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To: Senate Committee on Judiciary

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 016

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 2151, S.D. 1
Relating to Emergency Management

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which among other things would prohibit the Governor or a mayor from suspending agency response deadlines for requests for public records under chapter 92F, HRS, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA), or for vital statistics, during a declared state of emergency. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes no position on this bill because it is a policy decision for the Legislature to determine what limit, if any, is appropriate and what potential emergencies would warrant the Governor's use of emergency powers. However, OIP can confirm that the two-and-a-half-month full suspension of the UIPA in 2020, and subsequent year-plus partial suspension of only the UIPA's agency response deadlines, had a significant effect on requesters, agencies, and OIP's own operations. During that time, many requesters experienced long delays in receipt of agency responses to their record requests, and the UIPA did not fulfill its stated purpose of giving the public timely access to government records.



Senate Committee on Judiciary

Tuesday, February 24, 2026, 10 AM Hearing in Conference Room 016 on
SB 2151, SD1 Relating to Emergency Management

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports SB 2151, SD1. State law should not authorize either the Governor or any county mayor to completely suspend or unreasonably delay public access to public records during an emergency. And state law should authorize the appropriate state or county legislative body to stop arbitrary or abusive use of executive emergency powers under Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

February 24, 2026

10:00 AM

Conference Room 016

In **SUPPORT** of **SB2151 SD1**: RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

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

On behalf of our over 20,000 members and supporters, the Sierra Club of Hawai'i **SUPPORTS** SB2151 SD1, which will protect the public interest and our very system of constitutional democracy from the potential misuse of state and county executive branch leaders' emergency powers.

As we have seen in recent years, the lack of clear statutory guardrails for the Governor's sweeping emergency powers has resulted in emergency proclamations that have significantly undermined the public interest, the public trust in government, and the separation of powers that is a foundation of our democracy. This includes an emergency proclamation on housing that attempted to use a century-long problem, rooted in nuanced economic policies and myriad social and historical factors, to broadly suspend and/or rewrite a suite of laws protecting our environmental and cultural integrity, food security, climate resilience, the public's right-to-know, fiscal transparency and accountability, and even collective bargaining rights - without any actual mechanisms to ensure that housing developed under the proclamation would be affordable, or reserved for current Hawai'i residents.

While this latter emergency proclamation was substantially scaled back in its subsequent iterations, significant concerns remain about the potential for any administration to declare long-standing and admittedly serious social challenges - such as housing, criminal activity, or poverty - as "emergencies," and thereby exercise their power to repeal or rewrite legislation for an indefinite length of time. Without the transparency and public accountability of the normal, democratic lawmaking process, this could easily lead to significant and long-lasting changes to public policy that unduly benefit politically connected special interests, at the expense of the public interest - and our very democracy itself.

This measure would help to mitigate the risk of executive overreach by simply requiring the Governor and mayors to explicitly and narrowly tailor the use of their emergency authority to suspend laws, to directly addressing the emergency at hand; to require emergency declarations to be terminated as soon as conditions warrant; and to provide the state legislature and county councils the ability to end emergency declarations that may be arbitrarily and inappropriately used by the leaders of their respective executive branches.

Accordingly, the Sierra Club respectfully urges the Committee to **PASS** SB2151 SD1.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this critical measure.



SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR
SENATOR MIKE GABBARD, VICE-CHAIR
SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL NO. 2151, SD1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

February 24, 2026, 10:00 a.m.
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Good morning, Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and members of the committee:

Earthjustice supports Senate Bill 2151 SD1, which seeks to place guardrails on the governor’s and mayors’ use of emergency powers under HRS Chapter 127A by amending the definitions of “disaster” and “emergency” under that statute. These amendments are necessary to reestablish the proper constitutional balance of powers between the legislature and the executive branch with respect to the enactment of laws to address important issues of public policy.

A recent decision of the Hawai’i Supreme Court, *Nakoa v. Governor of State*, 156 Hawai’i 416, 575 P.3d 506 (2025), threatens to upset this vital balance. There, the Court interpreted HRS Chapter 127A to grant the governor extraordinary emergency powers – including the power to suspend laws enacted by the legislature – to address any situation “rationally related to the health, safety, and welfare of the public.” *Id.* at 424, 575 P.3d at 514. This interpretation allows for the governor to issue emergency proclamations that address “not only discrete events,” but also “long-term issues” of public policy. *Id.* at 435, 575 P.3d at 525. This broad grant of authority to the executive branch undermines the balance of power enshrined in the Hawai’i Constitution, which vests the “legislative power of the State” in the legislature. Haw. Const. art. III, § 1.

To preserve the constitutional balance of powers and to avoid executive overreach, it must remain the exclusive providence of the legislature to address longstanding public policy challenges. Thus, in the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling, it is vital for the legislature to amend the statutory definitions of “disaster” and “emergency” within HRS Chapter 127A such that the emergency powers granted to the governor are restricted solely to situations that involve responding to the sudden “occurrence of disasters or emergencies of unprecedented size and destructiveness” as originally intended. HRS § 127A-1(a). SB 2151 SD1 would accomplish this.

Earthjustice Testimony in **Support** of Senate Bill 2151, SD1

February 24, 2026

Page 2

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

David L. Henkin, Esq.

Deputy Managing Attorney

Earthjustice, Mid-Pacific Office

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 8:55:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Emergency Management – With Fierce Warning on the Broader Assault on Liberty

To the "Members" of the Hawaii State Legislature:

On behalf of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii, we submit this testimony with cautious, reluctant support for SB 2151. The bill's modest reforms—narrower definitions of "emergency" and "disaster" limited to sudden, catastrophic events; mandatory justifications and specificity when suspending laws; protections against suspending public records access; and the addition of legislative or county council termination via two-thirds vote—are incremental steps in the right direction. They offer slightly more accountability than the current system, which has enabled prolonged, unchecked executive rule-by-decree during COVID-19 and the Maui fires, turning temporary crises into excuses for indefinite authoritarian control.

These tweaks are better than nothing in a state where the governor already acts as "sole judge" with near-dictatorial powers. But let's be brutally clear: SB 2151 is nowhere near enough to dismantle the fascist framework you've built. It still enshrines warrantless entries into private homes, mandatory quarantines without due process, firearm seizures from law-abiding citizens, and the sweeping suspension of virtually any law—all under vague triggers like "imminent threats" or "catastrophic harm" that can be twisted to fit any agenda. By allowing the governor to assume control over local responses and force counties to beg for approval, it further centralizes power in Honolulu's one-party machine. This isn't reform; it's a polished-up blueprint for legalized dictatorship, codifying the very tyrannies that have already crushed freedoms, destroyed businesses, and violated bodily autonomy in Hawaii.

And make no mistake—this emergency powers grab doesn't exist in isolation. While you dangle these half-hearted "clarifications," other bills in this session, like SB 2480, threaten to slam the door on third-party voices entirely. By pushing a top-two primary system that advances only the two highest vote-getters regardless of party, you risk turning November's general election into a Democrat-only affair in our one-party dominant state—effectively keeping Libertarians, Republicans, Greens, independents, and any real alternatives off the ballot. In a low-turnout primary dominated by establishment insiders, this isn't expanding choice; it's rigging the game to silence dissent and entrench permanent majority rule. Combined with SB 2151's emergency overreach, it paints a chilling picture: a legislature willing to arm the executive with martial-law tools while starving voters of meaningful options at the ballot box.

We support passing SB 2151 only as the bare minimum first step toward actual reform—because rejecting it outright would leave us with even fewer constraints on executive tyranny. But we demand far more: mandatory judicial review of declarations, hard 30-day auto-termination caps (renewable only with legislative approval), explicit bans on suspending core rights like free speech, assembly, religion, arms, or due process, and ironclad prohibitions on warrantless searches or firearm confiscations. Without these, you're not protecting the public—you're legalizing a fascist dictatorship while simultaneously working to ensure no opposition can challenge it electorally. Don't even get me started on the Biosecurity act. These aren't bills, they are crimes worthy of indictment.

Hawaii's people are watching. Stop the power grabs, restore real checks and balances, and keep the ballot open to all voices—or face the growing backlash from freedom-loving residents who refuse to live under your boot.

Thank you, dear Nazis, for considering our views.

Sincerely,

Libertarian Party of Hawaii

@hi4Liberty

Honolulu, Hawaii

PUBLIC FIRST
LAW CENTER

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair
Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

RE: Testimony with Comments on S.B. 2151 S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Management
Hearing: February 24, 2026 at 10:00 a.m.

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee:

My name is Ben Creps. I am a staff attorney at the Public First Law Center, a nonprofit organization that promotes open government in Hawai`i.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony with comments supporting the intent of S.B. 2151 S.D. 1 and **recommending an amendment** to better effectuate that intent. Public records laws are a critical mechanism to ensure government transparency. This bill seeks to safeguard that promise of openness for the public during government declared emergencies, when transparency is especially crucial.

But S.B. 2151 S.D. 1 only safeguards *one part* of the public records law. We thus recommend the following amendments (in bold) at page 2, lines 7 - 11, clarifying that *all* of chapter 92F is shielded from suspension:

(a) The governor or mayor shall not, through any proclamation or declaration of emergency or any rule or order adopted pursuant to this chapter, suspend [~~agency response deadlines for requests for~~] **access to:**

(1) [~~Public records~~] **Records** pursuant to [~~part II of~~] chapter 92F; or . . .

