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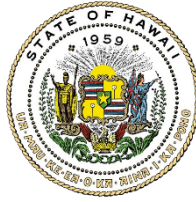
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**March 23, 2026**

**SB 2057, SD2, HD1: RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports SB 2057 SD2 HD1** which is an important and measured step to ensure that State and county law enforcement resources are not used in ways that exceed federal statutory authority or undermine fundamental constitutional protections.

The OPD represents indigent individuals statewide and is uniquely positioned to observe how law enforcement practices intersect with constitutional rights, community trust, and access to the courts. Through daily representation, the OPD has observed that fear of law enforcement collaboration, particularly in the context of immigration enforcement, has a direct and measurable impact on our clients' willingness to access essential services and participate in the justice system.

Many OPD clients already face significant barriers, including poverty, language access challenges, mental health needs, and prior system involvement. This measure appropriately recognizes the importance of protecting access to essential institutions such as schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses. When individuals believe that seeking medical care, enrolling their children in school, attending places of worship, or appearing in court could expose them or their loved ones to federal enforcement actions, they may delay or entirely avoid those settings. The OPD has seen clients miss court dates, decline to report victimization, or hesitate to cooperate with legal processes out of fear, even when they are attempting to comply with the law.

This avoidance not only harms individuals and families but also undermines public safety and the effective administration of justice. Courts function best when all parties can participate freely and without fear. This measure helps preserve courthouses and other essential institutions as places where individuals can engage without the chilling effect of unrelated enforcement activity.

SB 2057 SD2 HD1 appropriately clarifies that, except where required by federal or state law, Hawai'i law enforcement agencies may not use State personnel or funds to assist or facilitate federal conduct that exceeds federal statutory authority. This safeguard reinforces the rule of law by ensuring that State resources are not deployed in support of actions that fall outside lawful bounds.

Of particular importance, the bill expressly prohibits State assistance in federal operations targeting individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. From the OPD's perspective, these protections are essential to ensuring that individuals can exercise their constitutional rights without fear of surveillance, arrest, or penalty.

This measure does not prohibit cooperation where it is required by law, nor does it interfere with lawful federal enforcement. Instead, it establishes clear and reasonable boundaries that prevent the diversion of State resources into activities that exceed statutory authority or erode community trust.

Clear boundaries benefit law enforcement officers, community members, and the justice system alike. They reduce confusion, limit constitutional risk, and allow State and county agencies to focus on local public safety priorities while preserving access to essential public institutions.

For these reasons, the OPD **supports** SB 2057 SD2 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2057 SD2 HD1**

**RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho‘okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai‘i

(House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i

(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

Malaki 24, 2026

2:00 PM

Lumi 325

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Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2057 SD2 HD1** which limits the use of state and county law enforcement resources to assist federal immigration agents in civil immigration enforcement operations, operations targeting First Amendment protected activity, and immigration enforcement at or near schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses. OHA appreciates the recent amendments clarifying the scope of the bill, defining key terms, and expressly preserving compliance with state law duties, judicial warrants, court orders, subpoenas, and mandatory information-sharing requirements under federal or state law.

OHA supports measures that protect free expression, preserve access to essential services, and maintain community trust in public institutions. This measure establishes clear guardrails to help ensure that residents can safely seek education, medical care, spiritual support, and court services without fear that these essential spaces will become sites of unrelated civil immigration enforcement. It also helps protect nonviolent speech, assembly, protest, and other First Amendment activity from improper enforcement entanglement.

The recent amendments strengthen the bill by making clear that it does not interfere with legitimate state law enforcement responsibilities. Rather, it clarifies that state and county personnel and resources should not be used for discretionary federal civil immigration enforcement or to facilitate conduct that exceeds lawful authority. That distinction is important both for constitutional accountability and for the practical stewardship of limited local law enforcement resources.

For Kānaka Maoli, these issues must also be understood in historical context. Hawai‘i’s history demonstrates that government power exercised without clear limits can have lasting consequences for civil liberties, community well-being, and public trust. Clear boundaries on enforcement cooperation help reinforce the principle that public institutions should serve the safety and dignity of the people of Hawai‘i, not deter them

from accessing core civic and community spaces. This measure promotes fairness, transparency, and trust while preserving legitimate law enforcement functions required by law.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.



**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'OKOLE

**JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD**  
ADMINISTRATOR

1177 Alakea Street, #402, Honolulu, HI 96813

Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 [www.shpda.org](http://www.shpda.org)

March 23, 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 2057-SD2-HD1 -- RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**HEARING:** Tuesday, March 24, 2026 @ 2:00 pm; Conference Room 325

**POSITION:** SUPPORT with COMMENTS

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Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 2057-SD2-HD1, with comments.

This bill is meant to limit how Hawai'i state and county law enforcement can help federal immigration agents with civil immigration enforcement. It would stop local officers from using state or county staff, money, equipment, or other resources to support those operations, especially near schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses, while still allowing cooperation when federal or state law, a court order, or a judicial warrant requires it.

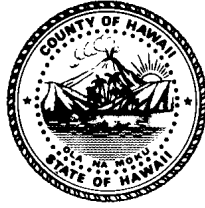
This bill could help people feel safer using important services like schools, clinics, hospitals, and courts without fear of immigration enforcement nearby. That can make it easier for families to get medical care, vaccinations, mental health support, and other basic services, which helps protect both individual and community health.

Thank you for hearing SB 2057-SD2-HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272  
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: March 20, 2026  
TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: SB2057 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and esteemed Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2057. Adding a new section to Chapter 139 is essential to creating a clear boundary between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents. This measure strengthens jurisdictional clarity protecting our state resources and ensures that state funds are used for state priorities. Without clear statutory limits, local law enforcement can gradually become optional partners in federal immigration enforcement, even when state law does not require such cooperation.

