



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2057 SD2 HD2

RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka ‘Oihana ‘Imi Kālā

(House Committee on Finance)

(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 8, 2026

2:00 PM

Lumi 308

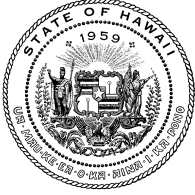
Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the House Committee on Finance:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2057 SD2 HD2** 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 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.

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 HD2**. 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'ŌKELE

JOHN C. (JACK) LEWIN, MD
ADMINISTRATOR

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Phone: 587-0788 Fax: 587-0783 www.shpda.org

April 7, 2026

TO: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, 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-HD2 -- RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

HEARING: Wednesday, April 8, 2026 @ 2:00 pm; Conference Room 308

POSITION: SUPPORT with COMMENTS

Testimony:

SHPDA strongly supports SB 2057-SD2-HD2, 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-HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

■ -- Jack Lewin, MD, Administrator, SHPDA

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.
Mayor



Reed K. Mahuna
Interim Police Chief

William V. Brilhante Jr.
Managing Director

Sherry D. Bird
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998
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April 7, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
And Members
Committee on Finance
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representatives Todd and Takenouchi and Members:

RE: SENATE BILL 2057 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT
DATE: APRIL 8, 2026
TIME: 2:00 P.M.
PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

The Hawai`i Police Department (HPD) respectfully offers comments on SB2057 SD2 HD2. We appreciate the Legislature's commitment to safeguarding constitutional rights and establishing clear boundaries for law enforcement authority. At the same time, the expanded language in this HD2 version presents significant operational, procedural, and interpretive challenges that merit careful consideration.

SB2057 SD2 HD2 broadens several key definitions—such as “assist,” “facilitate,” and “activities protected by the First Amendment”—in ways that increase uncertainty for officers operating in the field. The bill now expressly links prohibited assistance not only to civil immigration enforcement but also to any federal operations involving potential consequences for First Amendment–protected activities. Routine law enforcement tasks, such as providing perimeter support during a multi-agency operation, granting access to nonpublic areas, or sharing certain nonpublic information, could therefore be interpreted as prohibited conduct even when carried out for legitimate criminal enforcement or public safety purposes.

The bill also expands the definition of “exceeds their law enforcement duty or authority.” While the term is defined in this version of the measure, it still requires a “reasonable law enforcement officer” to understand when federal immigration agents are acting outside their lawful authority. In practice, this would require a state or county officer—whose duties do not involve civil immigration enforcement and who is not specifically trained in

SENATE BILL 2057 SD2 HD2 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

DATE: APRIL 8, 2026

TIME: 2:00 P.M.

PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE
CONFERENCE ROOM 308

Page 2

the nuances of federal immigration authority—to possess an intimate understanding of federal statutes, regulations, and operational limits. This expectation goes beyond the training and responsibilities of most HPD personnel and may result in hesitation or inconsistent decision-making during rapidly evolving incidents.

HPD supports the intent to protect sensitive locations such as schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses. Still, the expanded definition of “at or near,” combined with new First Amendment-related restrictions, increases the likelihood that officers may inadvertently violate the statute when responding to urgent or high-risk situations. A narrow exigent-circumstance exception, with appropriate documentation and supervisory review, would help ensure that officers can respond to imminent threats without undermining the bill’s intent.

Implementing SB2057 SD2 HD2 will require significant updates to operational procedures, training curricula, interagency protocols, and supervisory oversight. Given the complexity of the bill and its expanded scope, HPD strongly recommends that the Legislature delegate technical rulemaking and implementation to the Law Enforcement Standards Board (LESB). Statewide guidance is essential to ensure clarity, consistency, and equitable application across all counties.

The Hawai'i Police Department supports efforts to protect constitutional freedoms and ensure appropriate conduct by law enforcement officers. However, SB2057 SD2 HD2 introduces broad requirements that may hinder essential criminal enforcement activities and multi-agency operations. We respectfully request that the Committee consider the concerns outlined above and support targeted amendments that provide clarity, operational flexibility, and statewide consistency.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.