This amendment would ensure that members of the public are still able to access their personal records under part III of chapter 92F. It would also ensure that the Office of Information Practices (OIP) remains empowered, under part IV of chapter 92F, to administer the law, which addresses the operational challenges faced by OIP when former Governor David Ige suspended the entirety of chapter 92F during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify with comments on S.B. 2151 S.D. 1.





SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
SB 2151 Relating to Emergency Management
February 24, 2026, at 10:00 AM, State Capitol CR 016 and Videoconference

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SB2151.

HRS 127a is repugnant to the provisions of the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution which states:

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

SB2151 attempts to reduce some of the constraints in HRS 127a by adding the ability of the legislature or county council by a two-thirds affirmative vote to terminate the state of emergency.

However, SB2151 expands the definitions of “severe weather warning” and “disaster” which increases the governor’s power to declare an emergency.

HRS 127a-11 and 127a-25 provides an imbalance of power and removes the rights of the people as provided in the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

SB2151 is an attempt to make something that is already bad (HRS 127a) a little less bad.

HRS 127a should be repealed and re-written to refine the emergency powers and remain within the guidelines of the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

Feb. 24, 2026, 10 a.m.
Hawaii State Capitol
Conference Room 016 and Videoconference

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice-Chair

From: Grassroot Institute of Hawaii
Ted Kefalas, Director of Strategic Campaigns

RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB2151 SD1 — RELATING TO EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

Aloha chair, vice chair and other committee members,

The Grassroot Institute of Hawaii **strongly supports** [SB2151 SD1](#), which would amend the state's emergency management statute to prohibit the suspension of requests for public records or vital statistics during a state of emergency.

The bill would also clarify the definition of a "severe weather warning" and a "disaster," require justification for the suspension of laws, limit the length of such suspensions to the times necessary to fulfill the emergency functions, and allow the Legislature and county councils to terminate declared states of emergency, in whole or in part, by an affirmative two-thirds vote.

These are all excellent ways to preserve the intent of the emergency statute while simultaneously protecting the public interest and ensuring that emergency powers do not become a tool for unchecked executive power.

Regarding the suspension of public records or vital statistics during an emergency, Gov. David Ige at the outset of the COVID-19 crisis suspended Hawaii's open-records and sunshine laws — an extreme response not taken by any other state governor.

Not only did his action raise questions about the health rationale for the suspension, it undermined public trust in the workings of government at a time when trust was needed most. This bill would ensure that government transparency is maintained even during a state of emergency.

There is no reason to worry that open records requests submitted during an emergency could hinder government operations. Hawaii's [open-records statute](#) already provides flexibility to agencies that require additional time to respond, and this bill would reinforce that provision by expressly giving agencies permission to delay a response under extenuating circumstances.

The addition of reasonable limitations on the ability to suspend laws would also help protect the constitutional balance of powers. The governor and mayors need leeway to handle an emergency as needed, but they should not have carte blanche to suspend laws indefinitely or arbitrarily. Government actions during an emergency should be narrowly tailored and must demonstrate a clear connection between the actions taken and the protection of public health or safety.

As for the duration of emergencies, Hawaii's emergency statute currently features a 60-day time limit, but it allows an emergency to be extended by proclamation. Thus, there is no protection against the governor or a mayor extending a state of emergency indefinitely, with little input or oversight from the legislative branch.

In the past few years, we have seen emergency orders used increasingly more often to address situations that do not pose an immediate threat to life, health or property — such as the housing crisis. Because the statute lacks a mechanism that would force an end to the governor's ability to rule via emergency proclamation, the governor could use his or her emergency powers to bypass the legislative process for years on end.

A legislative check on the executive's ability to extend an emergency would correct this problem and preserve the constitutional balance of powers. SB2151 would fulfill that purpose by enabling the Legislature and county councils to end emergencies by a two-thirds vote.

It is important that Hawaii's emergency management law reflect the lessons we have learned over the past few years. The main lesson is that there is room to protect open government and the constitutional balance of powers without handicapping the ability of the governor and mayors to respond quickly and effectively to emergency situations.

Sincerely,

Ted Kefalas
Director of Strategic Campaigns
Grassroot Institute of Hawaii

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 7:36:28 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debra Bringman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2151 SD1 because it provides clearer limits and stronger accountability for the use of emergency powers in Hawai'i. The bill prevents the Governor or mayors from suspending public-records deadlines during emergencies, protecting transparency for the public. It also tightens the definitions of "emergency" and "disaster" so that emergency powers can only be used for sudden and truly dangerous situations that pose catastrophic harm. Importantly, it allows the Legislature and county councils to end an emergency with a two-thirds vote, adding necessary checks and balances. These changes ensure emergency powers remain focused, limited, and accountable while still allowing quick action when it is genuinely needed. I respectfully ask the committee to pass this measure.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 8:59:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michdelle Melendez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Opposition Unless Amended

Aloha Chair and Members,

I respectfully submit testimony raising serious constitutional concerns regarding SB2151 SD1.

While this bill seeks to clarify emergency powers and improve oversight, it fails to address — and in some respects reinforces — statutory authority that raises substantial constitutional issues under both the United States Constitution and the Hawai‘i Constitution.

Specifically:

1. Due Process Concerns (14th Amendment; Hawai‘i Constitution Article I, §5)

The emergency framework preserved in this bill continues to allow quarantine, segregation, property closure, and nuisance abatement based largely on executive determination. The bill does not add meaningful procedural safeguards such as:

- Immediate judicial review,
- Clear evidentiary standards,
- Defined timelines,
- Notice and hearing requirements.

Emergency authority cannot override due process protections. Even during emergencies, constitutional rights remain in force. The absence of strengthened procedural protections leaves residents vulnerable to executive action without adequate judicial recourse.

2. Search and Seizure (4th Amendment; Hawai‘i Constitution Article I, §7)

The underlying statute authorizes entry onto private premises without owner permission for emergency purposes. SB2151 does not clarify warrant requirements or constitutional limits. Warrantless entry into private property is constitutionally suspect unless narrowly tailored and subject to judicial oversight.

Without explicit safeguards, this authority risks conflicting with protections against unreasonable searches and seizures.

3. Takings and Property Rights (5th Amendment; Hawai'i Constitution Article I, §20)

The statute allows closure, destruction, or compelled repair of private property deemed a nuisance, potentially at the owner's expense. SB2151 does not provide clear compensation protections or standards limiting when destruction may occur.

Property rights do not disappear during emergencies. If property is taken, damaged, or destroyed for public use or public health purposes, constitutional compensation protections must be clearly articulated.

4. Vagueness and Overbreadth Concerns

The bill retains language allowing executive action based on broadly defined threats and references to "other public authority." Laws that grant sweeping power without clear limiting principles risk unconstitutional vagueness and arbitrary enforcement.

Emergency powers must be precise, temporary, and narrowly tailored.

Requested Amendments

If this bill moves forward, I respectfully request amendments to:

- Require prompt judicial review of any quarantine or property restriction order
- Require warrant standards for entry onto private premises unless immediate life-threatening circumstances exist
- Guarantee compensation protections for destroyed or commandeered property
- Define clear evidentiary thresholds before emergency declarations impacting individual rights

Closing

Emergencies do not suspend the Constitution. Any statutory framework governing emergency powers must be narrowly drawn, transparent, and firmly anchored in constitutional protections.

I urge the committee to amend SB2151 to ensure that civil liberties, property rights, and due process protections are explicitly preserved.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Michelle Melendez
Hawai'i Island Resident

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:34:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Santo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: SB 2151 – Relating to Emergency Management
Position: Oppose Unless Amended

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Carolyn Santo. I am submitting testimony in opposition to SB 2151 unless it is amended to include stronger constitutional safeguards.

Emergency authority is necessary. Government must be able to respond quickly during hurricanes, fires, and true public health emergencies. I recognize that this bill includes improvements, including a 60-day limit and legislative authority to terminate an emergency. Those changes are positive.

However, the bill keeps in place executive powers that remain too broad and not clearly restrained.

1. “Sole Judge” Language

The bill states that the governor or mayor is the sole judge of whether an emergency exists. That places the key decision entirely in one office. There is no requirement for objective standards and no automatic judicial review. Emergency authority should not rest on one person’s determination alone.

2. Suspension of Laws

The governor may suspend any law considered to interfere with emergency functions. Even with added requirements to name and justify each suspension, this still allows the executive branch to set aside laws passed by the Legislature. That is a serious power and should be narrowly defined and closely supervised.

3. Quarantine and Segregation Authority

The statute allows quarantine or segregation of individuals believed to have been exposed to disease, based on the governor’s opinion. The law does not require prompt court review or clear

standards of proof. When personal liberty is restricted, clear due process protections should be written into the statute.

4. Warrantless Entry and Property Destruction

The bill continues to authorize entry onto private property without permission and allows summary abatement or destruction of property. There is no clear requirement for prior judicial approval or immediate review afterward. Private property rights should not be set aside without strong procedural protections.

5. Firearm Regulation Authority

The statute allows regulation or prohibition of firearms and ammunition during an emergency. In light of current constitutional standards, broad authority to restrict possession raises serious concerns and should be more clearly limited.

6. Centralization of Authority

The governor may require counties to obtain approval before issuing their own emergency orders. This shifts decision-making away from local governments and concentrates it at the state level.

Emergency powers should be effective. That does not mean individual rights can be set aside without firm limits and clear safeguards.