By clarifying these boundaries, we can ensure that local law enforcement remains focused on serving and protecting our communities under state law. Preventing any sort of mission drift and avoiding unnecessary entanglement in federal civil enforcement matters.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada



*Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer*

*Gemma G. Weinstein, President*

*Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President*

March 20, 2026

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

**Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2057**

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 2057. This measure is an important step toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

Phone/E-Mail: [\(808\) 927-1214](tel:(808)927-1214) / [kat.caphi@gmail.com](mailto:kat.caphi@gmail.com)

*Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor*



## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 24, 2026

2:00 PM

Room 325 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

## **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2057 SD2, HD1 - LAW ENFORCEMENT PROHIBITIONS**

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee!

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai'i for almost three decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,633 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars<sup>1</sup> and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on March 16, 2026. We are always mindful that 797 of Hawai'i's imprisoned male population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons appreciates this opportunity to share our **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2057 SD2, HD1** that prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority. This bill also prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations with the purpose

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<sup>1</sup> DCR Weekly Population Report, March 16, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-03-16.pdf](#)

of civil immigration enforcement or that target individuals or entities engaged in certain activities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

This bill is about the right of Hawai`i to control our own resources to protect the First Amendment rights of our residents from certain federal immigration enforcement actions. It keeps law enforcement focused on Hawai`i law and the rights enshrined in our Constitution while providing clear boundaries and accountability for interagency cooperation. It also reduces the fear among immigrant and mixed-status families so that they can confidently access services they need. This strengthens community safety when we can trust local institutions so that people can report crime and cooperate as witnesses.

Clear boundaries benefit law enforcement officers, community members, and the justice system alike. They reduce confusion, limit constitutional risk, and allow State and county agencies to focus on local public safety priorities while preserving access to essential public institutions

Protecting constitutional rights is paramount in our Constitution and preventing misuse of Hawai`i resources to facilitate unlawful or retaliatory operations makes Hawai`i safe for everyone.

Mahalo for allowing Community Alliance on Prisons to express our **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2057 SD2, HD1.**



MARCH 24, 2026

## SENATE BILL 2057 SD2 HD1

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

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Imua Alliance supports SB 2057 SD2 HD1, relating to law enforcement, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority; and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement or that target individuals or entities engaged in certain activities.

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.

The essential protections included in this bill reflect a longstanding principle of American federalism: states are not required to use their resources to carry out federal enforcement priorities. Courts have repeatedly recognized that the federal government cannot compel states to administer federal regulatory or enforcement programs, a doctrine commonly referred to as the anti-commandeering principle.

This proposal helps ensure that state resources are not used to facilitate enforcement actions that target activities protected under

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the First Amendment, including peaceful protest, free speech, and political organizing. The right to speak, assemble, and petition the government is foundational to a democratic society.

Across the country, civil rights organizations have documented instances in which federal enforcement actions—particularly during periods of protest or political mobilization—have raised concerns about surveillance, intimidation, and enforcement targeting constitutionally protected conduct. By ensuring that Hawai‘i’s law enforcement agencies cannot assist in operations that penalize protected speech or discriminate against vulnerable populations, this measure reinforces Hawai‘i’s commitment to civil liberties and democratic participation.

The bill also limits cooperation with immigration enforcement operations conducted in sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, courthouses, and places of worship. These locations have historically been recognized as spaces where individuals must be able to access essential services without fear of immigration enforcement actions.

When immigration enforcement occurs in or near these spaces, families avoid seeking medical care, sending their children to educational institutions, or participating in legal proceedings due to fear of detention or deportation. This chilling effect undermines both public health and public safety. Policies limiting enforcement in sensitive locations have, therefore, been widely recognized as a way to ensure that communities can safely access essential services and participate fully in civic life.

The protections afforded through this measure are firmly grounded in constitutional principles governing the relationship between the federal government and the states. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that the federal government cannot compel states or state officials to carry out federal enforcement programs, a principle known as the anti-commandeering doctrine derived from the Tenth Amendment.

Additionally, the Court has also clarified the relationship between federal immigration authority and state enforcement. In *Arizona v. United States* (2012), the Court struck down several provisions of Arizona’s immigration law because immigration enforcement is primarily a federal responsibility. At the same time, the decision

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reaffirmed that states retain discretion over how their own law enforcement resources are deployed and are not obligated to assist federal immigration enforcement.

Hawai‘i is one of the most diverse states in the nation, and immigrant communities are deeply woven into the fabric of our islands. According to the U.S. Census Bureau, approximately 18 percent of Hawai‘i residents are immigrants, and roughly one in five children in the state lives in a household with at least one immigrant parent. These families contribute to Hawai‘i’s workforce, cultural life, and economy across every sector, from health care and agriculture to tourism and lifelong learning.

Hawai‘i has long embraced policies grounded in community trust, fairness, and respect for civil liberties. Maintaining clear lines between federal enforcement priorities and state law enforcement responsibilities upholds those values, while preserving Hawai‘i’s authority over the use of its own resources.

The people of Hawai‘i should determine how state resources are used within our communities. By reaffirming those boundaries, the legislature can align our public safety policies with Hawai‘i’s traditions of mālama, mutual respect, and aloha for all.

With aloha,

*Kris Coffield*

President, Imua Alliance

March 24, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
**Comments on SB 2057, SD2, HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**



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

The **State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO)** respectfully submits **comments on SB 2057, SD2, HD1**, which, prohibits law enforcement officers from using any personnel or funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority.

SHOPO recognizes the intent of SB 2057, SD2, HD1, to ensure that Hawai'i law enforcement officers operate within their legal authority and do not participate in federal immigration enforcement activities that could conflict with state law or constitutional protections. We appreciate the concern for protecting individual rights and maintaining clear boundaries for officers' duties.

At the same time, the bill introduces broad restrictions on collaboration with federal agencies, which could create uncertainty for officers in the field. Without more precise guidance, officers may face confusion when determining whether routine coordination, joint task forces, or requests for assistance fall within permissible activity.

SHOPO respectfully notes that cooperation between local, state, and federal law enforcement is often essential for addressing public safety concerns, including investigations that involve serious crime or threats to the community. While officers should not be required to act outside their scope, overly broad restrictions could unintentionally prevent them from participating in important public safety measures or responding effectively in critical situations. Clear definitions and guidance would help ensure officers can carry out their duties safely.