Na'u Me Ka Ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "Reed K. Mahuna", written over a circular stamp or mark.

REED K. MAHUNA
POLICE CHIEF



April 8, 2026

House Committee on Finance

Comments on SB 2057, SD2, HD2, Relating to Law Enforcement

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The **State of Hawai'i Organization of Police Officers (SHOPO)** respectfully submits **comments on SB 2057, SD2, HD2**, 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, HD2, 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)

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

Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Representative Chris Todd, Chair

Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Wednesday, April 8, 2026

2:00 PM

Room 308 and VIDEOCONFERENCE

STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB2057 SD2, HD2 - LAW ENFORCEMENT PROHIBITIONS

Aloha e Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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 3,626 Hawai'i individuals living behind bars¹ and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on March 23, 2026. We are always mindful that 795 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, HD2** 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. Prohibits law enforcement officers from assisting or cooperating with or allowing resources to be used to

¹ DCR Weekly Population Report, March 23, 2026

[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-03-23.pdf](#)

facilitate federal immigration agents engaged in operations with the purpose of civil immigration enforcement or that target individuals or entities engaged in certain activities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD2)

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 SB2057 SD2, HD2.**



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

April 6, 2026

House Committee on Finance
Rep. Chris Todd, Chair
Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2057

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:10:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2057 HD1 PROHIBITS ASSISTING FEDS AGAINST FIRST AMENDMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 puts a tool in Hawai'i'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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

Warmly,

Yvette Kay

yvettekay_99@yahoo.com

96740

415-706-9638



APRIL 8, 2026

SENATE BILL 2057 SD2 HD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: FIN

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

Kris Coffield,
President

David Negaard,
Director

Mireille Ellsworth,
Director

Justin Salisbury,
Director

Eileen Roco,
Director

Beatrice DeRego,
Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports SB 2057 SD2 HD2, 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.

Hawai‘i has maintained relatively strong community trust precisely because state and county agencies have not been

deputized as federal immigration agents. Recent data also show that immigration enforcement activity in Hawai‘i is increasing, with ICE arrests averaging about 20 per month in 2025, up from about 4 per month in 2024, with many arrests occurring in public spaces, courts, and workplaces. Strengthening clear boundaries between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement will help preserve community trust and public safety for everyone in Hawai‘i.

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

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2 HD2**

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of SB2057 SD2 HD2**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, and prohibits state assistance for federal operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in constitutionally 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 these that promote equity, protection, and opportunity for our community.

SB2057 SD2 HD2 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. The bill’s two carefully targeted prohibitions preserve full cooperation on criminal matters while drawing a firm line on civil immigration enforcement: the first targets operations “for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement,” and the second protects people engaged in constitutionally protected activity from state-facilitated federal targeting. Community trust is an operational necessity — when immigrant and mixed-status families know that local law enforcement is not an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they report crime, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help in emergencies.

The policy case for this bill has been affirmed through multiple committee hearings in both chambers: Senate PSM/EIG, Senate JDC, House ECD, and House JHA. The Hawai‘i Attorney General joined eleven other state attorneys general affirming that state and local law enforcement cannot be commandeered for federal immigration enforcement — this bill codifies that principle in statute. The Committee on Finance’s role is to confirm this is a sound measure and send it to the floor for a final vote.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Megahn Chun & Alejandro Villarino
Mercado de la Raza



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2057, SD2, HD2
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

House Committee on Finance

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026 | Letter Date: April 7, 2026

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB2057, SD2, HD2, 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, HD2 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, including speech, assembly, and observation of law enforcement operations. 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, HD2 further disallows the use of state and local resources for civil immigration enforcement at or near sensitive locations such as schools, hospitals, places of worship, and courthouses. These provisions are essential to ensuring that these community spaces and the essential services they provide remain safe and accessible to all residents, regardless of immigration status.

SB2057, SD2, HD2 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: House Committee on Finance
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, April 8, 2026, at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2, HD2, Relating to Law Enforcement**

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) writes in **strong support of SB2057 SD2, HD2**, which would prevent our local authorities from being commandeered to serve federal operations that run counter to the safety and interests of Hawaii's communities or that violate constitutional rights.