I respectfully recommend amendments that:

- Remove or revise the “sole judge” language
- Require prompt judicial review for quarantine orders
- Clearly limit firearm restrictions
- Require fair compensation and review if property is destroyed
- Strengthen limits on suspension of laws

Public safety and constitutional rights are not in conflict. Both can and should be protected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 10:10:51 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Housman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no to this bill! This bill allows government entry and control over private property. This is an infringement on our Constitutional rights. This also gives government authority to overrule a person's autonomy when it comes to personal health decisions. Do not allow our protected and fought for freedoms to be handed over under the guise of "emergency" when this bill also classifies vague categories such as threat of disaster or weather as "emergency".

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:35:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! It is an egregious abuse of power and needs to be stopped dead in its tracks! Kill this bill!

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:38:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition Statement to H.B. NO. 2236 and SB2151

A Threat to Hawaii's Freedoms and Democratic Principles

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." – Benjamin Franklin

To Members of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I strongly oppose H.B. NO. 2236, which amends Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, under the stated purpose of clarifying emergency management authority. While presented as a measure to promote transparency and accountability, the bill entrenches and expands broad executive powers that have previously led to significant overreach, prolonged restrictions on individual liberties, and erosion of public trust. Hawaii has already experienced the consequences of unchecked emergency declarations during the COVID-19 pandemic and more recent housing-related proclamations. This legislation does not resolve those problems—it codifies and potentially worsens them.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject H.B. NO. 2236 or, at a minimum, amend it to impose meaningful, enforceable limits on executive authority.

Key Reasons for Opposition

1. Failure to Prevent Executive Overreach Despite Recent Judicial Guidance

The bill allows governors and mayors sweeping discretion to impose quarantines, seize property, destroy belongings labeled as “public nuisances,” and suspend laws based largely on subjective judgment. It includes warrantless entry onto private premises and the takeover of infrastructure without adequate judicial oversight.

In September 2025, the Hawaii Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Nakoa III v. Governor* that Governor Green’s housing emergency proclamations exceeded lawful bounds by suspending dozens of laws in a sweeping manner. The court emphasized that emergency powers must be narrowly tailored, rationally related to a genuine threat, and reasonably necessary. H.B. NO. 2236 ignores these judicial guardrails, permitting similar broad actions with only minimal

justification requirements. This approach invites further litigation rather than providing genuine clarity or restraint.

2. Direct Threat to Core Constitutional Rights

Several provisions risk violating protections under the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution:

- Quarantine or segregation of individuals merely “believed” to have been exposed to disease, without individualized evidence or due process (5th and 14th Amendments, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 5, Hawaii Constitution).
- Regulation, prohibition, or seizure of firearms and ammunition when existing laws are deemed “inadequate” (2nd Amendment, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 17, Hawaii Constitution), conflicting with post-2022 U.S. Supreme Court standards requiring historical justification for restrictions.
- Mandatory evacuations and rationing that could restrict freedom of movement and assembly (1st and 14th Amendments, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Sections 4–5, Hawaii Constitution).
- Property destruction or government takeover without just compensation, potentially violating the Takings Clause (5th Amendment, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 20, Hawaii Constitution).
- Warrantless searches and seizures under broad pretexts, contrary to Hawaii’s stronger privacy protections (Article I, Section 7, Hawaii Constitution).

These powers echo COVID-era measures that faced legal challenges for vagueness and overbreadth. Codifying them without stronger safeguards is unacceptable.

3. Illusory Checks and Balances

The bill includes automatic 60-day termination of emergencies and a two-thirds legislative vote to end a declaration. However, these mechanisms are weak:

- Governors can reissue proclamations repeatedly, as occurred during the COVID-19 period with over 20 consecutive declarations.
- The two-thirds threshold is politically difficult to achieve during crises when public pressure favors executive action.
- The bill expands the governor’s authority to assume direct control over local emergency functions, further centralizing power and reducing county autonomy.

True accountability would require judicial review for significant deprivations of liberty or property, mandatory compensation for takings, and automatic sunsets without easy renewal loopholes.

4. Risk of Setting Dangerous Precedents

The inclusion of a broad definition of “severe weather warning” could justify repeated declarations for routine or manageable events. Combined with expanded powers to suspend laws and regulate private activity, this creates a framework for turning temporary emergency authority into a routine tool for addressing long-term issues such as climate adaptation, economic challenges, or policy disputes—bypassing normal legislative and democratic processes.

Recommendation

Hawaii needs emergency management reform that genuinely limits executive discretion, protects individual rights, and respects separation of powers. Models from other states—such as requiring legislative ratification after 30 days or mandating judicial oversight for certain measures—offer better paths forward.

H.B. NO. 2236 and SB2151 does not meet this standard. I urge a NO vote on this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety." – Benjamin Franklin

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 12:03:53 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candy L. Moreno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As you were elected to serve the people not the governor. And we are the land of the free--I urge you to vote no on SB2151 which infringes on our constitutional rights.

[Congress](#), the [White House](#), the [Department of Energy](#), the [FBI](#), the [CIA](#), and Germany's [Federal Intelligence Service](#) (BND) have confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic was likely the result of lab-engineered pathogen manipulation.

That overlap creates a profound conflict-of-interest question: the same government and scientific establishment involved in creating and manipulating pandemic-capable pathogens is also expanding the legal authority to impose quarantines, override constitutional protections, restrict property rights, and control economic life if one of those pathogens triggers the next declared emergency.

Vote No on SB2161

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 12:08:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon Caluya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Members of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I STRONGLY oppose H.B. NO. 2236 and SB2151 HD1, which amends Chapter 127A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, under the stated purpose of clarifying emergency management authority. While presented as a measure to promote transparency and accountability, the bill entrenches and expands broad executive powers that have previously led to significant overreach, prolonged restrictions on individual liberties, and erosion of public trust. Hawaii has already experienced the consequences of unchecked emergency declarations during the COVID-19 pandemic and more recent housing-related proclamations. This legislation does not resolve those problems—it codifies and potentially worsens them.

I respectfully urge the Legislature to reject H.B. NO. 2236 & SB2151HD1 or, at a minimum, amend it to impose meaningful, enforceable limits on executive authority.

Key Reasons for Opposition

1. Failure to Prevent Executive Overreach Despite Recent Judicial Guidance

The bill allows governors and mayors sweeping discretion to impose quarantines, seize property, destroy belongings labeled as “public nuisances,” and suspend laws based largely on subjective judgment. It includes warrantless entry onto private premises and the takeover of infrastructure without adequate judicial oversight.

In September 2025, the Hawaii Supreme Court unanimously ruled in *Nakoa III v. Governor* that Governor Green’s housing emergency proclamations exceeded lawful bounds by suspending dozens of laws in a sweeping manner. The court emphasized that emergency powers must be narrowly tailored, rationally related to a genuine threat, and reasonably necessary. H.B. NO. 2236 ignores these judicial guardrails, permitting similar broad actions with only minimal justification requirements. This approach invites further litigation rather than providing genuine clarity or restraint.

2. Direct Threat to Core Constitutional Rights

Several provisions risk violating protections under the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution:

- Quarantine or segregation of individuals merely “believed” to have been exposed to disease, without individualized evidence or due process (5th and 14th Amendments, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 5, Hawaii Constitution).

- Regulation, prohibition, or seizure of firearms and ammunition when existing laws are deemed “inadequate” (2nd Amendment, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 17, Hawaii Constitution), conflicting with post-2022 U.S. Supreme Court standards requiring historical justification for restrictions.

- Mandatory evacuations and rationing that could restrict freedom of movement and assembly (1st and 14th Amendments, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Sections 4–5, Hawaii Constitution).

- Property destruction or government takeover without just compensation, potentially violating the Takings Clause (5th Amendment, U.S. Constitution; Article I, Section 20, Hawaii Constitution).

- Warrantless searches and seizures under broad pretexts, contrary to Hawaii’s stronger privacy protections (Article I, Section 7, Hawaii Constitution).

These powers echo COVID-era measures that faced legal challenges for vagueness and overbreadth. Codifying them without stronger safeguards is unacceptable.

3. Illusory Checks and Balances

The bill includes automatic 60-day termination of emergencies and a two-thirds legislative vote to end a declaration. However, these mechanisms are weak:

- Governors can reissue proclamations repeatedly, as occurred during the COVID-19 period with over 20 consecutive declarations.

- The two-thirds threshold is politically difficult to achieve during crises when public pressure favors executive action.

- The bill expands the governor’s authority to assume direct control over local emergency functions, further centralizing power and reducing county autonomy.

True accountability would require judicial review for significant deprivations of liberty or property, mandatory compensation for takings, and automatic sunsets without easy renewal loopholes.

4. Risk of Setting Dangerous Precedents

The inclusion of a broad definition of “severe weather warning” could justify repeated declarations for routine or manageable events. Combined with expanded powers to suspend laws and regulate private activity, this creates a framework for turning temporary emergency authority

into a routine tool for addressing long-term issues such as climate adaptation, economic challenges, or policy disputes—bypassing normal legislative and democratic processes.

Recommendation

Hawaii needs emergency management reform that genuinely limits executive discretion, protects individual rights, and respects separation of powers. Models from other states—such as requiring legislative ratification after 30 days or mandating judicial oversight for certain measures—offer better paths forward.

H.B. NO. 2236 and SB2151 does not meet this standard, and One person should Not have this much power! I Strongly urge a NO vote on this legislation.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 3:58:43 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin J. Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill.

SB 2151 is an overreach. It is fraught with issues and would only cause more problems that it seeks to solve.