The more than 2,700 law enforcement officers who are members of SHOPO risk their lives every day to keep our islands safe. SHOPO is dedicated to protecting public safety. We strive to work in partnership with community members because, together, we can build stronger and safer neighborhoods. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

**State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO)**

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino  
In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026

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

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, owners of Mercado de la Raza, and we submit this testimony in **support of SB2057 SD2 HD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibits assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in protected activities.

Mercado de la Raza is a community-driven Latin market in Hawai‘i that serves as a hub for Latino and immigrant entrepreneurs, families, and cultural exchange. Through small business support, community programming, and accessible resources, Mercado de la Raza works to uplift historically underserved communities and create pathways to economic stability, safety, and belonging. In our daily work, we are in direct relationship with immigrant families whose well-being is deeply impacted by state policies, and we are committed to advocating for initiatives like HB1548 HD1 that promote equity, protection, and opportunity for our community.

SB2057 SD2 HD1 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. State resources — personnel, funds, and equipment — belong to Hawai‘i’s residents and should serve Hawai‘i’s public safety priorities. This bill draws a clear line so that state law enforcement is not used to assist federal civil immigration operations or actions targeting constitutionally protected activity. The HD1 amendment’s precise language — targeting “operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement” — makes this distinction legally clear while still permitting full cooperation on criminal matters.

Community trust is the foundation of effective public safety. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that local law enforcement is an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they stop reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help in emergencies — making everyone less safe. This bill has passed the Senate with strong votes and passed House ECD. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs — which has championed civil rights and immigration protections throughout this session — is well-positioned to advance it toward Finance and final passage.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD1**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino  
Mercado de la Raza  
808.593.2226





**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 6:21:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona in Hawai'i County. I am on the leadership team for Kona Indivisible and run the protest arm of Kona Indivisible named, Matriarchy Rising. I support this bill.

yvettekay\_99@yahoo.com

96740

415-706-9638

1. State resources are for state public safety — not civil immigration enforcement. This bill codifies that boundary in law.
2. HD1 language is precisely targeted: “operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement” — a legally clear distinction that preserves cooperation on criminal matters.
3. Protects First Amendment rights: prohibits state assistance for operations targeting individuals engaged in protected activities.
4. Strengthens public safety: when communities trust local law enforcement isn't doing ICE's work, they report crime and seek help.
5. Hawai'i AG joined 11-state joint statement: state and local law enforcement cannot be commandeered for federal immigration enforcement.
6. Passed Senate with strong votes and passed House ECD — JHA can advance this to Finance for final passage.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2057, SD2, HD1  
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026 | Letter Date: March 23, 2026

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

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB2057, SD2, HD1 a measure that strengthens public safety, transparency, and protections for community rights in law enforcement interactions. TLC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to immigrant justice in Hawai'i through immigration legal services, community education, and policy advocacy. We serve on the steering committee of the Campaign for Immigrant Justice alongside Hawai'i Coalition of Immigrant Rights and ACLU of Hawai'i, and this measure is among the campaign's legislative priorities this session.

SB2057, SD2, HD1 reinforces the fundamental principle that state and local resources should not be used to facilitate federal actions that exceed statutory authority or infringe on constitutionally protected activity. The bill establishes clear intergovernmental boundaries to ensure that state and local agencies do not participate in actions that improperly burden lawful speech, assembly, or association.

The bill also limits state and local involvement in federal immigration enforcement. Entanglement in civil immigration enforcement undermines community trust in local law enforcement and discourages victims and witnesses from seeking assistance. SB2057, SD2, HD1 further disallows the use of state and local resources for civil immigration enforcement at or near sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, and courthouses, ensuring these community spaces and the essential services they provide remain safe and accessible to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

SB2057, SD2, HD1 is a necessary step to safeguard constitutional rights, promote public safety, and uphold the integrity of state and local law enforcement in Hawai'i. We urge the Committee's support.

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

Christina Sablan

Community & Policy Advocate



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2057, SD2, HD1 - RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2057, SD2, HD1**, which prohibits law enforcement agencies from using any personnel or funds originating in the state to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority, and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations with the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that target individuals or entities engaged in certain activities.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots immigrant justice and disaster-response organization formed in the aftermath of the 2023 Maui wildfires. Since then, we have become essential infrastructure for immigrant residents navigating recovery, housing instability, and federal policy shifts. Trust is the foundation of safety in our communities — and today, that trust is eroding under the fear of federal overreach. Families skip work and school; patients decline medical care; congregants stay home from church. We hear from survivors of violence, including women and children, who are now afraid to seek help from local police.

**SB 2057, SD2, HD1** is critical to restore confidence that Hawai'i's law enforcement serves and protects our communities — not federal operations that violate constitutional rights.

Our coalition's volunteer observers, trained to lawfully and peacefully document enforcement activity in public spaces, do so to promote transparency and accountability, values central to democracy. The tragic deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti, volunteer observers killed by federal agents in Minneapolis, underscore the stakes. Their story was told only because other observers were present to record the incident — a right protected under the First Amendment.

We are increasingly concerned about data-sharing between local law enforcement and federal agencies that could expose observers or community members to intimidation. Reports from the continent describe the use of facial recognition and license plate data to track and target individuals engaged in constitutionally protected activity. Senate Bill 2057, SD2, HD1 offers needed guardrails to prevent such misuse of local resources and protect both residents and those who defend their rights.

**We urge your support for SB 2057, SD2, HD1.** Protecting local autonomy, civil rights, and community trust strengthens public safety for all.

Sinceramente and in memory of Renee Good and Alex Pretti,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza', written over a horizontal line.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



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

## Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill

### In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2 HD1

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026

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

My name is **Liza Ryan-Gill**, and I submit this testimony on behalf of the **Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)**. HCIR is a statewide coalition of 30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations across the pae 'āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai'i's shared future.

We submit this testimony in strong **SUPPORT** of **SB2057 SD2 HD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibits assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in protected activities.

