



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: Monday, March 2, 2026
TIME: 10:02 AM
PLACE: Conference Room 211 &
Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

To:

[COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS](#)

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

From: Alphonso Braggs, Chair

and Commissioners of the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission

Re: S.B. 2055 S.D. 1 Relating to
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, the current structure utilizing the AUW 211 system does not support true 24/7 intake at this time. The existing platform offers live response from 7:00 AM to 10:00 PM, with voicemail and callback services outside these hours. It is important to note that 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 and considering future expansion to full 24-hour coverage as additional resources and partnerships become available.
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 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 (AUW):** HCRC has met with AUW, who supports the concept of integrating the helpline into the existing 211 system. We

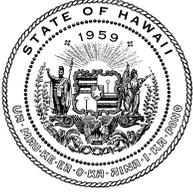
are actively working together to design a collaborative framework that aligns with the Commission's mission and ensures practical, cost-effective implementation. Importantly, both HCRC and AUW anticipate that implementing the measure will require a full calendar year to build out the necessary infrastructure, 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 make sure the helpline is accurately understood, it would help to specify that the issues collected during intake include civil rights matters under Hawai'i law. This keeps the focus 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 one calendar year as the lead time for implementation. This will allow for proper MOU execution, procurement of the database, training, and public notification, guidance, and an information campaign.

Financial Request

1. We respectfully request appropriations to support the successful implementation of SB2055 SD1, including:
2. Annual personnel costs ranging from \$350,000 to \$430,000 for two civil rights investigators, one data analyst, one program manager, and administrative support.
3. Contract funding for the AUW 211 intake system estimated at \$500,000 per year to ensure robust coverage and support services.
4. 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.



**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'OKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

February 27, 2026

TO: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, 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: Monday, March 2, 2026 @ 10:02 am; Conference Room 211

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 2055-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 SB 2055-SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA



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**

Senate Committee on Ways and Means (WAM)

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date/Time: Monday, March 2, 2026, 10:31 a.m.

Location: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 add a new section to Chapter 368, HRS, requiring the **Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission** to establish and maintain a **24-hour toll-free helpline** for witnesses and people harmed (and their family members) to report misconduct by **federal law enforcement officers or military personnel operating in the State**. The helpline would also provide assistance to those harmed, maintain records of calls (including anonymous reports), and support annual public reporting to the Legislature with data and information on federal deployments in Hawai‘i.

HCIR supports SB2055 because **accountability begins with transparency**, and communities cannot seek accountability if there is no safe, accessible way to document harms in real time—especially when people are frightened, limited-English proficient, or unsure where to turn. Immigrant, refugee, and mixed-status families are disproportionately impacted when federal agencies conduct enforcement operations using intimidation, confusion, or unclear identification, and when people fear retaliation for reporting abuse. A 24/7 helpline housed at the Civil Rights Commission creates a **clear, statewide, and relatively low-cost reporting channel**, while also connecting impacted individuals to resources and assistance.

Across the country, we continue to see credible reports—including video evidence—of federal immigration enforcement actions that raise serious civil rights concerns. Hawai‘i should be prepared to respond in an organized and effective way if similar tactics are used here. SB2055 is a practical step to ensure the State can collect consistent information, identify patterns, support those harmed, and inform policymakers through annual reporting.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Sincerely,
Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 1, 2026

Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2055

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:28:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Testifying for `Rainbow Family 808	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly support SB2055.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:23:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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: 2/23/2026 7:37:43 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Reuters' review of courts dockets shows at least 4,421 cases where federal judges have ruled, since October 2024, that ICE has held individuals illegally. These rulings stem from over 20,000 federal lawsuits filed by detainees seeking release during the recent mass deportation campaign by President Trump. This bill will assist in monitoring, identifying and reporting such illegal conduct in this state, and using the expertise of the Hawaii Civil Rights Commission as a central depository for this information.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:21:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2055.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:57:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2055.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:38:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:40:40 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:53:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

in support

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:42:44 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:21:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	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.

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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.

Robert Justice, M.D., Kapolei

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:57:32 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 2:27:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mala Wingerd	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.

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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.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:13:48 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you!

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:29:35 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	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 assist 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 targeted, allegedly for immigration enforcement. They deny citizens and immigrants alike 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 providing resource referrals to those who have been harmed.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

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's response to federal fascist tactics.

