enforcement activity in our communities continues to increase.

Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms—and when the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs is well-positioned to advance this civil rights infrastructure and send it toward final passage.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2055 SD1** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wilfredo Tungol

HFLA Advocacy Chair

808-387-7412



March 15, 2026

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: S.B. 2055 Relating to Civil Rights

Hearing: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 PM, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and the Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in strong support of S.B. 2055 Relating to Civil Rights.

This measure would require the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to report harms related to federal deployments and enforcement activities in the State, as well as compile data and provide public reporting on these incidents. Creating an accessible reporting pathway is an important step toward protecting civil rights and ensuring transparency and accountability.

Establishing a centralized helpline would provide people with a clear, accessible, and confidential way to report harms and seek assistance. This is especially important for vulnerable communities, including women, immigrants, and individuals who may already face barriers to accessing legal protections.

Hawaii Women Lawyers commends and thanks the Legislature for prioritizing measures that strengthen civil rights protections and improve access to justice. Establishing a reporting mechanism and improving oversight will help ensure that individuals in Hawaii have meaningful avenues to report harms and that the State can respond effectively.

For the above reasons, we strongly support S.B. 2055 Relating to Civil Rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.



March 16, 2026

**Testimony with Comments of S.B.2055
Relating to Civil Rights**

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

Aloha United Way respectfully submits testimony with comments on S.B. 2055, S.D. 1, which requires the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission to establish a helpline for individuals to report civil rights violations related to federal troop deployments, federal law enforcement, or immigration enforcement activities in the State.

Aloha United Way operates Hawai'i's 211 Statewide Helpline, the state's only comprehensive health and human services information and referral helpline. Our trained Community Resource Specialists assist residents in accessing housing support, food assistance, government benefits, legal services, crisis intervention services, and other essential community resources. In 2025, 211 connected 51,576¹ local callers to the resources they need, right here in Hawai'i.

AUW appreciates the intent of this measure to ensure individuals who experience or witness potential civil rights violations have a clear and accessible way to seek assistance, information, and referrals to appropriate services. The existing 211 infrastructure and resource database would serve as a valuable entry point for connecting individuals with relevant legal, social, and community-based resources.

AUW211 can provide access to a live, trained, trauma-informed specialist from 7:00 a.m. to 10:00 p.m. daily to assist callers. From 10:00 p.m. to 7:00 a.m., AUW can maintain access through an IVR/voicemail system, allowing callers to leave a message for follow-up, submit an online form, or self-service through a designated website.

We welcome the opportunity to work with the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission and the Legislature to design an intake structure that ensures accessibility, confidentiality, and high-quality service delivery.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your commitment to protecting civil rights in Hawai'i.

Mahalo,

Michelle Bartell
President & CEO
Aloha United Way

¹ https://auw211.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/02/211-Annual-Report-2025_v8.pdf



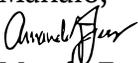
Committee: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 17, 2026, at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 325 & Via Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB 2055 SD1 Relating to Civil Rights**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i **supports SB 2055 SD1**, which establishes a 24-hour hotline to report civil rights harms or misconduct.

In Minnesota and throughout the continent, we have witnessed President Trump's growing police force employ secret tactics, including ordering masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities. Federal agents are taking our immigrant neighbors. In Hawai'i, we have seen this occur in Kaua'i, for example.¹ 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 2024.² We know that throughout the country, most people being held in detention have not been convicted of a crime.³

We must do everything that we can to protect our residents against federal efforts to erode civil rights and undermine the rule of law. This bill offers support for individuals who have suffered from or witnessed these abuses and connect them to resources. For these reasons, we respectfully request that the committee SUPPORT this measure.

Mahalo,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai'i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public

¹ 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/>

² Hausman, D. (2025). "U.S. immigration enforcement data." California Law Review Online, 16 (13).

³ Hausman, D. (2025).

and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:56:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:21:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2055.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:56:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:11:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 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-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:01:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2055, SD1 - RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews, and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui – The People in Action Maui. I write to you today in **strong support of SB 2055, SD1, Relating to Civil Rights.**

This measure requires the Civil Rights Commission (CRC) to establish a 24-hour intake helpline to report harms from federal deployments in Hawai'i, with monthly reporting, an annual report, and an annual public hearing. It also appropriates funds for staffing and implementation (including contracting with Aloha United Way and data/website development).

As an attorney licensed for over 25 years, it is difficult for me to express to you my feelings witnessing the violations of the Constitution and rule of law that federal agents and agencies are engaged in nationwide. The violations of the First Amendment, which began in early 2025 with federal agents detaining and attempting to deport students for their protected speech, have escalated recently to the murder by federal agents of two citizens engaged in protected and lawful constitutional observation activity.