**SB2057 SD2 HD1 is a critical public safety and governance measure** that reaffirms constitutional protections, promotes accountability, and safeguards community trust in law enforcement. This bill makes clear that Hawai'i's public safety institutions should not be used to facilitate unlawful or unconstitutional conduct — and should be used to protect and serve Hawai'i's residents, first and foremost.

This measure is important because constitutional rights apply to all people, regardless of immigration status. Freedom of speech, assembly, and participation in civic life are foundational to a functioning democracy. When residents fear intimidation, retaliation, or surveillance for exercising these rights, democratic legitimacy is undermined and community trust erodes.

State resources — personnel, funds, and equipment — belong to Hawai'i's residents and should serve Hawai'i's public safety priorities. SB2057 SD2 HD1 draws a necessary boundary. It ensures Hawai'i's resources are not used to do the job of the federal government in conducting civil immigration enforcement, ensures that Hawai'i does not engage in actions that exceed lawful authority, prevents discriminatory targeting, and protects civil rights while preserving the integrity of state and county law enforcement agencies. The HD1 amendment's precise language



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

— targeting "operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement" — makes this distinction legally clear while still permitting full cooperation on criminal matters.

Community trust is the foundation of effective public safety. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that local law enforcement is an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they stop reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help in emergencies — making everyone less safe. By clearly limiting cooperation in these circumstances, the bill provides guidance to agencies and reassures communities that public safety resources will not be used to suppress lawful expression or civic participation.

Importantly, SB2057 SD2 HD1 does not interfere with legitimate law enforcement duties. Rather, it reinforces constitutional norms and ensures that public safety institutions operate in a manner consistent with Hawai'i's values of fairness, accountability, and respect for civil liberties.

This bill has passed the Senate with strong votes and passed House ECD. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs — which has championed civil rights and immigration protections throughout this session — is well-positioned to advance it toward Finance and final passage.

For these reasons, the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

**Liza Ryan-Gill**

Co-Director and Refounder

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

[lryangill@hicir.org](mailto:lryangill@hicir.org) [www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org)



Committee: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 24, 2026, at 2:00pm  
Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2, HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) writes in **support of SB2057 SD2, HD1**, which would prevent our local authorities from being commandeered to serve federal operations that run counter to the safety and interests of Hawai'i's communities or that violate constitutional rights.

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

In Hawai'i, we have seen federal agents taking our immigrant neighbors.<sup>2</sup> 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.<sup>3</sup> We know that throughout the country, most people being held in detention have not been convicted of a crime.<sup>4</sup>

We must prevent our local authorities from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and

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

<sup>2</sup> 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/>

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

<sup>4</sup> Hausman, D. (2025).

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

It is our kuleana to protect our neighbors' rights to live without fear. For the above reasons, we respectfully request that you pass SB2057.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Leilani Stacy  
Immigrants' Rights Attorney  
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 and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai'i has been serving our communities in Hawai'i for over 60 years.*

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:12:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in **strong support** of SB2057, which establishes a critical and principled boundary to prohibit the use of state resources and personnel from facilitating specific forms of federal overreach. This bill is a necessary safeguard for the constitutional rights of all Hawai‘i residents, a pillar of true public safety, and a declaration that our state’s assets will not be commandeered for operations that undermine our laws and values.

At its core, SB2057 is about the responsible stewardship of public resources and the protection of fundamental freedoms. It explicitly prevents state and county agencies from using their funds, facilities, property, equipment, or personnel to assist in federal operations that unlawfully target individuals based on their exercise of First Amendment rights—such as their speech, religion, or political activism—or in certain immigration enforcement actions that fall outside of congressionally authorized purposes.

This is not about non-cooperation with legitimate federal law; it is about non-participation in unlawful or retaliatory federal missions that would violate the rights of people in our state.

The policy justifications for this bill are clear and compelling:

1. **It Protects Constitutional Rights:** By drawing a bright line against facilitating operations that target First Amendment activities, this bill ensures that Hawai‘i’s resources are never used to enable the suppression of free speech, assembly, or religious practice. It protects our residents from being subject to surveillance or investigation simply for exercising their most basic American liberties.
2. **It Strengthens Community Trust and Public Safety:** Public safety depends on the trust between community members and local institutions. When immigrant families or individuals engaged in lawful protest fear that interacting with a state agency—whether to report a crime, seek healthcare, or enroll a child in school—could lead to their targeting by federal authorities, they retreat into the shadows. This bill reduces that fear, ensuring that all residents feel safe accessing essential services and cooperating with local law enforcement, which makes **everyone** safer.
3. **It Ensures Accountability and Clarity:** SB2057 provides unambiguous guidance for state and county employees, preventing them from being placed in an ethical and legal

bind. It creates a clear standard for interagency cooperation, ensuring that collaboration is conducted within a framework that respects civil rights and state sovereignty.

4. **It Upholds State Sovereignty:** This legislation affirms that Hawai'i's resources are dedicated to serving the people of Hawai'i according to our laws and priorities. It prevents the diversion of our limited public funds and personnel to carry out federal agendas that may be politically motivated, unconstitutional, or destructive to community cohesion.

SB2057 is a measured, targeted, and profoundly important piece of legislation. It wisely chooses to invest our state's resources in building trust, protecting rights, and serving the common good, rather than in facilitating operations that would fracture our community and violate our shared principles.

For the protection of our Constitution, the strength of our public safety, and the well-being of all who call Hawai'i home, I urge you to pass SB2057.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/20/2026 8:40:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim I Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of **SB2057** which would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

I am sickened by the daily warrantless, baseless, cruel, and often violent arrests & detentions by ICE, CBP, and other DHS agents of people on their way to work, medical appointments, immigration appointments, school, church, shopping, and home. The deprivation of due process rights and disappearing of these people, who include children and most certainly are not “terrible criminals” into crowded, filthy and inhumane detention centers in the United States and other countries constitutes unconscionable harm to people and a gross undermining of our democracy.

Please pass SB2057 to give our state a tool to keep Hawai`i law enforcement from becoming involved in the abhorrent and unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency being carried out by our federal agencies.