V/r

Kevin J. Cole, Col USAF Ret

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 4:26:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Van Kleef	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2151, it is unconstitutional. It goes against the Hawaii State Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. We the People do not want this legislation to pass. I move you to OPPOSE this bill!

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 4:28:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Van Kleef	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2151, it is unconstitutional. It goes against the Hawaii State Constitution and the U.S. Constitution. We the People do not want this legislation to pass. I move you to OPPOSE this bill!

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 6:38:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I sincerely oppose this bill as it oversteps the boundaries of governments Here in Hawaii

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 6:39:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I sincerely oppose this bill as it oversteps the boundaries of governments Here in Hawaii

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 6:40:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I sincerely oppose this bill as it oversteps the boundaries of governments Here in Hawaii

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2026 6:44:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keola De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 5:57:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cacique J Melendez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is complete government overreach, illegal, and fabricated. I strongly opposed this legislation and it is not representative of the will of Hawaii citizens.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 8:18:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this written testimony in *strong*** opposition to SB 2151.**

SB 2151 dangerously expands the governor’s emergency authority in ways that undermine constitutional safeguards, erode the separation of powers, and invite executive overreach. Instead of learning from the excesses and mistakes of the Covid era, this bill doubles down on rule by emergency proclamation rather than open, deliberative lawmaking.

By broadly empowering the governor to declare emergencies and then activate sweeping powers, SB 2151 effectively makes one office the primary judge of when extraordinary authority may be used and how long it may continue. These powers include quarantining individuals, entering private property without consent, suspending existing laws and regulations, restricting fundamental rights, and exerting control over critical aspects of daily life and the economy. Once such powers are triggered, the practical ability of ordinary citizens and their representatives to push back is severely reduced.

The Covid experience in Hawai‘i showed how quickly “temporary” measures can become prolonged, how justifications can shift over time, and how easily dissenting or alternative viewpoints can be sidelined under the banner of emergency. Many residents felt the impacts of inconsistent rules, opaque decision-making, and heavy-handed enforcement that damaged trust in government and public health institutions. The appropriate legislative response is to tighten and clarify emergency powers, not to broaden and normalize them through SB 2151.

Our constitutional system requires that extraordinary powers be strictly limited, clearly defined, and subject to meaningful legislative and judicial checks. SB 2151 instead risks turning emergencies into a flexible governing tool, allowing major policy decisions to be made through executive orders rather than through transparent debate, public input, and voting in the Legislature. This is especially troubling when such powers can affect core civil liberties, property rights, and the livelihoods of Hawai‘i residents.

I urge you to REJECT SB 2151 and instead pursue reforms that: narrowly define what constitutes an emergency; impose short, automatic time limits on declarations; require clear factual findings; and mandate affirmative, simple-majority legislative approval for

any continuation of emergency measures. Hawai'i's people deserve a government that responds to crises without sacrificing constitutional balance or fundamental rights.

For the sake of civil liberties, democratic accountability, and public trust, I respectfully ask you to HOLD SB 2151 and not allow it to advance.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Deborah Umiamaka

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 3:34:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Opposition to SB2151

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I respectfully submit testimony in strong opposition to SB2151.

While public health and safety are essential priorities, this bill further expands and reinforces unilateral executive authority during declared emergencies without adding meaningful safeguards, limitations, or oversight mechanisms.

SB2151 authorizes the Governor to:

- Require quarantine or segregation of individuals believed to have been exposed to disease.
- Isolate or close private property deemed a source of danger.
- Exercise broad emergency management authority over persons and property.
- Coordinate and direct interagency emergency actions.

These powers, particularly when based on belief of exposure rather than confirmed illness, raise serious concerns about due process, civil liberties, and proportionality. Hawai'i residents experienced extended emergency declarations in recent years, during which executive authority operated for prolonged periods with limited legislative balance. Expanding or reinforcing those authorities without clearer guardrails risks normalizing extraordinary powers as routine governance tools.

This bill does not:

- Establish stronger evidentiary standards before restricting individual liberty.
- Require expedited judicial review for quarantine or property closures.
- Set firm limits on duration beyond the emergency proclamation.
- Provide enhanced legislative oversight during extended declarations.

Emergency powers should be narrowly tailored, time-limited, and subject to robust checks and balances. Protecting public health does not require weakening constitutional protections.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to defer or reject SB2151 unless substantial amendments are made to strengthen due process protections, legislative oversight, and transparency.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Respectfully,
Michelle Galarza

Haiku, Hawai'i

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 3:59:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Ann Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2151 SD1

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 4:10:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane D Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2151

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 4:21:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, very much oppose more power to the government.

I don't need the government to dictate what I can and can't do. Segregating people can have lasting effect on the other family members and specially the children.

Just recommend the best way to go about an issue but do not dictate!

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 4:45:50 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure, which may be protective of public health.

Judith White, Kapaa

Member, Kauai Indivisible

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 4:54:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianna Kovalev	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB2151.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 5:03:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Chyz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The governor should have less power not more. We the People are most able to deal with disasters while government gets in the way. This has been proven over and over again.

Crush this bill ASAP.

George

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 5:14:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ken Honma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill needs to be stopped. After the Covid debacle how can you consider giving the governor more power. Businesses closed, families separated from loved ones not able to attend to their loved ones, is this what Hawaii is now? No Aloha for the elderly, the sick, the depressed? Fear of an unproven pathogen, see Dr. Stefan Lanka's case in Germany, is again on the table in front of you, you must not succumb to the fear narrative. You must do your due diligence, ask, for the proof, not opinions. Get a real analysis of the methods section of the asserted medical proof section of the cited papers and have an unbiased professional apply Koch's principles that is the gold standard of virology. Have them explain these principles, then, restate this in your own words, until you own these words because you own the reason for casting your vote. Medical tyranny is real, and it is responsible for many deaths, can you live with not knowing what the facts really are and that you are culpable.

Vote No,

Mahalo,

Ken

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 6:27:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Kailiawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Leilani Kailiawa.

I am in strong opposition to this bill.

With gratitude

Leilani

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 7:16:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dephlia Rackley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to this Bill...

to much power given to This Governor. We saw what he did to Lahaina.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2026 7:18:11 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jeanne wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha: I don't believe this is a necessary or effective bill for our public health true needs - please don't pass i...! Mahalo, JW

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 8:50:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garrett Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in unequivocal opposition to SB2151

This legislation represents a dangerous expansion of executive authority that threatens core constitutional protections. While emergencies require decisive leadership, they do not justify the suspension of fundamental rights.

Under the framework created by SB2151 and HB2236, the government could:

- Enter and take control of private property without owner consent.
- Destroy private property under emergency authorization.
- Impose forced quarantine or detention on individuals based merely on suspicion, without clear evidentiary standards or due process safeguards.

These provisions strike at the heart of the Constitution.

The Fourth Amendment protects citizens against unreasonable searches and seizures.

The Fifth Amendment prohibits the taking of private property without due process and just compensation.

The Fourteenth Amendment guarantees due process before deprivation of liberty.

Expanding emergency declarations to broad and potentially subjective categories—such as anticipated weather events or suspected public health concerns—creates a pathway for indefinite and unchecked executive control. When standards are vague and oversight is limited, constitutional rights become conditional rather than inherent.

Emergencies cannot be allowed to serve as a blank check for government overreach. History repeatedly demonstrates that expansive emergency powers, once granted, are rarely relinquished without consequence. The role of the Legislature is not to consolidate authority in moments of fear, but to safeguard liberty—especially during crisis.

SB2151, as structured, fails to provide adequate guardrails. The preservation of public safety must not come at the cost of constitutional integrity.

For these reasons, I strongly urge this Committee to reject SB2151.

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Garrett Baker

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:11:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

Bypassing the Legislative body is against the US Constitution.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:29:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberto Viernes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senators,

I urge each and every one of you to vote against this bill. This bill would give our local government unprecedented power to quarantine people, enter property without due process, seize firearms from law abiding citizens and suspend laws with 'Emergency' powers. This is a blatant overreach by any stretch of the imagination. This bill would allow our Governor to enact 'emergency' powers that would make our current laws null and void during an 'emergency' and would nullify the rights of the citizens of Hawaii. We cannot allow one single entity to have this kind of power over the citizens of any county, state of country. This would be akin to a dictatorship where one person can do almost anything without the law to be able to keep them accountable and to protect us citizens and residents. Please vote AGAINST this bill. Thank you for your service.

Sincerely,

Roberto Viernes

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 10:56:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and members,

I strongly oppose SB2151 SD1. This bill expands executive powers in ways that risk undermining civil liberties and legislative oversight. Granting broad authority to suspend laws and exercise sweeping control during emergencies, without stronger checks and clear limits sets a concerning precedent.