I engage in constitutional education and observer activity here on Maui as part of a coalition of protectors. I am a volunteer Know Your Rights educator, and have trained social services and health care professionals, business owners and faith leadership, teachers and union leaders on what their constitutional rights are, and how to protect them from being violated by federal agents. I am a volunteer observer, trained to verify and document activity by federal agents, including recording them. The murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis hit me very hard. To watch the video of someone being murdered doing the kind of constitutionally-protected education and documenting work I do was terrifying. I think it is safe to say that it impacted everyone within our volunteer network. It did not, however, have the intended effect. While it was a shock to our mental health and overall wellbeing, all of the volunteers I know reconfirmed their commitment to the work that we do to serve and protect our community, even at the risk of our own lives if that is what protecting democracy requires.

SB2055 SD1 is important because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources. Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms and the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports.

On behalf of myself, and of other volunteers I know, I **request that you support SB 2055, SD1** to stand with people like me fighting to ensure the rights of all people are protected, and to provide support and accountability when civil rights are violated.

In honor of Renee Good and Alex Pretti,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:20:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:48:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055. This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

Kathleen "kate" Dickson

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

Aloha, Representative David Tarnas, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Vice-Chair Representative Mahina Poepoe,
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha, Representatives,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2053 SD1, "Relating to Civil Rights."

This bill proposes that the State Civil Rights Commission establish a Civil Rights Helpline to assist residents of the State who have suffered harm as a result of violation of their rights. Such violations have been committed by government officials in other states, including federal agents. People have been wrongfully arrested, detained, and beaten and denied due process of law. We don't want to see any of that behavior copied here in our islands.

Realizing, though, that it is possible that such abuses could happen here, residents of Hawai'i need a way to report violations of their rights and to get help, and a Civil Rights Helpline would meet this need.

In addition, the creation of a Civil Rights Helpline would make it possible for the State to assemble data about such violations based on what is reported on the Helpline.

Please vote in favor of **SB2055 SD1**.

Mahalo,

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

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:43:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). I am writing to provide testimony in strong support of SB2055. This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:48:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2055 SD1 and fully fund its implementation. SB2055 SD1 is important because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces those barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources. This is especially critical right now, as federal enforcement activity in our communities continues to increase.

Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms—and when the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs is well-positioned to advance this civil rights infrastructure and send it toward final passage.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:48:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support SB2055.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 1:45:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy agbayani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully request you pass this bill as it will provide transparency and accountability on civil rights.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:59:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:05:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:42:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see the denial of citizens and immigrants alike of due process. DHS/ICE/Immigration customs officials are often masked with no identification and there are verified reports that they destroy evidence and hide the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii's shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

Mahalo,

Bridget Llanes, Waianae

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:42:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr retired Navy Veteran, who took a solemn oath to defend the Constitution from all enemies foreign and domestic, and that oath didn't expire when I retired. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL SB-2055 SD2.

SB-2055 SD1 singles out “federal troop deployments, federal law enforcement, or immigration enforcement operations” for a special state-run hotline and reporting system. By design, the bill assumes that federal officers and troops are a unique source of harm that require their own permanent complaint infrastructure. That framing is inherently biased. If the goal is truly to protect civil rights, the law should apply neutrally to any public official who violates those rights—not isolate and stigmatize federal personnel who are carrying out the policies of our elected federal government.

This bill risks chilling lawful federal enforcement activities. Immigration enforcement, border security, and national defense are core constitutional responsibilities of the federal government. Creating a state-run, 24-hour helpline focused specifically on “harm” from federal deployments, combined with a mandate to identify “patterns or trends regarding misconduct, excessive use of force, racial profiling, and other federal and state civil rights violations,” sends a clear message that federal agents operating in Hawai'i will be under special political scrutiny. That can discourage decisive action in dangerous situations, weaken cooperation between state and federal agencies, and ultimately undermine public safety.

SB-2055 SD1 grows government with no clear cost controls or sunset. The bill requires a round-the-clock toll-free hotline, a website, translation and disability access services, advertising, a secure database, annual reports, and yearly public hearings. All of this implies new staff, contracts, and ongoing operating expenses. Yet the bill contains no requirement to show that existing channels are inadequate, no performance standards, and no end date or review trigger. In a time of competing priorities, schools, infrastructure, public safety, Hawai'i should not be committing to an open-ended new bureaucracy without a clear demonstration of need and a plan to measure outcomes.

This bill is redundant. Citizens already have multiple avenues to report genuine civil-rights violations: the Hawai'i Civil Rights Commission, the courts, local law-enforcement complaint processes, federal civil-rights hotlines, inspectors general, and internal affairs mechanisms. Instead of strengthening those established systems for all residents and all types of governmental misconduct, SB-2055 SB1 carves out a politically charged niche aimed only at federal deployments. That does not improve equal justice; it creates another silo that can be used to advance a particular agenda against federal immigration and security policies.

The data-collection scheme in SB-2055 SD1 is troubling. The bill directs the Commission to build and maintain a permanent database of all reports involving federal law enforcement and military deployments, then publish annual analyses and "recommendations for policy and training improvements." In practice, this could become a tool to generate one-sided statistics and narratives about federal officers, based on anonymous or unverified complaints, and then use those narratives to pressure agencies and elected officials. That is not a neutral civil-rights safeguard; it is a recipe for politicized oversight.