TO: The Senate Committee on Judiciary; and Committee on Ways and Means

FROM: Jasmine Steiner, KahuPuna, Puna, Hawai'i

SUBJECT: Strong Support for SB2055 – Establishing a 24-Hour Civil Rights Intake Helpline

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committees,

My name is Jasmine Steiner , I run KahuPuna, a community grassroots organization on the lower puna coast of Hawaii island. I am a born-and-raised Puna woman, who has lived her entire live from birth until now in the immediate radius of the states only geothermal plant, which causes alot of civil unrest. I am also a well known community advocate on social medias bringing awareness to the plights of the Puna people, as well as the daughter of the woman currently leading the 2024 Hawai'i Geothermal Injunction against the fraudulent practices of Puna Geothermal Venture (PGV) . I stand in **strong support of SB2055**.

The Failure of Traditional Emergency Response

For the people living within the geothermal radius in Puna, **the standard emergency infrastructure is a failure.**

- **911 is Not an Option:** When we smell gas, when our children have respiratory distress, or when the ground shakes from induced seismicity, calling 911 or the Fire Department is often a dead end. These agencies are not equipped, trained, or—in many cases—authorized to intervene in geothermal "upsets." Paired with the fact that once they hear the word “geothermal gas” we are marked and dismissed.
- **Fox Guarding the Henhouse:** We are told to call PGV directly to report harms. Asking a private, multi-billion dollar corporation to self-report its own environmental crimes and health impacts is a violation of our basic civil rights. It is a system designed to fail the victim and protect the perpetrator.

The Need for an Independent Helpline

SB2055 is vital because it places the intake of harms within the **Civil Rights Commission**, an agency that is theoretically independent of the corporate-government "revolving door" that has stifled Puna for 40 years.

- **24/7 Monitoring:** Geothermal disasters do not keep business hours. Our community has been gassed in the middle of the night with no one to call but a corporate recording. A 24-hour helpline is a matter of life and death.
- **Data Transparency:** The requirement for monthly and annual reports is crucial. For decades, our reports of sickness and harm have been "lost" or ignored by state agencies. Publicly posted data ensures that the "concealment" we are currently fighting in court can never happen again.

Protection from Retaliation

Our community has faced immense retaliation for speaking out against geothermal injustices. When we report harms, we are labeled as "activists" and ignored. By establishing Civil Rights Investigators and Data Analysts under this bill, the State finally acknowledges that being subjected to unmonitored industrial toxins is a **Civil Rights issue.**

Relating to Geothermal Injustice

The Puna community is currently battling a **fraudulent Environmental Impact Statement (EIS)** in the Intermediate Court of Appeals. That fraud was allowed to persist because there was no independent, 24/7 mechanism for the people to document the actual harms occurring on the ground. **SB2055 creates the paper trail that the Puna people have been denied for decades.**

Justice in Hawai'i cannot be achieved if the marginalized are forced to rely on their oppressors for emergency help. I urge you to pass **SB2055** and provide the people of Puna—and all residents facing harms from deployments in our State—with a direct line to accountability.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

Jasmine Steiner

Kahupuna,

#WeArePuna #ItsTimeWeBreathe

wearepuna.wixsite.com/aloha-activism



SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:30:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:31:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	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.

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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.

Jane Aquino, Oahu

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 26, 2026

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair, Committee on Ways and Means
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair,

Members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Aloha, Senators,

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: 2/27/2026 9:30:59 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee E McCullough	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.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 1:02:38 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

The excesses and harm, including killings, which have been inflicted by ICE are well known. Please support this bill!

mahalo,

Cory Harden

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 2:11:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2055 SD1. 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: 2/27/2026 2:54:56 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Morse	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.

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2026 9:13:09 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2055 SD1

Letter in Support of SB2055

February 27, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Strong Support for SB2055 – Establishing a 24/7 Civil Rights and Hate-Harm Reporting Helpline

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ryan K Gomes, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I write to you today as a concerned private citizen in strong support of SB2055, which directs the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission to establish a toll-free, 24-hour intake helpline for reporting civil rights violations, human rights abuses, and harms arising from federal deployments in our state.

The Federal Reliability Crisis

We are living through an unprecedented moment in which federal institutions—agencies that have historically collected civil rights data, tracked hate incidents, and maintained transparent reporting systems—can no longer be relied upon to provide accurate, consistent, or complete information about the civil and human rights conditions facing communities across the nation.