Emergency powers must be narrowly defined, time-limited, and subject to meaningful oversight. For these reasons I urge you to vote NO on SB2151 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 12:11:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Blum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Have you not learned anything from the Covid 19 Hysteria? Brain washing & conditioning people to comply to segregation by shots & masks? I have friends & family that wished they never got the shot because of heart problems, & cancer. Quit being a NANNY STATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 1:43:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica vignolle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

DO NOT to move this bill forward. This goes against the Constitution of the United States of America

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 2:11:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei Kailikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose SB2151 for the following reasons, concerns, issues: 1. the COVID-19 in 2020 has been proven in 2023-24 to have been a scam & the State of Hawaii, Dept. of Health, the Governor, majority of Hawaii's elected officials & others have not offered apologies or explanations. 2. The COVID-19 vaccinations/shots were mandated to first responders, state employees, & others, yet these Covid shots have been proven to cause injuries and deaths e.g. the FDA recently released an FDA document stating the Covid shots was shown to cause several deaths with children. 3. Researching leprosy & the Kalaupapa Leper colony (Moloka'i) I found evidence that leprosy is not contagious; many patients were sent to Kalaupapa erroneously, some were confined there until they died & some were able to be released. Yet, this kind of research & information is NOT gathered or distributed by the government. There are many researchers including me. 4. Quarantine was used decades ago with little knowledge of diseases & remedies, but today we have more & faster access to information regarding diseases, what caused leprosy, or polio, autoimmune diseases & more. 5. Today's technology, highly advanced machines, many reputable scientists & medical professionals have solved problems of disease & illnesses through diet. They found a major cause of disease & illnesses are from poisons, toxins found in packaged foods, commercial drinks, chem-trails spraying chemicals in the air, GMO products, chemicals found in most cleaning detergents, pesticides, mercury fillings that the dentists are allowed to put amalgam/mercury into our mouths, approved by the government. e.g. see OSHA website for pages of poisons that should not be used. 6. A major problem in Hawaii & the US is that 90% of new discoveries in natural healing are suppressed and/or not approved by the government agency - Food & Drug Administration (FDA) e.g. Dimethy Sulfoxide or DMSO. It is ludicrous for State of Hawaii elected officials & Governor to past laws that may apply 100 yrs. ago, but NOT today with the advanced technology, machines, information, scientists, research studies, statistics, natural healing remedies, etc. If you even consider this Bill proves our elected officials are NOT knowledgeable about advanced technology we enjoy & pay for today; NOT researching everything I stated in my testimony. I will contact every friend & relative I have to fight against "insane bills" especially when our lives may be endangered by your actions. I was born & educated on Moloka'i & raised a Catholic.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 4:38:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leticia Quinsay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother raising my children in a multigenerational home, I am deeply concerned about the expansion of executive emergency powers outlined in this bill. I believe emergency authority should have clear limits, legislative oversight, and protections for **individual rights**.

I want our state to be prepared for emergencies, but I also want strong checks and balances in place to protect families like mine. Emergency power should not be used to strip the people of our constitutional rights. It should be used to serve and protect the people. This bill doesn't serve the people, it serves the government which breaks the trust of the people it's supposed to be serving. This bill is dangerous and will only harm the future generations that will come after us.

Please oppose SB2151.

Thank you for your time and service to our communities

Sincerely,
Leticia Quinsay

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 9:46:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kukana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB2236 & SB2151

Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent, Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal.

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I stand in firm opposition to HB2236 and SB2151.

You are agents of the people of Hawai‘i. The people are the principals. When we place you on notice that legislation violates our constitutional and inalienable rights, that notice carries constitutional weight.

These bills would grant the Governor sole authority to determine when an emergency exists and to impose quarantine, suspend laws, enter private property, and restrict liberties with minimal legislative or judicial constraint. Concentrating such power in one office undermines the constitutional structure designed to protect the people from arbitrary government action.

Constitutional Principles at Stake:

1. The U.S. Constitution

The U.S. Constitution establishes separation of powers to prevent tyranny.

- Article I vests legislative authority in the Legislature — not in the executive.
- The Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments protect life, liberty, and property from deprivation without due process of law.
- The Constitution recognizes that rights are not granted by government — they are inherent and pre-existing.

Even in times of crisis, constitutional rights do not disappear.

In *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, the U.S. Supreme Court allowed limited public health measures, but warned that emergency powers must not become oppressive, arbitrary, or unreasonable.

In *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld*, the Court held that even during national security emergencies, a U.S. citizen detained by the government has the right to due process and to challenge that detention before a neutral decision-maker.

These cases make clear: emergencies do not erase constitutional protections

2. The Hawai'i Constitution

The Constitution of the State of Hawaii provides even more explicit protections:

- Article I, Section 5 – Due process and equal protection.
- Article I, Section 6 – Right to privacy.
- Article I, Section 7 – Protection against unreasonable searches and seizures.

Granting unilateral quarantine authority, property entry powers, or suspension of statutes without immediate judicial oversight raises serious concerns under these provisions.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has recognized that due process remains essential:

- In *State v. Zuffante*, the Court strengthened procedural protections under Hawai'i's Constitution, reinforcing that government power must be balanced with transparency and fairness.
- In *Nakoa v. Governor of the State of Hawai'i*, the Court reviewed the Governor's emergency proclamations and clarified that such powers must be rationally related and reasonably necessary — demonstrating that executive authority is not absolute and is subject to judicial review.

The Danger of Sole Authority:

When one individual becomes the “sole judge” of an emergency:

- Legislative oversight is diminished.
- Judicial review may be delayed or obstructed.
- Individual liberties may be curtailed without meaningful recourse.

Justice Neil Gorsuch recently warned that the concentration of emergency power during COVID represented one of the greatest peacetime intrusions on civil liberties in American history. He cautioned that efficiency does not justify abandonment of constitutional safeguards.

Representative Thomas Massie has consistently argued that emergency powers must remain constitutionally bounded and subject to legislative control, not unilateral executive discretion.

Inalienable Rights:

Our rights are not privileges granted by statute. They are inalienable — inherent to our humanity. Government exists to secure these rights, not suspend them indefinitely under broad and subjective standards.

Emergency management statutes must:

- Include clear definitions and objective standards.
- Provide immediate access to judicial review.
- Preserve legislative oversight.
- Protect property, liberty, bodily autonomy, and privacy.
- Include firm time limits and transparency requirements.

Without these safeguards, HB2236 and SB2151 risk violating both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawai'i Constitution.

Conclusion:

Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent. Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal.

You have been placed on notice that these bills threaten the constitutional balance between liberty and governmental authority. Emergencies do not create new powers; they test whether we will preserve the limits already established.

I respectfully urge you to reject HB2236 and SB2151 as it does not include strict constitutional guardrails that protect the inalienable rights of the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your consideration.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 10:52:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
laurn galindo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill to expand government control over the citizens of Hawaii. I am horrified that anyone would support the proposed actions to mandate vaccines, seize property, monitor private stocks of emergency supplies, conduct property modification against the will but at the expense of the property owner...which all are a violation of our civil liberties! Moreover, I find it appalling that these contemplated actions against private persons are based solely on the discrimination of our governor.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2026 11:57:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose SB 2151.

We should keep our freedom. This violates our Constitution.

Mahalo for voting NO on SB 2151

Linda

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 2:15:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabriel Kekauoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 3:23:36 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Oshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose both SB2151 and HB2236.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 12:11:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2151. At no time should any of our Constitutional rights be suspended.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 12:25:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maren Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator Rhoads,

I am writing today in opposition to SB2151. It is aggressive government overreach. We saw the government of Hawaii destroy peoples livelihoods and autonomy over their own health during Covid. We cannot allow that to happen again. Proper protocols and failsafes need to be implemented not kneejerk lockdowns and dismissing scientific evidence that refutes/refuted those actions in the past. Our governor position in Hawaii is already the most powerful in the United States. I disagree with adding any more. Please do not allow SB2151 to move forward any farther.

Respectfully,

Maren Cantrell, concerned citizen, mother, grandmother, RN

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 3:45:37 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Chairman and Members,

I write in opposition to this bill.

My concern is the verbiage regarding the governor's decision making, which will be in "his opinion." Also in the decision making by the mayor, it would be as he "deems necessary" In the hands of a tyrant leader whose agenda is power and control rather than the will of the people this can be dangerous. In the hands of a leader whose heart is bent on righteousness and the safety of the people preserving their constitutional rights liberties freedom and medical autonomy this would be good. Therefore, because of existing types of leader ship, I choose to oppose this bill to avoid any leader, to attempt to control, and unduly rule against the will of the people. With any emergency decision we need to have checks and balances.

When looking back on the leprosy quarantine to Kalaupapa, I believe it was fear that drove that decision as did the Covid quarantine and mandates. Science and facts should be the deciding factors not fear.

Leaders with sound judgment are welcome, but those with a hidden agenda, this bill will squash their overreach.

mahalo, Lois Young

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 4:39:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Overreach.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 4:43:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Gefroh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern:

I strongly oppose this proposed bill based on it being unconstitutional and infringing on our rights as lawful citizens. The State wants to have complete control over what the powers that be consider a health hazard state of emergency.

Do not make this a law.

Sincerely, yours

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chairman
The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Vice Chairman
Committee on Executive Matters and Legal Affairs
Hawaii State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairman Rhoads; Vice Chairman Gabbard,

I am writing to register my **STRONG OPPOSITION** to certain provisions of Bill SB2151 (all forms put forth to date), the proposed revision of legislation regarding emergency management.

I oppose provisions of this bill which:

1) Make the "opinion" of the governor (or a mayor), the sole basis for invoking certain states of disaster and/or emergency, and the duration of resulting extraordinary measures. There should be an oversight mechanism to prevent abuse of such "opinions", and the elevated powers which then accrue from such a declaration.

2) Section 4.12 provides for, what amounts to suspension of Constitutional rights, and for uncompensated seizure of private property. This is especially heinous, as it could be used to strip citizens of materials needed to provide for their self-defense in times of social upheaval, chaos, and unrest, when the normal institutions of law enforcement are overwhelmed or nonexistent. Such legislation is Unconstitutional, and violates a basic human right.

So. PLEASE vote AGAINST this bill as written.