In 2025, our Attorney General Anne Lopez, along with the attorneys general from ten other states, issued a joint statement, stating that “the U.S. Constitution prevents the federal government from commandeering states to enforce federal laws. While the federal government may use its own resources for federal immigration enforcement, the court ruled in *Printz v. United States* that the federal government cannot ‘impress into its service—and at no cost to itself—the police officers of the 50 States.’ This balance of power between the federal government and state governments is a touchstone of our American system of federalism.”¹

In the year since, we have seen the deployment of troops and militarized federal agents into cities to enforce an aggressive deportation agenda that has endangered U.S. citizens and noncitizens alike.² We saw the brutal killings of two American citizens by federal immigration enforcement officers in the first few months of 2026 alone.

¹ JOINT STATEMENT FROM 11 STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL: STATE AND LOCAL LAW ENFORCEMENT CANNOT BE COMMANDEERED FOR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT, State of Hawai'i, <https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/2025-07-joint-statement-from-11-state-attorneys-general-state-and-local-law-enforcement-cannot-be-commandeered-for-federal-law-enforcement/> (Jan. 23, 2025).

² 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>

Here in our islands, we have seen federal agents taking our immigrant neighbors and locking them up unlawfully.³ Immigration enforcement has spiked in Hawai‘i as compared to previous years: between January 20, 2025 and October 15, 2025, detainees nearly doubled, administrative arrests more than tripled, and detention stays nearly tripled, as compared to the same period in 2024.⁴ And even when Hawai‘i immigrants are complying with the law, and have committed no crime, ICE has detained them at FDC Honolulu for months on end.⁵ Indeed, we know that throughout the country, most people being held in detention have not been convicted of a crime.⁶

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 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.

³ 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/>

⁴ Hausman, D. (2025). “U.S. immigration enforcement data.” California Law Review Online, 16 (13).

⁵ ACLU of Hawai‘i Files Lawsuit to Free Hawai‘i Island Resident from Unlawful Immigration Detention (Jan. 14, 2026), <https://www.acluhi.org/press-releases/aclu-hawaii-files-lawsuit-to-free-hawaii-island-resident-from-unlawful-immigration-detention/>.

⁶ Hausman, D. (2025).

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
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www.acluhawaii.org



COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF SB 2057, SD2, HD2 - RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Rep. Miyake and Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2057, SD2, HD2**, 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, HD2, 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, HD2 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, HD2. 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 white background.

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 STRONG SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2 HD2

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

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 as a place where all families can thrive.

About HCIR

HCIR has testified in support of SB2057 at every stage of this legislative session, from Senate PSM/EIG through Senate JDC, House ECD, and House JHA. We submit this testimony to the Committee on Finance — the final committee step before this measure advances to the floor — urging you to pass SB2057 SD2 HD2 without delay.

Why We Support SB2057 SD2 HD2

SB2057 SD2 HD2 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. The bill's two carefully targeted prohibitions preserve full cooperation on criminal matters while drawing a firm line: the first targets operations "for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement," and the second protects people engaged in constitutionally protected activity from state-facilitated federal targeting. The HD2 version carries forward the careful, legally precise drafting that has earned broad support across both chambers.

Community trust is an operational necessity. When immigrant and mixed-status families know that local law enforcement is not an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they report crime, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help in emergencies. The Office of the Public Defender — which supports this bill — has directly observed clients miss court dates, decline to report victimization, and hesitate to cooperate with legal processes out of fear, even when attempting to comply with the law. When survivors of domestic violence, trafficking, and sexual assault cannot safely seek help, everyone is less safe. This is not a soft consideration; it is the operational foundation of effective public safety.



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

The bill also protects law enforcement officers themselves. As SHOPO noted, officers in the field benefit from clear statutory definitions and precise guidance when federal agencies seek their collaboration. SB2057 SD2 HD2 provides exactly that — a framework that tells officers what they may not do while preserving their full authority in criminal matters. This reduces legal uncertainty, limits constitutional risk, and protects both officers and the state from civil liability exposure.