Respectfully submitted,

Kim Miller, Volcano, HI 96785

Ryan K. Gomes  
Email: rkgomes@gmail.com  
Phone: 808-348-4074

March 20, 2026

Senator(s) and Representative(s) Responsible for SB2057  
Hawaii State Legislature  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Re: Strong Support for SB2057 S.D. 2 H.D. 1 – Relating to Law Enforcement

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

I am writing as a private, concerned Hawai'i resident to express my strong support for SB2057 S.D. 2 H.D. 1, Relating to Law Enforcement. This bill would set important and clear limits on how our state and county law enforcement resources can be used in connection with federal civil immigration enforcement.

First, SB2057 reinforces core First Amendment freedoms. It makes clear that nonviolent speech, peaceful assembly, protest, recording or livestreaming law enforcement in public, and even impolite or critical speech toward officers cannot themselves be used as a basis for immigration enforcement consequences, so long as the conduct does not become a true threat or otherwise violate the law. In an era when many people already fear retaliation for speaking out, it is vital that our statutes explicitly protect community members who are exercising their constitutional rights.

Second, the bill protects access to essential “sensitive locations” in our communities. By limiting the use of state-originated time, money, facilities, equipment, and personnel to facilitate civil immigration enforcement at or near schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses, SB2057 helps ensure that people are not deterred from seeking education, medical care, religious practice, or justice in the courts. No one should have to decide between caring for their health or their children and the fear that simply walking into these places will expose them to immigration enforcement operations enabled by local law enforcement resources.

Third, SB2057 wisely clarifies the boundaries between local and federal roles while preserving lawful cooperation. The bill makes clear that Hawai'i law enforcement officers are not to use state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate federal agents for

the purpose of civil immigration enforcement, or when federal agents exceed their lawful duty or authority. At the same time, it expressly preserves officers' ability to investigate and enforce state criminal laws, to comply with judicial warrants, court orders, and subpoenas, and to provide information or assistance that is expressly required by federal or state law, including mandatory information-sharing duties. This balanced approach respects both community trust and the rule of law.

I also appreciate that SB2057 includes detailed, operational definitions—such as what it means to “assist” or “facilitate,” what counts as being “at or near” a sensitive location, and how to understand conduct that “exceeds” lawful authority. These definitions will help agencies draft policies and training that are clear and workable, while acknowledging that officers are not being asked to make final legal determinations about federal authority.

Some may express concern that this bill could complicate relations with federal agencies. However, SB2057 does not shut the door on cooperation in criminal matters or compliance with lawful court processes; instead, it draws a necessary line against using Hawai‘i’s limited public safety resources for civil immigration enforcement and for actions that are inconsistent with constitutional standards. In my view as a resident, this is precisely the kind of clarity that strengthens public trust in law enforcement and makes all of us safer.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass SB2057 S.D. 2 H.D. 1. Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony and for your work to uphold the rights and safety of all who call Hawai‘i home.

Sincerely,

Ryan K. Gomes

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:14:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:34:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.**

**We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.**

**SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.**

**Thank you for allowing the opportunity to testify on this important matter. Jane Aquino, Indivisible**

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:38:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 9:52:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen A Valasek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.**

**We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.**

**SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.**

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

Karen Valasek

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 10:03:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:16:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John Wassell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.**

**We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.**

**SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.**

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

Mahalo,

JJ Wassell

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:24:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bruce Mirken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2057, which would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in any operation that seeks to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We've seen examples every day: ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets, often for no valid reason, keeping them in terrible conditions.

SB2057 hells protect Hawaii law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we see federal agents committing constantly. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable, so that our police csn focus on real crime.

Thank you for considering my thoughts on this important matter.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 11:55:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of every bill that would prohibit law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibits assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting First Amendment-protected activities or immigration enforcement operations.

Two of the facilitators of ICE actions are gone or will be gone shortly, Bovino and Noem. But that does not guarantee that the actions they abetted will stop. WE need to fight back with every legal tool we have so Hawaii does not become another Minneapolis.

Please move this bill forward.

Lynne Matusow

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 12:26:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a retired police officer, I very strongly support SB2057. State-certified police officers have no authority to enforce federal law. Local police officers are busy enough enforcing local ordinances and state laws; they don't have the time to do federal law enforcement's job in addition to their own.

Mahalo.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:04:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessie L Gonsalves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support prohibit assisting Feds

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 1:48:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Larry Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Please support this Bill.

Larry Smith

Indivisible

HD 27

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 2:04:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judith White	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill to leave immigration enforcement up to our state officials!

Judith White, Kapaa

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 2:06:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Christie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony of Amanda Christie**

**In SUPPORT of SB2057**

**The Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs (JHA) Committee**

**Senator David A. Tarnas, Chair**

**Dear Chair Tarnas and members of The Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,**

**My name is Dr. Amanda Christie. Today, I am writing to submit testimony in support of SB2057, which prohibits state and county law enforcement from helping federal agents exceed their authority, target immigrants, or suppress First Amendment activity.**

**I am a current resident of Makiki. I am also a long-time ELA and social studies educator. My classrooms are often full of students who are either immigrants themselves or children of immigrants. In my work as an educator, I also frequently partner with community organizations like the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights.**

**As a high school teacher, teaching a population made up of many first and second generation immigrants, I have spent the past year facing a growing sense of fear. I wake up with the fear that at any point in my day, armed agents may descend upon my classroom and detain any number of my students – innocent children, excited to learn and live in safety and care. I watch in concern as violent ICE encounters increasingly unfold on**

**streets, in stores, in churches, and in schools across the United States, and recently, close to home across coffee farms on the Big Island.**

**I support SB2057 because Hawai'i agencies should not be used to facilitate unlawful or discriminatory actions, including partnerships with ICE that can lead to frightening over-reach – i.e. moving into schools, churches, and peaceful gatherings in order to violently approach and detain innocent community members. This bill reinforces core constitutional values: lawful authority, equal protection, and the right to free speech and peaceful assembly. SB2057 also protects the integrity of Hawai'i institutions by ensuring local agencies are not drawn into activities that undermine public trust or civic participation.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2057.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Amanda Christie**