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Russell Price
831 Lower Kimo Drive
Kula, Hawaii 96790
808-763-9653
rnfrmprice@gmail.com

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 7:58:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Rhoads and Committee Members,

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

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL SB-2151 SD1.

While SB-2151 SD1 is framed as a clarification and modernization of Hawaii's emergency management laws, it ultimately preserves—and in some respects entrenches—an unacceptable level of unilateral executive power that is inconsistent with limited government, constitutional balance, and the protection of individual rights.

SB-2151 SD1 does not fundamentally correct the abuses we witnessed during the COVID-19 era; it repackages the same architecture of rule by proclamation under narrower wording. The Governor and mayors remain the "sole judge" of the existence of the danger or threat, and once they issue a proclamation, they retain sweeping authority over people, property, and fundamental liberties, with only limited after-the-fact checks.

Although the bill tightens the definitions of "disaster" and "emergency," those terms still cover a broad range of events and use subjective standards such as "catastrophic harm" and "immediate danger." These vague thresholds invite expansive interpretation and do not adequately prevent emergencies from being invoked for prolonged policy management rather than truly short-term crises.

SB-2151 SD1 continues to allow the Governor to suspend "any law that impedes or tends to impede" emergency functions, including licensing and quarantine laws, and laws relating to labels, grades, and standards, so long as the Governor believes the suspension is necessary. Requiring the Governor to identify the statutes and recite a justification does not solve the underlying problem: one branch of government is empowered to set aside the duly enacted laws of the people's representatives for extended periods.

This expansive suspension power, coupled with the Governor's authority to require quarantine, segregation, compulsory immunization programs, and isolation or closure of property deemed a source of contamination, raises serious concerns about forced or coerced medical interventions,

including vaccinations, under the guise of emergency management. Conservatives are particularly alarmed that nothing in SB-2151 SD1 expressly prohibits mandates or coercive vaccination policies as a condition of employment, access to services, or freedom of movement during an emergency.

From a constitutional and parental-rights perspective, the State should not be able to use an emergency proclamation to pressure individuals—especially children and those with religious or medical objections—into medical procedures that they do not freely choose. SB-2151 SD1 fails to include clear protections against forced vaccination or other compulsory medical treatments, and therefore leaves the door open to repeat the most troubling health-mandate abuses of recent years.

SB-2151 SD1 preserves authority for the Governor to order quarantine and segregation, to close property deemed a source of contamination, to declare “public nuisances,” and to authorize entry onto private premises “without the permission of the owners or occupants,” including destruction or “cleansing” of property.

Residents recognize that emergencies may require swift action, but the Constitution does not disappear when the sirens sound. SB-2151 SD1 does not provide adequate guarantees of due process, post-incident judicial review, or just compensation when the government damages or destroys private property under these powers. This is a direct threat to core property rights.

Under SB-2151 SD1, the Governor retains broad authority to “investigate, regulate, or prohibit” the storage, transportation, use, possession, and sale of firearms and ammunition during an emergency, and to seize and forfeit items deemed unlawfully possessed, with only a cross-reference to another statute as a limit.

Emergencies have been used in other jurisdictions as a pretext to restrict lawful gun ownership precisely when citizens feel most vulnerable. SB-2151 SD1 fails to include explicit protections for law-abiding gun owners and thus leaves the door open to unconstitutional restrictions under the cover of emergency powers.

SB-2151 SD1 allows the Governor to require counties to obtain state approval before issuing emergency orders and to assume “direct operational control” of local emergency management functions. For conservatives who value local control and responsiveness, this is a serious concern. It centralizes decision-making and treats local elected officials as subordinate administrators rather than accountable leaders in their own right.

Additionally, SB-2151 SD1 permits suspensions of permitting and approval laws to continue beyond the emergency period to finish repairs, reconstruction, rebuilding, or construction of state or county infrastructure. This is an invitation to mission creep, where temporary emergency shortcuts become the standard way to circumvent environmental, procurement, and accountability safeguards.

SB-2151 SD1 improvements, such as preventing the suspension of public records and vital records deadlines, and allowing the Legislature and county councils to terminate emergencies by

a two-thirds vote, are steps in the right direction. However, they are not sufficient to overcome the fundamental structural flaws.

A supermajority veto power is weak protection when one party often controls both branches, and when political pressure tends to favor caution and “safety” over liberty. The proper standard is not “trust us; we can end it if we choose,” but clear statutory limits that meaningfully constrain what emergency powers can be used for and for how long.

SB-2151 SD1 does not deliver the robust reform Hawai’i needs to ensure that the sweeping abuses of the recent past cannot be repeated. It preserves broad, vague, and discretionary emergency powers in the hands of the executive, threatens property rights and Second Amendment freedoms, centralizes authority over counties, and allows emergency-era shortcuts to bleed into normal governance.

For these reasons, I urge you to defer indefinitely SB-2151 SD1.

Mahalo,

Brett Kulbis

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 8:06:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB2151

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:01:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose SB2151 SD1

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:25:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The people should have the power and not the governor!

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:47:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianne Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We already have rules for invasive species. Lots of them you don't need emergency powers to do this.!

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 9:50:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Gregory	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SB2151 – Relating to Emergency Management
Position: Support with Amendments**

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on SB2151.

I appreciate that this measure attempts to add structure to Chapter 127A by clarifying definitions and establishing a 60-day automatic termination provision. The inclusion of legislative termination authority represents movement toward accountability.

However, based on Hawai‘i’s recent experience with prolonged emergency declarations, I respectfully submit that further structural amendments are necessary to restore public trust and constitutional balance.

SB2151 should be amended to include the following guardrails:

1 Mandatory Timeline & Action Plan Requirement

Any proclamation declaring a state of emergency should be required to include:

- A defined timeline
- Clear benchmarks for resolution
- Specific objectives tied to termination
- Geographic scope limitations

Emergency authority should not exist in open-ended form. A declaration must articulate what conditions must be met for the emergency to conclude.

2 Legislative Ratification After Initial Period

While the bill includes a 60-day termination provision, extensions should require affirmative legislative approval, not simply a renewed proclamation.

After the initial declaration window, continuation of emergency authority should require legislative ratification to preserve separation of powers.

3 Public Participation & Transparency Mechanism

Emergency governance should not occur in isolation from the people.

The statute should require:

- Public reporting every 30 days
- Disclosure of specific laws suspended
- Disclosure of contracts issued under emergency authority
- Public hearings or briefings prior to extended renewals when practicable

Emergency authority must remain transparent and accountable.

4 Judicial Review Clarification

The statute should explicitly preserve expedited judicial review to ensure that citizens retain meaningful access to constitutional challenge during an emergency.

5 Explicit Constitutional Safeguards

The law should clearly state that emergency powers:

- Shall not suspend constitutional rights
- Shall not infringe upon due process
- Shall remain narrowly tailored to the declared emergency

Clarity strengthens public trust.

These recommendations are consistent with the five structural principles I have previously circulated in my Emergency Powers Reform proposal:

1. Defined duration limits

2. Legislative oversight triggers
3. Constitutional guardrails
4. Judicial access protections
5. Transparency and public accountability

Emergency response must remain strong enough to address true catastrophic events. But strength and restraint are not opposites, they are complementary safeguards in a constitutional system.

SB2151 moves in the right direction, but meaningful reform requires clear structural limits that prevent prolonged unilateral governance.

I respectfully urge the Committee to adopt amendments that codify these guardrails.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Respectfully submitted,
Tara Malia Gregory

2026 City Council Candidate, District 4

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:14:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, this is complete overreach.

Alyssa Pang

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2026 10:09:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee,

My name is Teri Kia Savaiinaea, and I respectfully oppose SB2151, SD1.

Although this measure seeks to clarify emergency authority, it risks creating confusion and hesitation during moments when immediate, unified action is essential. In times of disaster or severe weather, our communities—especially rural and vulnerable areas like those on the Wai‘anae Coast—cannot afford delays caused by shifting authority or political termination mechanisms.

Emergency management must prioritize swift coordination and public safety above all else. Any policy that could complicate response efforts or weaken decisive leadership during a crisis puts our communities at unnecessary risk.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on SB2151, SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

Wai‘anae resident

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:12:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill which gives the Hawaii government tyrannical powers over the people it is supposed to be serving.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:12:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Senators :

Please don't support the increasing of power on some individual or group opinion how ever holy or lofty ideals this person or the group has! It is sad to learn that the legislature which has abandoned the people during the last administration (David Ige's) shutdown showdown while the now Governor was lieutenant is now crowning the architect of shutdown to be in-charge of more power to continue the domineering to the "opinion of one power-hungry individual" no matter what his comely appearance or sweet talk.

Please stop in its track such an illegal bill to have the governor who has already shown that he has no regard for the life of a baby in the womb, no regard for parental authority over children by signing a bill to take away a fourteen year old child from school to perform abortion without parental consent, and intends to have forced vaccination of children without informed consent!

It is a sad travesty to know more than the individual! It is only kings who think that they are "God ordained and can only answer to God because their opinion directly come from divine counsel or think themselves as God just as pharaoh of Egypt or Nebuchadnezzar of Babylon of King Haile Selassie, who have said it is their will that the people should conform to because they know better for their people more than the people themselves! This is totalitarianism in disguise and let it not be a law in the this state where "righteousness or Pono" is practiced!

I was encouraged to see this saturday a protest march against tyranny and the right to live free from coercion, privacy and sacredness of the family and the home with the security of the individual home must be respected and protected. Please vote this bill into the graveyard of the evil one! He is the one who comes to "steal, kill, and destroy".