First Amendment protections are at stake. The bill prohibits state law enforcement from assisting federal operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in constitutionally protected activity — including peaceful assembly, protest, religious practice, and civic participation. When residents fear that exercising their rights could trigger local law enforcement involvement in federal surveillance or targeting, the chilling effect on democratic participation is real and corrosive. Hawai‘i’s public safety institutions must never become tools of political retaliation.

The legal and policy foundation is solid. The Hawai‘i Attorney General joined eleven other state attorneys general affirming that state and local law enforcement cannot be commandeered for federal immigration enforcement. Under the anti-commandeering doctrine affirmed in *Printz v. United States*, the federal government cannot compel Hawai‘i to use its personnel and resources to carry out federal enforcement priorities. SB2057 SD2 HD2 codifies that constitutional principle in statute. States including California, Oregon, Illinois, Washington, New Jersey, and New Mexico have enacted similar policies, reflecting a growing national consensus that state and local agencies must maintain clear lines between community policing and federal civil immigration enforcement.

This bill has earned its passage. SB2057 has passed the Senate with strong votes, passed House ECD, and passed the full House on Second Reading. The policy case has been thoroughly vetted through multiple hearings in both chambers. The Committee on Finance’s role is to confirm this is a sound and responsible measure — which it is — and send it to the floor for a final vote.

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SB2057 SD2 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Liza Ryan-Gill, Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights lryangill@hicir.org

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:46:47 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 2:48:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 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-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 5:19:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSE!!! THIS BILL IS JUST PLAIN WRONG. WE NEED LAWS THAT MANDATE COOPERATION AND COLLABORATION, NOT DIVISION.

MAHALO!

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 6:40:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:09:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
john savino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2057 - limit collaboration with feds

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:25:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is shocking that we are in a situation where SB2057 HD1 is necessary. Yet, here we are. It is crucial that you pass this Bill to prohibit local law enforcement agencies from collaborating with federal agents in any operation that would penalize people for the simple act of exercising our First Amendment rights. It is also absolutely essential that local law enforcement agencies not cooperate with federal immigration enforcement activities.

SB2057 HD1 not only protects our rights and maintains trust with local communities, it also protects our law enforcement personnel and our taxpayer dollars from being misused by DHS in violation of our constitutional and civil rights.

Please pass this Bill. If you don't, you are condoning and cooperating with the gross violations that all of us see happening every day in our communities.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:41:41 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawai'i 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 immigrants and citizens off the streets and disappearing them into facilities, sometimes across state lines or out of the country. They are incarcerated in substandard facilities with inadequate sanitation, food, and access to medical care, and deprived of their due process rights.

SB2057 puts a tool in Hawai'i's toolbox which protects our local law enforcement personnel and funds from being used in service of the unconstitutional violations of civil and human rights.

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

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 7:50:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward Codelia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance:

My name is Edward Codelia. I am a Maui resident and a candidate for House District 2, which includes the neighbor islands outside of O‘ahu. I submit this testimony in **opposition to SB2057**, relating to law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration authorities.

This measure raises a fundamental question about the relationship between state authority and federal law. Immigration enforcement is a federal responsibility. Hawai‘i receives billions of dollars annually in federal funding for defense, disaster recovery, infrastructure, housing programs, and public safety. When a state legislature adopts policies that intentionally restrict cooperation with federal law enforcement, it creates the potential for conflict with the same federal government that funds many of the state’s programs and services. That risk should not be dismissed lightly. The Legislature should be cautious about passing measures that symbolically distance the state from federal enforcement while continuing to rely on federal resources.

There is also a deeper issue that lawmakers should be intellectually honest about. In Hawai‘i, many political and cultural advocates argue that the overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom in 1893 was illegal. That argument is often cited in discussions about sovereignty and the legitimacy of government authority in these islands. If the Legislature wishes to rely on that historical argument in policy discussions, it must also recognize the logical implications. If the overthrow is considered illegal, then the legal foundation of the current governing system becomes far more complex. Under that reasoning, the overwhelming majority of residents who are not of Native Hawaiian ancestry could themselves be viewed as living under a government that replaced a prior sovereign system.