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 2:51:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brodie Lockard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/21/2026 8:45:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Troy MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2057 no assisting FEDS/ ICE

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 4:29:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB2057 SD2 HD1 which prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 10:35:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unAmerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do it could save lives and families. Pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

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

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:01:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

**Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair**

**Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: March 18, 2026**

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

**My name is Andrew Isoda, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2057 SD2, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibits assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting First Amendment-protected activities or immigration enforcement operations.**

**SB2057 SD2 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. State resources— personnel, funds, and equipment—belong to Hawai‘i’s residents and should serve Hawai‘i’s public safety priorities. This bill draws a clear line so that state law enforcement is not used to assist federal civil immigration operations or actions targeting constitutionally protected activity. The SD2 amendment’s explicit reference to “civil immigration enforcement” makes this distinction legally clear while still permitting cooperation on criminal matters.**

**Community trust is the foundation of effective public safety. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that local law enforcement is an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they stop reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help in emergencies—making everyone less safe. SB2057 SD2 strengthens Hawai‘i’s communities by reinforcing constitutional boundaries and ensuring state resources serve our state.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2057 SD2.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau‘i**

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 11:47:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana L. Van De Car	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly support SB2057 with the recommended amendments. The abuses which have occurred in Minneapolis and elsewhere in immigration enforcement by the current Federal Administration can certainly happen here. We have a multicultural society with many immigrants. Please enact these protections so that our law enforcement personnel have clear (and helpful) guides in how to respond to ICE actions and the public at large has protections against abuses. Lastly, a huge thank you to all involved who have drafted, submitted, reviewed and supported this bill.**

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:44:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express the strongest possible support for SB2057.

For the preservation of community trust in policing, this Bill must be passed.

Local law enforcement agencies risk wasting years of efforts to foster community trust in their officers and their agencies by cooperating with federal immigration enforcement efforts.

Passing this Bill will also save Hawaii taxpayers from paying for federal immigration enforcement measures.

Please don't make the mistake of assuming that simply declaring that HI law enforcement doesn't cooperate with federal immigration enforcement agencies is enough. It has proven to not be enough, as local law enforcement agents have been caught cooperating with federal immigration enforcement efforts. We need legislation to prohibit it; not just well-meaning words.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 1:45:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 24, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 325

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2057, SD2, HD1 - RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2057, SD2, HD1**, which prohibits law enforcement agencies from using any personnel or funds originating in the state to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority, and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations with the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that target individuals or entities engaged in certain activities.

I am a Know Your Rights volunteer educator and constitutional protector. I have trained teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, as well as parents and senior citizens on their constitutional rights, that these rights apply to all within the United States regardless of citizenship status, and ways to ensure these rights are protected. I have taught them to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work and community service for interactions with federal agents. I am also a constitutional observer, through which I engage in First Amendment-protected documentation of federal agent activity to ensure that they do not violate people's rights.

The images we have seen on the news and in social media of aggressive, untrained, and violent unmasked, unbadged persons attacking citizens and noncitizens alike is eroding trust in law enforcement and our government. There are concerns that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call local law enforcement for assistance because of fear that our local law enforcement is collaborating with federal agents. People now worry that calls to our local police for help by crime victims may result in the victim being detained by federal agents as the result of racial profiling.

People are afraid to go to school and work due to fear of getting swept up in immigration enforcement raids that, in a reversal of long-standing policy, now focus on law-abiding members of our communities. Our friends and family members, parents of children at our schools, spouses of our neighbors, and owners of small businesses we frequent and depend upon are being detained. I have witnessed families torn apart. The federal government's attacks on immigrants have expanded to detentions based on the color of people's skin, the work they do, and the way that they speak. We are all at risk when federal agents engage in racial profiling. Attacks on people engaged in constitutionally protected First Amendment recording of law enforcement or in peaceable protest have escalated to the use of chemical deterrents on children and families and the murder of two people.

**I support SB 2057, SD2, HD1** because it reflects that our local enforcement agencies should use funding to protect the communities they serve, not engage in immigration activities beyond their authority. Senate Bill 2057, SD1, HD1 also preserves the historical separation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement responsibilities. As an attorney, I feel obligated to remind the members of the Committee that federal law does not require state or local entities to collect or share information with federal agents conducting immigration enforcement or infringing upon people's First Amendment rights. Our law enforcement agencies have neither the personnel nor the funding to be deputized to undertake federal functions. To do so would interfere with the primary responsibility of our law enforcement agencies, which is to maintain the trust and confidence of the residents that live here by clearly delineating their role as public safety officers. When police officers inappropriately blur the lines by getting involved with federal agents in immigration matters, immigrants will not come forward as witnesses in

criminal investigations, and women will feel that they cannot report domestic or sexual violence. Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration agents chills our relationship with local law enforcement agencies and the security of our communities is compromised as a result.

Federal agents take photos of people and use name-recognition software to identify them. They take photos of license plates to learn the identity of and track constitutional observers as well as noncitizens. This bill offers vital protection from federal agents collaborating with local law enforcement on the use of these surveillance techniques to identify people engaged in protected First Amendment activity. It would be one protective step that could help protect not just me, but my family members who live with me. I should not have to fear hostile and lawless federal agents tracking my activities and endangering my family and the community members I serve.

As a lawyer with an understanding of the Constitution and who has taken an oath to uphold it and the rule of law, it is alarming to witness federal agents attack people lawfully engaged in First Amendment-protected activities, such as documenting federal agents in public and protesting federal activity. Seeing video footage of the murders of people engaged in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity has impacted my mental health. As a woman and mother, I am afraid of being targeted by unmasked, unbadged government agents or imposters while engaged in volunteer work to document, record, or protest the activity of federal agents. I am afraid that federal agents, in collaboration with local law enforcement, will take my picture or track my license plate, find out who I am and where I live, and come to my house and harm not just myself but my loved ones. During a recent training I conducted, an audience member asked what constitutional observers like me can do to protect ourselves from being targeted by federal agents. I said that there really is not much we can do other than rely on our community, document the truth, and hope that the courts and the law will protect us as we peaceably engage in constitutionally-protected activity. Our fear is justified based on the unlawful and violent behavior we are witnessing from federal agents. That is why bills like SB 2057, SD2, HD1 are so important.