I have been hearing government over-reach and experienced under the current governor's lieutenancy with such ridiculous "emergency orders" of stay in-place or shelter-in-place when in-fact this medical doctor lieutenant should have known that it is better not to crowd inside but to actually be outdoors a, with the benefit of sun's vitamins and outdoor fresh air in the parks and hills enjoying the God given gifts for the public's welfare, if in-fact he was willing to learn and listen form the real public health specialists such as Dr Martin Kulldorff of Harvard University fame (<https://gbdeclaration.org>). Unfortunately he missed his chance of showing that he really cares about people instead of being a mouth piece for folly!

I now come to find out both the right and left appear to have gone out of reasoning and in deep desperation their eyes are resting on taking power over the individual and concentrating power on themselves. These are experts who think they are endowed with super-egotistic skills that let them see the future and can conjure even the weather changes to fit their narratives. I am terribly dismayed to read that the legislature is fast tracking this dangerous bill that completely strips the power of the individual freedoms that as an American, have relatively enjoyed for at least the amount of time I have lived in this country. Already the government has done so much damage to the elderly (shutting down even the visit of the loved ones under "emergency orders") , the babies in the womb (through free abortion pills, etc), the children in school (through forced "immunizations" and masking and school shutdown) and the business, especially small business by shutting down the economy and making the big corporations even bigger!

Let me share that I am an immigrant too, and one that has suffered nightly house searches and confiscation of weapons from my parents home while myself, and several of my siblings were dragged to prison, detained without charge and suffered torture after the protection of guns my parents owned was taken away from us. What kind of nightmare is this to relieve again the same evil forces who wore red scarfs, come in a green one. What shall I say, "LORD have mercy on me a sinner!" My sins have followed me into Hawaii and now I am to face similar situation in a government new garb. Where is this madness ending? It is of course in totalitarianism, counting the ordinary citizen a criminal, while the armed criminals run the government does not belong in America let alone in Hawaii, the Aloha State. Please don't support the vesting and concentrating of power on individuals and shadow governments including a single individual's ("governor's") opinion!

How did we get here? This is crazy to imagine, but of course it is unthinkable that to have a baby in the womb visible to the naked eye through the simple use of an ultrasound is considered a "piece of tissue" to be discarded! There is nothing living anyway so why care for the sick and elderly! Keep killing and injecting to get rid of the unwanted population! LORD have mercy! Messiah have mercy! The concern of a government that thinks its polity is unable to govern itself, so they are taking us to the "higher level" by taking our children, homes, and guns so they are able to better serve us!

LORD Joshua, mercy !

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:07:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Rojas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to SB2151.

Core Concern: Unchecked Concentration of Power

SB2151 grants sweeping emergency authority to the Governor, including the power to:

- **Suspend laws**
- **Restrict movement**
- **Control access to property**
- **Impose quarantine measures**

- all based on executive declaration with limited immediate checks.

Constitutional Concerns

The U.S. Supreme Court has made clear that constitutional protections do not disappear during emergencies:

- **Roman Catholic Diocese v. Cuomo (2020)**
The Court held that even during a crisis, the Constitution cannot be set aside. Justice Gorsuch emphasized that emergency does not justify unequal or unchecked restrictions on fundamental rights.
- **Jacobson v. Massachusetts (1905)**
Public health measures are only permissible if they are not arbitrary, oppressive, or unreasonable.
- **Youngstown Sheet & Tube Co. v. Sawyer (1952)**
The Court rejected executive overreach, affirming that emergency does not create unlimited authority.

SB2151 risks enabling exactly the kind of unchecked executive power these cases warn against.

Hawai‘i Context - Real Legal Challenges

Here in Hawai‘i, the use of emergency powers during COVID was actively challenged.

Cases, including those brought by individuals such as Junya Nakoa, raised serious legal issues involving:

- **Restrictions on movement**
- **Denial of access to property**
- **Impacts to livelihoods**
- **Prolonged executive authority without sufficient checks**

These challenges became part of the public record and reflect that the scope and limits of emergency authority in Hawai‘i remain actively contested.

SB2151 moves to expand and formalize these same types of powers.

Real-World Impact

Recent emergency proclamations demonstrated how quickly executive authority can:

- **Restrict movement**
- **Limit access to property**
- **Shut down livelihoods**

SB2151 would expand and formalize that level of control without sufficient safeguards.

Key Issues

- **Broad executive discretion without clear limits**
- **Authority impacting property access and personal movement**
- **No fast, enforceable pathway for real-time public or judicial challenge**

Fundamental Principle

The issue is not whether emergencies exist - they do.

The issue is whether one office should hold the power to override fundamental rights, property access, and daily life without clear, immediate accountability.

SB2151, as written, fails to maintain that balance.

→ I respectfully urge you to OPPOSE SB2151.

Notice to Principal is notice to agent, and notice to agent is notice to principal.

Those acting under or for the State are hereby on lawful notice when rights, property, and access are at stake.

The people are watching.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:25:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edwin B Arcalas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My wife and I would like to express our opposition to SB2151 and its corresponding House Bill 2236.

This totalitarian legislation would go against our inalienable right regarding the pursuit of happiness. In Hawaii we work tirelessly to purchase our own homes and privacy. How can the government be allowed to access our private space without permission? How can it take it against our choice or will? Doesn't the 2nd amendment grant us the right to keep and bear arms? This proposed legislation does not align with the values of the United States of American as it gives the government excessive overreach. It is outrageous and unreasonable. Is this acceptable to you as an individuals of the Hawaii Senate?

Thank you for your time and consideration. We demand that this bill not be allowed to go further and become a law.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:18:22 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lanette Bourg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2151. Hawaii needs to strengthen guardrails to protect us from executive authority over-reach during times of crisis. We learned this during COVID. Emergency authority/powers should:

- Be narrow and temporary - have firm time limits
- Require automatic legislative approval for extensions
- Include explicit protections for constitutional rights
- Include strict due process requirements

Reject SB2151 (and HB2236). Thank you, Lanette Bourg

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:34:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition to SB2151.

This bill (and it's companion in the House) seek to “clarify” emergency management authority, but in doing so they entrench a dangerous legal structure in which one individual — the Governor or a county mayor — may unilaterally determine the existence, scope, and continuation of an emergency while exercising extraordinary powers over the people of Hawaii.

This structure is incompatible with our constitutional system.

Emergency powers cannot override due process. The Constitution does not disappear during an emergency. Neither the United States Constitution nor the Hawaii State Constitution contains language stating that due process of law may be suspended during a proclaimed emergency. Yet Hawaii’s recent experience shows that emergency proclamations were used to shut down businesses, restrict travel and movement, mandate medical procedures, and criminalize ordinary daily conduct — all by executive decree, without individualized hearings, warrants, or judicial process. This is the very definition of a due process violation. Emergency management must never become a substitute for legislation, judicial review, or constitutional procedure.

Constitutional rights are not optional during emergencies. Our constitutions guarantee fundamental rights, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, the right to travel, and the right to keep and bear arms. Nowhere in either constitution does it state that these rights may be suspended during an emergency. The right to keep and bear arms, in particular, exists precisely because emergencies, disasters, and civil breakdowns are moments when citizens are most vulnerable and most in need of self-defense. There is no constitutional language, state or federal, authorizing the government to nullify this right by proclamation. Any statute that allows emergency powers to function as a de facto suspension of constitutional rights is unconstitutional on its face.

Separation of powers is being undermined. SB2151 preserves a system in which the Governor or mayor declares an emergency, determines whether it continues, and defines the scope of the powers exercised. Although the Legislature or county council may terminate an emergency by a two-thirds vote, this creates a super-majority barrier that effectively shields executive decisions from meaningful oversight. This violates the foundational principle of separation of powers. No single branch — and certainly no single person — should have the sole authority to define and

extend extraordinary government power. That is not how constitutional government works. That is how rule by proclamation works.

Hawaii's recent history proves the danger of this framework. Under the justification of an "invisible enemy," the Governor issued continuous emergency proclamations lasting for years, not weeks or months. Some emergency provisions remain in effect today. This prolonged state of emergency resulted in sweeping restrictions on daily life, economic devastation for small businesses, erosion of public trust, and widespread violations of constitutional liberties. These proclamations were not limited to immediate disaster response. They became instruments of long-term governance by emergency decree. SB2151 does not correct this problem. SB2151 codifies and normalizes it.

True emergencies such as hurricanes, fires, and earthquakes require rapid response. They do not justify indefinite executive authority, suspension of due process, **erosion of civil liberties, or replacement of legislative government with executive command**. Any legitimate emergency statute must strictly limit duration, require legislative approval for extensions, preserve judicial review, and explicitly protect constitutional rights. These bills do none of that.

SB2151 represents a continuation of a legal framework that allowed Hawaii's people to be governed for years under emergency proclamations rather than constitutional law. It reinforces a system where emergencies are defined by one person, rights are treated as conditional, and legislative authority is subordinated to executive will. **That is fundamentally incompatible with OUR constitutional republic.**

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to OPPOSE SB2151

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:43:11 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Kepoo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and committee members,

This testimony is to strongly oppose SB2151 specifically regarding section 4 aimed to amend HRS127A-13 "Additional powers in an emergency period" which grants full authority to the governor to quarantine, segregate, immunize, and ultimately control any persons the governor deems a health risk. It further allows him authority over any home or business.