This is precisely why the state should avoid legislation that attempts to selectively redefine the role of law enforcement in federal matters. Once the Legislature begins choosing which laws it wishes to cooperate with and which it does not, it invites the same scrutiny toward its own legal foundations. Hawai‘i’s government should not open that door lightly.

The Legislature should also be cautious about the precedent it sets when it begins selectively deciding which federal laws state agencies will cooperate with. Hawai‘i already operates within a complex legal framework involving federal authority and local history. For example, litigation such as *Doe v. Kamehameha Schools* demonstrated that even institutions rooted deeply in Hawai‘i’s cultural and historical context ultimately exist within the authority of federal law and

the federal courts. The state cannot simultaneously rely on federal jurisdiction when it is convenient and then attempt to withdraw cooperation with federal law enforcement when it becomes politically controversial. If Hawai'i chooses to test that boundary, legislators should be honest about the legal and financial consequences that could follow, including challenges to federal funding and jurisdictional authority.

Law enforcement agencies already operate under constitutional limits, professional standards, and established oversight. Creating additional statutory barriers that restrict cooperation with federal authorities risks politicizing law enforcement rather than improving public safety. The Legislature should focus on policies that strengthen community trust, transparency, and accountability without creating unnecessary conflict between state and federal law.

The rule of law cannot operate on a selective basis depending on political preference. If Hawai'i intends to remain within the federal system that provides funding, security, and judicial authority, it should not simultaneously attempt to undermine federal enforcement responsibilities.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to reconsider SB2057.

If the State of Hawai'i intends to rely on federal funding, federal protection, and federal courts, it should not at the same time instruct its law enforcement agencies to ignore federal law enforcement responsibilities.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Edward Codelia
Maui, Hawai'i
Candidate for House District 2

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:06:16 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2057 HD1 PROHIBITS ASSISTING FEDS AGAINST FIRST AMENDMENT

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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. I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
April 6, 2026

Representative Chris Todd, Chair, Committee on Finance
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Aloha, Representatives,

I am submitting this testimony in support of SB2057 SD2 HD2, "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 HD2**.

Mahalo and Aloha,

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

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:35:01 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2057 - limit collaboration with feds

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:44:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy M DeBernardi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

Tammy DeBernardi
Ocean View, Ka'u

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:34:21 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee E McCullough	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:42:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

in support

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:51:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:53:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a retired police officer, I very strongly support this bill and hope you do too. State-certified police officers don't have the authority to enforce federal law and don't have the time to do their own job as well as that of federal law enforcement.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:25:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Rep. Chris Todd, Chair; Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair; and Members of the Committee on Finance,

I am writing as a resident of Kapolei and as a member of the Indivisible Hawai`i Statewide Network to provide testimony in strong support of SB2057 SD2 HD2. This bill 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. It 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.

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 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

This bill puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the un-American, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing from 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 Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in these activities for which they would later be held accountable.

I strongly urge you to pass SB2057 SD2 HD2.

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

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:07:02 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Over the past year, I have been watching the erosion of due process across the US. I am very concerned about the ways that federal agents have arrested, detained, and deported people under the scope of Trump's immigration crackdown. They have done this with impunity, regardless of proof, legal status, including those who are citizens. I have seen the horrible conditions at detention camps. I have read about individuals who have been detained for nearly a year without being charged with anything at all. I have watched video after video of federal agents hurting, and even killing people. Including hurting and killing those who have done nothing except trying to protect their neighbors. What is even more concerning is how governmental officers, including the president, blatantly lie about the victims, contradicting the facts that we clearly see with our own eyes.

Because of all of this, many of us are living in a state of constant vigilance and fear. Some are afraid to leave their homes or go to the doctors to receive needed care. With the potential of unidentified and masked agents who may appear at any moment and do whatever they want without any accountability, we must be able to count on local law enforcement more than ever before.