For these reasons, I urge you to defer SB-2055 SD1.

Brett Kulbis
U.S. Navy Retired

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:13:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2055 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a new section to Chapter 368 HRS requiring the Civil Rights Commission to establish and maintain a 24-hour toll free helpline for witnesses, persons who have been harmed, and their family members to report misconduct by any federal law enforcement officer or military personnel operating in the State. The helpline shall provide assistance to those who have been harmed, and maintain records of calls reporting harm caused by federal agents, including anonymous reports. The Civil Rights Commission would submit an annual report to the legislature with data from the helpline and a report on federal deployments in the State.

We see verified reports and video daily of federal DHS agents beating, arresting and shooting members of the communities where they have been “surged” allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike of due process, they are masked with no identification and there are verified reports of destroying evidence and hiding the perpetrators of violence. The first step to accountability is transparency, and SB2055 would provide a relatively inexpensive means of collecting information essential to accountability, while at the same time providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

We cannot know how or exactly when the DHS bullying campaign will come to Hawaii’s shores, but we must prepare now if we are to have an organized effective response. SB2055 would be an important piece of the state response to federal fascist tactics.

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

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:39:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY SUPPORT SB2055 SD1

Testimony In SUPPORT of SB2055 SD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2055 SD1**, which requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a 24-hour intake helpline for individuals to report harms from federal deployments in the State, and requires monthly reporting, an annual report, and an annual public hearing based on data obtained through the helpline. SB2055 SD1 also appropriates funds for staffing and implementation, including contracting with Aloha United Way and website/data development costs.

SB2055 SD1 is important because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources.

Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms and the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2055 SD1** and fully fund its implementation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:30:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Thank you!

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:32:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Individuals should have an ability to get help and document abusive behavior by Federal agents.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:56:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kay Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB2055 SD1. Preventing state and county contractors, grantees, and their families from making political contributions while their contracts or grants are active closing a loophole and ensuring public funds are used for their intended purposes, not to sway political campaigns or decisions.

Closing this loophole is key to maintaining our trust in the integrity of our government and our trust that that agreements with contractors and grantees are based on the quality of their work and not on whose pockets have been greased.

Mahalo.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:22:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill to protect our civil rights. I'm a member of East Hawaii Indivisible.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:35:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2055. I believe that given the recent events on the mainland, particularly the most recent ones in Minneapolis, having a state funded helpline for people to report human rights violations at the hands any federal deployments is very much needed at this time. Mahalo for taking the time to consider my views.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:26:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members, I write today in support of SB2055 SD1. It is crucial to be able to keep track of and have a means for residents to report civil rights violations committed by fascist federal over reach and unconstitutional practices. Mahalo

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 6:59:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

please support this bill

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:26:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In this time of stepped up federal immigration enforcement, SB2055 SD1 is vital to protecting the rights of the residents of Hawai'i. Even before hiring staff such as Civil Rights Investigator and Data Anaylist, the Aloha United Way helpline should become live to provide information on social and legal assistance.

David Cuthbert

Pahoa, Hawai'i

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:59:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2055 SD1 – DANIELLE GOREN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Danielle Goren, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2055 SD1**, which requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a 24-hour intake helpline for individuals to report harms from federal deployments in the State, requires monthly and annual public reporting, and appropriates funds for staffing and implementation, including contracting with Aloha United Way.

I am a Lahaina resident and I am testifying as an individual, and as a member of Hawai'i Coalition of Immigrant Rights/Hawai'i Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

SB2055 SD1 is important because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces those barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources. This is especially critical right now, as federal enforcement activity in our communities continues to increase.

Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms—and when the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs is well-positioned to advance this civil rights infrastructure and send it toward final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2055 SD1** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:01:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2055 SD1 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jason Lewis, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2055 SD1**, which requires the Civil Rights Commission to establish a 24-hour intake helpline for individuals to report harms from federal deployments in the State, requires monthly and annual public reporting, and appropriates funds for staffing and implementation, including contracting with Aloha United Way.

I am a Lahaina resident and I am testifying as an individual, and as a member of Hawai'i Coalition of Immigrant Rights/Hawai'i Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

SB2055 SD1 is important because many people who experience or witness civil rights harms do not know where to report, fear retaliation, or face language and access barriers. A single, statewide 24-hour intake helpline reduces those barriers and creates a clear path to report harm and connect to resources. This is especially critical right now, as federal enforcement activity in our communities continues to increase.

Just as importantly, the bill requires consistent public reporting and an annual public hearing. This ensures Hawai'i can identify patterns, respond with data, and strengthen accountability and oversight. Civil rights protections are meaningful only when people can safely report harms—and when the State transparently tracks and responds to those reports. The Committee on

Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs is well-positioned to advance this civil rights infrastructure and send it toward final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2055 SD1** and fully fund its implementation. Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, HI