This bill helps ensure that our local law enforcement does not exceed the scope of its authority by collaborating with federal immigration activity. It protects community members who no longer trust their law enforcement agents of any kind. This bill also provides important protection for volunteers like me engaged in constitutional observer work. **I request that you support SB 2057, SD2, HD1** and help protect the Constitution and rebuild trust in government.

Mahalo nui,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.  
Wailuku, Maui

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 3:56:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 3:57:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karen Kahn	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB2057 as an individual and member of Indivisible East Oahu. This bill would prohibit local law enforcement from collaborating with ICE and other federal agents to prohibit First Amendment rights or in civil immigration enforcement. ICE and CPB have been operating without the constraints of law and due process. They are sending people who have not violated criminal statutes to substandard prisons where they have limited access to lawyers and are treated inhumanely. Local law enforcement cannot risk losing the trust of the people by working with ICE. If we want to retain our values and dignity, we cannot cooperate with the federal mass deportation program.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 5:06:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**STRONG OPPOSE!!!**

"Except as required by federal or state law...."

When would ICE, CBP or HS not be operating as required by federal law? This bill has too many gray areas. Please defer and start over.

Mahalo!

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
March 22, 2026

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

Aloha, Representatives,

**I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2057 SD2, "Relating to Law Enforcement."**

This Bill will prohibit local law enforcement officers from collaborating unduly with activities of federal law enforcement. I applaud the fact that the bill would not allow local law enforcement to "...assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority."

This Bill will protect the Constitutional First Amendment rights of all of us. People must never be targeted by law enforcement activities that seek to prevent them from expressing their views or punish them for doing so. No one, no matter how important or powerful they aspire to be, can be permitted to come between the people of this land and their First Amendment rights to practice their religion or other belief system. Also, people need to know that they can say what they need to say without retaliation from law enforcement. Children need to be safe at their schools. People who are ill and hospitalized need to be protected, too.

**Due Process is also guaranteed under the Constitution for everyone. If anyone is denied due process, then everyone could lose their right to due process. We would all be at risk.** Everyone has a right to legal counsel and **a chance to plead their case if ever taken into custody**, just as Donald Trump himself had when he was charged with crimes. He always had due process.

I urge you to protect us all by voting for **SB2057 SD2**.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:31:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Francis Nakamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Francis Nakamoto, and I support of SB2057 SD2 HD1.

In normal times, cooperation between federal law enforcement agents, on one hand, and local and state agents, on the other, is important to combat crime. Prior to the draconian policies of the Trump Administration relating to immigration law deportations, multi-level cooperation was essential where local and state resources and capabilities were inadequate to enforce interstate and international criminal activities such as human trafficking, drugs importation and fraud law violation.

Those relationships should continue while assuring that the unconstitutional, illegal and harmful action of Immigration & Customs Enforcement, Customs & Border Protection and other Department of Homeland Security agencies enforcing civil immigration laws are not aided and abetted by Hawaii officers.

Hawaii law enforcement agencies exist to protect Hawaii residents from criminal law violators, not to administer or enforce federal civil immigration law, often conducted in an inhumane and unprofessional way against local residents, both citizens and immigrants alike. Hawaii taxes and resources should not be expended for purposes contrary to the interests of our residents. The reported arrest, detention and deportation of local residents, who have lived in Hawaii and contributed to our lives economically, culturally and socially for decades, without due process of law, is contrary to our Aloha Spirit and well-established way of life. Our law enforcement should have nothing to do with enabling ICE, CBP or DHS atrocities.

To be sure, any appearance of cooperation between Hawaii and federal law enforcement in deporting immigrants, not to mention actual collaboration, will have an immediate adverse impact on the public perception of our police officers by immigrants and their families and friends. The willingness of the public to report crimes against themselves or others, bear witness to crimes or otherwise cooperate with law enforcement will be irretrievable damaged if local police are perceived to be ICE or CBP cohorts.

For these and other obvious reasons, I urge your support for SB2057 SD2 HD1.

Mahalo.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2026 8:35:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cory Harden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support SB2057 SD2 HD1 to prohibit law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibit assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in protected activities.

I know several immigrants, and also know a police officer in the US who witnessed the consequences of ICE actions.

State law enforcement should not be commandeered for federal civil immigration operations or for actions targeting constitutionally protected activity.

This can lead to immigrant and mixed-status families no longer reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help in emergencies.

mahalo,  
Cory Harden

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 7:33:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the JHA Committee,

As a local resident concerned with public safety, I write in **support of SB2057 SD2 HD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibits assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in protected activities.

SB2057 SD2 HD1 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. State resources — personnel, funds, and equipment — belong to Hawai‘i’s residents and should serve Hawai‘i’s public safety priorities. This bill draws a clear line so that state law enforcement is not used to assist federal civil immigration operations or actions targeting constitutionally protected activity. The HD1 amendment’s precise language — targeting “operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement” — makes this distinction legally clear while still permitting full cooperation on criminal matters.

Community trust is the foundation of effective public safety. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that local law enforcement is an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they stop reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help in emergencies — making everyone less safe. This bill has passed the Senate with strong votes and passed House ECD. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs — which has championed civil rights and immigration protections throughout this session — is well-positioned to advance it toward Finance and final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD1**.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:08:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Winternitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Elizabeth Winternitz

In SUPPORT of HB1548 HD1

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Elizabeth Winternitz, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1548 HD1, which limits the maximum term of imprisonment for non-violent misdemeanors and non violent offenses punishable by up to one year to three hundred sixty-four days, and allows individuals previously sentenced to one year for a non-violent offense to apply for sentence modification.