Because of all of this, HPD must not have any role in immigration operations or share any information about us with immigration agencies. HPD must uphold jurisdictional boundaries. I urge you to pass this Bill.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 11:26:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd and Vice Chair Takenouchi,

I am writing in strong support of SB2057. The reckless actions of this federal administration demand that we strive for absolute transparency and accountability from those pledged to enforce our laws. This bill has my strong support, and will only strengthen our community's faith and trust in our local law enforcement officers as well. Mahalo nui loa for your and the committee's strong support of good government, ethics, and accountability legislation throughout this session.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball

Waiālae-Kahala

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 5:52:29 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB2057 SD2 HD2 which would prohibit assisting feds against first amendment, free speech.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:03:47 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 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 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

Jane Aquino

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:05:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:00:21 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monty Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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 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. It is reported that there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process. This is the hallmark of an authoritarian state.

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

Monty Clark

Hawaii Kai

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:49:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of 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.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 8:58:42 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the FIN Committee,

As a local resident concerned with public safety, I write in **support of SB2057 SD2 HD2**, 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.

Our local 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.

Please **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD2**.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:01:34 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:24:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

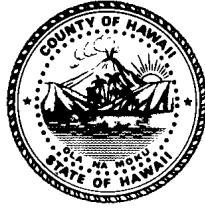
SB2057 HD1 puts a tool in Hawaii’s toolbox which protects our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the unamerican, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing from federal agents. It’s the kind of law that you hope you never 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

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: April 7, 2026
TO: House Committee on Finance
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2
SUBJECT: SB2057 SD2 HD2

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, 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'. The signature is fluid and cursive.

Jenn Kagiwada

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 9:38:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2057 HD1 PROHIBITS ASSISTING FEDS AGAINST FIRST AMENDMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

David Cuthbert, Pahoa

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 10:02:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Addie Berliner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2057 HD1 PROHIBITS ASSISTING FEDS AGAINST FIRST AMENDMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 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 from 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.

I urge you to pass SB2057 HD1.

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

Addie Berliner

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:46:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2057 HD1 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide 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.

It is indeed unfortunate that we must pass legislation to explicitly mandate what should be intuitively obvious: that America operates under the rule of law, and its law enforcement agencies must follow due process before depriving anyone—citizen or immigrant—of their liberty. However, we see daily examples of federal 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. It is reported there are now nearly 70,000 people being held in sub-standard concentration camps without access to attorneys and without due process.

SB2057 HD1 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 from federal agents. We shouldn’t need this law to protect the lives and families of those in our state. But here we are. Please pass this bill to keep Hawaii law enforcement from becoming involved in activities for which they would later be held accountable.

I urge you to **pass SB2057 HD1.**

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

Aloha,

Michael

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 11:56:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

B2057 – DANIELLE GOREN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Thank you for this opportunity to submit my testimony in **strong support of SB2057**, personally, as a Lahaina resident, and as a member of Indivisible Hawai'i, a member of the Hawaii Campaign for Immigrant Justice, and a member of the ACLU.

SB2057 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.

SB2057 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.

In September of 2025, as part of President Trump's pattern of abusing his power to target critics through unconstitutional invocations of law enforcement, national security, and financial sanctions authorities, he issued a presidential memorandum authorizing government-wide investigations into non-profits, activists, and their donors and funders, using vague and overbroad labels of "terrorism" and "conspiracy against rights." This National Security Presidential Memorandum, NSPM-7, called "Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence," essentially allows the Trump administration to go after *anyone* who disagrees with him and is not devoutly MAGA.

Who are these citizens the Trump administration has categorized as domestic terrorist threats? Anyone with a view that is “anti-Americanism,” “anti-Christianity,” “extremism on migration,” “extremism on race,” “extremism on gender,” or opposition to the good old “traditional American views on family, religion, and morality.” But as we all should know, having an opinion that differs from the Trump administration is not domestic terror; it is civic duty, and it is protected by the First Amendment. This NSPM-7 flies in the face of our First Amendment rights and the use of local law enforcement to affect this aggressive attack on liberty must be rejected.