Federal civil rights enforcement has been weakened, data collection efforts have been curtailed or politicized, and many communities are left without reliable channels to report discrimination, abuse, or harassment tied to federal actions. In this environment, states must step forward to fill the void.

Hawai‘i cannot depend on federal agencies to document or respond to civil rights violations happening within our borders. We must create our own systems to protect our residents, particularly those most vulnerable to discrimination and abuse.

Why SB2055 is Critical

SB2055 addresses this crisis by creating a state-level infrastructure to receive, document, and publicly report on civil rights and human rights violations in Hawai‘i. This is not merely a symbolic gesture—it is a practical, necessary safeguard for our community.

The bill provides:

- **A 24/7 toll-free helpline** operated through the Hawai‘i Civil Rights Commission, ensuring that individuals experiencing discrimination, hate incidents, or harm from federal actions have a safe, accessible way to report what is happening to them—day or night, in multiple languages, with trained staff ready to listen.

- **Comprehensive data collection and public reporting** through an annual report that documents the scope, patterns, and impact of civil rights violations in Hawai‘i, filling the gap left by diminished or unreliable federal data systems.
- **Transparency and accountability** through at least one public hearing each year, allowing community members, advocates, and policymakers to understand the civil rights landscape and respond with informed legislation and enforcement.
- **Protection for vulnerable populations**, including immigrants, Native Hawaiians, LGBTQ+ individuals, people with disabilities, religious minorities, and communities of color who face heightened risks of discrimination and abuse—particularly in connection with federal immigration enforcement, military actions, and other deployments.

Who This Bill Protects

SB2055 is designed to benefit real people—individuals and families who experience discrimination in employment, housing, public accommodations, and access to government services. It protects those who face harassment, intimidation, or violence because of their race, ethnicity, religion, gender identity, sexual orientation, or immigration status.

It also protects communities impacted by federal actions in Hawai‘i, whether through immigration raids, law enforcement activities, or military deployments, by giving them a mechanism to report harms and ensure those harms are documented and addressed.

This is not a bill designed to benefit corporations, banks, or government bureaucracies. It is a direct investment in the safety, dignity, and civil rights of Hawai‘i's residents.

State Leadership in the Absence of Federal Accountability

When the federal government abdicates its responsibility to protect civil rights and provide accurate data about violations, states must lead. Hawai‘i has always been a place that values diversity, inclusion, and the protection of human dignity. SB2055 reflects those values and ensures that our state takes proactive steps to safeguard the rights of all who live here.

The Civil Rights Commission already has the expertise and mandate to address these issues. SB2055 simply gives the Commission the resources and structure to operate a modern, accessible, round-the-clock helpline and to generate the transparent reporting our community deserves.

Conclusion

SB2055 is a necessary, timely, and morally imperative measure. It recognizes that civil rights protections cannot be left to an unreliable federal system. It empowers Hawai‘i to document, respond to, and address civil and human rights violations with transparency and urgency.

I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2055.

Mahalo nui for your leadership in protecting the civil rights and dignity of all Hawai‘i residents.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

Ryan K Gomes
Honolulu, Hawaii

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 6:08:29 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2055 CIVIL RIGHTS HELPLINE TALKING POINTS

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.

Kathleen Dickson

Waikiki

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 8:17:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

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 Ways and Means

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 2, 2026

Dear Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Sharon Y. Moriwaki, and members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

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: 2/28/2026 5:31:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Iding	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

Providing help, information and assistance via a Civil Rights Violations Hotline is essential for helping those whose rights were violated or need information to determine whether that is indeed the case. Furthermore, knowledge of the existence of such a resource could deter those who might violate others' civil rights.

Thank you,

Marie Iding

To: Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Committee on Ways and Means

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: March 1, 2026

RE: Senate Bill 2055 SD1
Measure Title: RELATING TO CIVIL RIGHTS.
Report Title: Civil Rights Commission; Civil Rights; Helpline; Federal
Deployments; Annual Report; Monthly Report; Appropriations (\$)

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support Senate Bill 2055 SD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:41:10 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support this bill to create a 24/7 helpline for victims of Federal crimes and abuse.

I'm a member of East Hawaii Indivisible

Thank you



MARCH 2, 2026

SENATE BILL 2055 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: WAM

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

SB-2055-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 1:50:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/2/2026 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	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.

When the DHS bullying campaign surge comes to Hawaii’s shores, 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