Inherent fairness dictates that one day should not determine whether someone is deported. But under federal immigration law, it does. A conviction for which the sentence imposed is one year or longer can be classified as an “aggravated felony” — even for what Hawai‘i treats as a misdemeanor — triggering mandatory deportation, permanent bars to re-entry, and the elimination of nearly all immigration relief options. By capping the maximum sentence for non-violent misdemeanors at 364 days, this bill prevents Hawai‘i’s own sentencing law from inadvertently imposing life-altering immigration consequences that bear no relationship to the severity of the offense.

HB1548 HD1 also reduces coercive plea pressure on immigrant defendants, who may accept

unfavorable plea deals out of fear of immigration consequences they don't fully understand. The retroactive sentence modification provision gives those already affected a pathway to seek relief. More than 40 states have already enacted 364-day caps — Hawai'i joining this standard is a practical, broadly supported step toward fair sentencing. The Senate Judiciary Committee is the right committee to advance this reform toward final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1548 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony,

Elizabeth Winternitz, Kula, Maui

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 8:21:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:24:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Aloha Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair; Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

RE: SB2057 SB2 HD1

I am a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawai`i State Network. I am writing to provide testimony in support of this Bill. It would add a section to Chapter 139 HRS prohibiting law enforcement from collaborating with federal agents in an operation seeking to penalize the exercise of First Amendment rights or constituting immigration enforcement.

We see daily examples of ICE, CBP and other DHS agents scooping people off the streets of America claiming immigration enforcement against “terrible criminals and really bad people” and disappearing them to facilities around the country. They are incarcerated, apparently in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation and food, deprived of their due process rights, and too often shipped to foreign countries before any judicial process.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragged into the un-American, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing fom federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never need, but if you do, it could save lives and families. Please pass this bill to keep Hawai`i law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

Mahalo for allowing me the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:07:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Eaton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Carolyn Eaton. I am a resident of Honolulu and I support this bill most strongly. It clarifies boundaries for local law enforcement. Without such protection, local police may become complicit in violations of the First Amendment rights of our community members. The language of the bill also protects commitment of any State financial resources in federal immigration enforcement activity.

Mahalo for your support of this well-timed and very consequential measure.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 10:25:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Candice Lanette	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this and I am a member of indivisible hawaii. Mahalo.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:15:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John A. H. Tomoso	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: SB2057 SD2 HD1

Aloha mai,

This Bill, would limit "State Role in Civil Immigration Enforcement". Thus, I am all for keeping Hawai'i's public safety systems focused on community safety, and not civil immigration enforcement.

Aloha aku,

John A H Tomoso+, MSW (ret.), ACSW

51 Ku'ula Stereet, Kahului, Maui, HI 96732-2906

john.a.h.tomoso@gmail.com

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani**  
**In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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

Hearing Date: March 24, 2026

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

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of SB2057 SD2 HD1**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement or that exceeds their lawful authority, and prohibits assisting federal agents engaged in operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in protected activities.

I am testifying as an individual Hawai'i resident born and raised here and an active member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN). I recently retired from a community health center in Kalihi caring for vulnerable underserved populations, primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant families. The vast majority of our patients are economically and socially disadvantaged, face racial discrimination in their new homeland, and are challenged to learn English and to understand what their civil rights and legal protections are.

SB2057 SD2 HD1 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. State resources — personnel, funds, and equipment — are already stretched to meet our community's public safety needs. **These finite resources belong to Hawai'i's residents and, especially at this politically volatile and fiscally precarious time, should solely serve Hawai'i's public safety priorities.**

This bill draws a clear line so that state law enforcement is not used to assist federal civil immigration operations or actions targeting constitutionally protected activity. The HD1 amendment's precise language — targeting "operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement" — makes this distinction legally clear while still permitting full cooperation on criminal matters.

Community trust is the foundation of effective public safety. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that local law enforcement is an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they stop reporting crime, cooperating as witnesses, and seeking help in emergencies — making everyone less safe. This bill has passed the Senate with strong votes and passed House ECD. The Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs — which has championed civil rights and

immigration protections throughout this session — is well-positioned to advance it toward Finance and final passage.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Wendy Naomi Sodetani

Member of Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN) [naomisodetani@gmail.com](mailto:naomisodetani@gmail.com)

(808) 741-0555

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 11:52:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2057, and think it is a very important bill.

I believe a bill like this is necessary to codify in state law to protect the independence of our state and local law enforcement.

I also think it is wise to codify that the local police of Hawai'i are there to protect those engaged in nonviolent First Amendment rights practices (i.e., filming, protesting, yelling), regardless of their point of view.

I do not believe that assisting with federal officers who want to target those who are expressing their First Amendment rights by arresting or otherwise detaining them is in our state's best interest when they are in essence, acting as agents for the federal officers. Having a law like this on the side of our local officers gives them clear guidance and bona fide authority to not be compelled to do so.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 2:28:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/23/2026 9:38:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you!

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 12:07:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2057 SD2 HD1 that prohibits law enforcement agencies from using any personnel or funds originating in the state to assist or facilitate conduct by federal agents that exceeds their statutory duty or authority, and prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to facilitate federal agents engaged in operations that target individuals or entities for activities protected by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution or immigration enforcement operations. The misuse of federal partnerships to conduct raids, broaden surveillance, and intimidate communities is a threat to democratic governance and local safety.

When state and local police take part in ICE's abusive practices and play the role of federal immigration agents, it makes communities less safe by eroding trust in local law enforcement and deterring immigrant families from coming forward when they are the victims of crime or even asking for basic assistance. It is in the interest of our communities to make sure that no public employee volunteers state and local resources, including data and equipment, to federal personnel who would use it to violate our rights.

I urge the committee to pass this important measure. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2057-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/24/2026 12:34:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/24/2026 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB 2057 and restrict law enforcement officers from using any personnel and funds originating in the State to assist or facilitate conduct by federal immigration agents that is for the purpose of civil immigration enforcement. Actions of federal immigration agents have been shown to be dangerous and sometimes lethal to citizens protesting their activities and engaging their civil rights.