National security policies and practices are most effective when they respect constitutional values and the rule of law and are subjected to stringent oversight as well as public accountability. Yet, NSPM-7 actively rejects the rule of law, and we have seen that there has been absolutely no accountability, much less public accountability.

Hima Shamsi, Director of the ACLU’s National Security Project, issued the following statement in response to Trump’s memorandum:

Working from a fever dream of conspiracies, President Trump has launched yet another effort to investigate and intimidate his critics.

After one of the most harrowing weeks for our First Amendment rights, the President is invoking political violence, which we all condemn, as an excuse to target non-profits and activists with the false and stigmatizing label of ‘domestic terrorism.’ This is a shameful and dangerous move. But the President cannot rewrite the Constitution by memo.

Intimidation tactics against those standing up for human rights and civil liberties are sadly not new in the history of this country. In an earlier era, civil rights movement leaders were also labeled security threats and investigated, monitored, threatened, and even arrested. True strength in this country comes not from political leaders engaged in fearmongering and political vendettas, but from our vibrant civil society, activists, and communities steadfastly pursuing the goals of equality, fairness, and democracy for all.[\[1\]](#)

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.

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 strengthens Hawai‘i’s communities by reinforcing constitutional boundaries and ensuring state resources serve our state.

It is the duty of city and state governments to protect their residents from this aggressive and illegal federal overreach. One extremely effective way for city and state governments to satisfy their obligations to their residents is through implementing policies that limit cooperation with immigrant authorities. SB2057 does just that, giving Hawaii’s a vital tool to protect our law enforcement personnel and funds from being dragooned into service of the un-American, unconstitutional violations of civil rights and basic standards of decency we are seeing from federal agents. SB2057 is 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.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

[1] ACLU Statement on the Trump Administratino's Memorandum Targeting Political Opponents, Sep. 25, 2025, ret. <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-statement-on-the-trump-administrations-memorandum-targeting-political-opponents>

Testimony In SUPPORT of SB2057 SD2 HD2

Committee on Finance

Representative Chris Todd, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 8, 2026

Dear Chair Chris Todd, Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi, and members of the Committee on Finance,

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2057 SD2 HD2**, which prohibits law enforcement officers from using any state personnel or funds to assist or facilitate federal immigration agents for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement, and prohibits state assistance for federal operations targeting individuals or entities engaged in constitutionally protected activities.

In Minnesota and elsewhere, we have witnessed how ICE and Border Patrol have been employing secret police tactics, including sending masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities. Federal agents have been terrorizing communities on the continent without accountability and there's no reason to think it couldn't happen here.

SB2057 SD2 HD2 is a commonsense public safety and civil rights measure. State resources, including personnel, funds, and equipment, belong to Hawai'i's residents and should serve Hawai'i's public safety priorities. The bill's two carefully targeted prohibitions preserve full cooperation on criminal matters while drawing a firm line on civil immigration enforcement: the first targets operations "for the purposes of civil immigration enforcement," and the second protects people engaged in constitutionally protected activity from state-facilitated federal targeting. Community trust is an operational necessity. When immigrant and mixed-status families know that local law enforcement is not an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement, they report crime, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help in emergencies.

The policy case for this bill has been affirmed through multiple committee hearings in both chambers: Senate PSM/EIG, Senate JDC, House ECD, and House JHA. The Hawai'i Attorney General joined eleven other state attorneys general affirming that state and local law enforcement cannot be commandeered for federal immigration enforcement and this bill codifies that principle in statute. The Committee on Finance's role is to confirm this is a sound measure and send it to the floor for a final vote.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2057 SD2 HD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Chris Todd, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, April 8, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 308

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2057, SD2, HD2 - RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Aloha Chair Todd, Vice Chair Takenouchi, Representative Miyake for my district on Maui, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2057, SD2, HD2**, 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 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, HD2, 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, HD2 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, HD2** and help protect the Constitution and rebuild trust in government.

Mahalo nui,

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

SB-2057-HD-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 12:57:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2057 SD2 HD2 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-2

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 1:22:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 4/8/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Support