As a mother and strong believer of full body autonomy, this is asinine to say the least. I am heavily involved in the disability community and feel this would impact their ability to self advocate in circumstances that may not be understood by someone like the governor. Regardless of his medical experience, he has proven his inability to seek scientific and proven methods to safeguard our community.

Furthermore, this steals our sovereignty of our home and bodies. I strongly oppose this bill and request it not pass further review.

Mahalo,

Nikki Kepoo

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:22:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Toyofuku	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since this is a "Decison Making Meeting" on Tues, Feb 24, 2026 for the Senate JDC Committee, here are my brief written comments after conferring with family, friends and colleagues who are very concerned about SB2151 and its companion HB2236.

Most of us are already aware that specific sections in HRS 127 provides tyrannical executive powers during planned or unplanned "emergencies" that we oppose. As written, SB2151 continues to require critical clarity in the authority of unchecked powers of the executive and/or legislative branches of Hawaii's government.

Will the current legislature be providing the necessary amendments and clarity for SB2151 and HB2236 with 2/3 of its legislative body? This is huge question since many in the current executive and legislative branches here in our beautiful islands have continued in an overreach of power, rigging, deceptive misinformation practices and conflicts of interest.

Please do what is pono for Hawai'i. Many are concerned and watching.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:32:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Folsom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to SB 2151.

While preparing for emergencies is laudable, this would be an egregious case of overwhelming government over reach.

One person, the governor, could unilaterally impose a wide range of potentially draconian measures, at their discretion. “The governor . . . shall be the sole judge of the existence of the danger, threat, or circumstance giving rise to a declaration.”

This would formally codify sweeping emergency powers, including authority to quarantine individuals, enter private property without consent, destroy property, suspend laws, seize firearms, and seize control of infrastructure, under the justification for future disasters and disease outbreaks.

It specifies that the government may take over infrastructure facilities, both publicly and privately owned.

Regulate or prohibit the storage, transportation, use, possession . . . of firearms, and ammunition . . . and authorize the seizure and forfeiture.

Property could be destroyed by any police officer or authorized person.

It also specifies that any suspended laws may continue beyond the emergency period.

The people of Hawaii do not need such sweeping over reach.

Please do not pass this bill.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:41:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter J Long III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony with EXTREME OPPOSITION to this proposal and its companion, HB2236.

George Orwell would be shocked and dismayed at the level that our government has sunk in its drive towards totalitarianism! Yet the State of Hawaii, or at least the Democrat majority feel that they haven't grabbed enough power to exert control over the citizens of the state!

This bill would be an absolute disaster if passed, giving unrivaled power to ONE person in the state, the governor. And given that the current governor is a puppet of the Pharmaceutical lobby, I fear the worse for anyone that takes freedom seriously.

The bullet points of this bill read almost directly out of the Chinese Communist Party's rules for thee, but not for me and gives the government & county officials:

- Authority to quarantine individuals
- Authority to enter private residences without permission
- Forfeiture of any/all firearms and ammunition
- Suspension of laws (whatever they deem necessary)
- Governor is sole judge of emergency declaration
- MAY CONTINUE SUSPENSION OF LAWS BEYOND THE EMERGENCY DECLARATION

Hawaii has seen enough government over reach, as we saw in the very justification for this proposal, COVID 19. These actions are absolutely unconstitutional and over the top, this is not how a Constitutional Republic should operate.

I strongly urge the Legislature to not only abandon these proposals, but publicly humiliate its sponsors.

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:42:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna-Marie Musico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to SB2151.

While I understand that legislation is often introduced with good intentions, I am deeply concerned about the potential unintended consequences of this measure. SB2151, as currently written, raises significant issues related to transparency, accountability, fiscal responsibility, and community impact.

First, this bill does not provide sufficient safeguards to ensure that its implementation will be equitable and in the best interest of Hawaii’s residents. Policies that affect our communities must be carefully evaluated for long-term impacts, particularly in a state like Hawaii where resources are limited and the cost of living is already among the highest in the nation.

Second, there has not been adequate opportunity for meaningful public engagement and thorough analysis of how this proposal will affect local families, small businesses, and vulnerable populations. Rushed or insufficiently examined legislation can create burdens that are difficult to reverse.

Third, I urge the Legislature to consider whether this proposal aligns with the broader values and priorities of our state, including fiscal prudence, transparency in governance, and protecting the well-being of our communities.

I respectfully ask the committee to defer or reject SB2151 and instead engage stakeholders in a more comprehensive and collaborative process to address the underlying issues this bill seeks to resolve.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your service to the people of Hawaii.

Dear Sirs,

Please do not make laws that violate the US Constitution. For example: the right of the people to keep and bare arms shall not be infringed.. You already made a law that bands people with medical marijuana cards from owning guns. We also have the right to free travel. You can't make a law that forces us to stay at home. That would be unconstitutional. We also have the right to bodily autonomy and freedom of religion . You cannot make laws forcing a jab with a needle shooting toxins into ppl. Also owning property is part of the American way of life, The Government is meant to serve the people not steal their property.

Probably the best solution to the problem of a gang of bureaucrats, making illegal laws is to bring in some law-enforcement from the outside. Get the Supreme Court involved or some other higher court that actually follows the constitution of the United States of America. The people pushing these illegal laws need to be brought up on charges for their unconstitutional actions.

Sincerely, David Rodgers

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:57:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

My name is Lorraine Hinaga, a resident of Hawaii, and I oppose this bill as unconstitutional. Please do not pass this bill.

Mahalo

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:01:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Reasoner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill as written unless amended to require:

- Mandatory legislative approval for extensions
- Defined timelines and benchmarks
- clear geographic limits
- public reporting before renewals
- Strong constitutional safeguards.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:04:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Letitia Reasoner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill as written unless amended to require:

- Mandatory legislative approval for extensions
- Defined timelines and benchmarks
- Clear geographic limits
- Public reporting before renewals
- Strong Constitutional safeguards

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:09:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose 2151. This companion bill to hb 2236 is much to broad of a scope of powers. Government should have diminished roles in American citizens lives. This bill is totalitarian. This is not china. We are sovereign citizens.government does not have the right to isolate and quarantine citizens against their will.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:12:58 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb 2151. No additional emergency powers should be given to the governor or legislative body.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:00:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Ybanez	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support with reservations and humbly requesting this legislative body to seriously take the following into consideration for amendments.

1. It needs justification for medical isolation other than just suspicion of a communicable disease.
2. 2nd amendment rights shall not be ignored or over ruled during an emergency proclamation or disaster. It is a right of the citizen to protect their own life and liberty in the event of a major catastrophe. Of which they must be able to and is their right to defend and protect themselves, family and property if able to do so in order to maintain living and be against someone/ people intentionally causing them bodily harm which may lead up to and including death.

Mahalo for this legislative committee for taking emergencies/ disasters seriously.

Very Respectfully,

Amanda Ybanez

Community Advocate/ Kalihi Palama

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:09:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:10:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Mejia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB2151, Relating to Emergency Powers because it amends and restructures Hawai'i State Laws, including the expansion of how firearm possession may be prohibited and firearms seized during declared emergencies. SB2151 also gives the governor the final word and that is not pono!

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:15:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tammy Perkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony in Strong Opposition to the Revised Amendments to Chapter 127A, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (Emergency Management Powers) – SD1

To: The Honorable Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature Re: Opposition to the Bill Amending Chapter 127A, HRS (Emergency Management; State of Emergency; Local State of Emergency) – SD1 Hearing Date: Tomorrow [February 24, 2026, or as scheduled]

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

My name is Tammy Perkins, and I am a resident of Makawao on the island of Maui. Having endured the catastrophic 2023 Lahaina wildfires—where inadequate warnings, poor coordination, and systemic failures in emergency management contributed to profound loss of life, homes, and community—I remain vigilant against any expansion of executive powers that could repeat or worsen those tragedies. While the revised bill (SD1) includes some improvements over prior versions, such as narrowed definitions of "disaster" and "emergency" and the prohibition on suspending public and vital records requests (with limited delays allowed), it still represents a net expansion and entrenchment of dangerous authorities under Chapter 127A. I strongly oppose this bill as amended and urge you to reject it or further strengthen safeguards to prevent abuse.

The bill's stated purpose is to "clarify" authority for "effective and adaptable" responses while promoting transparency and accountability. However, the revisions largely reaffirm and broaden invasive powers without adequate checks, especially in light of Maui's recent experiences and ongoing recovery. Key concerns include:

1. Narrowed but Still Overbroad Definitions Enable Abuse

The amendments to the definitions of "disaster" and "emergency" (Section 3) limit triggers to "sudden" events causing or likely to cause "catastrophic harm" or "immediate danger," with timely action able to avert or minimize impacts. This is a step toward preventing indefinite or frivolous declarations (e.g., for non-catastrophic issues like prolonged economic strain).

However, terms like "imminent threat," "catastrophic harm," and "immediate danger" remain subjective and broad—particularly when the governor or mayor is the "sole judge" of their existence (Section 127A-14(c)). This subjectivity, combined with the inclusion of "severe

weather warning" as a trigger (Section 3), could still allow frequent or prolonged emergencies for events like high surf, flash floods, or volcanic activity—normalizing expanded powers in a state prone to natural hazards. In Maui, where wildfire smoke, power outages, and water issues persist post-2023, such thresholds risk overreach without mandating evidence-based justifications or independent verification.

2. Reaffirmation and Expansion of Invasive Executive Powers

Section 4 largely preserves—and in places clarifies—the governor's (and mayors') sweeping authorities under Section 127A-13, including:

- **Quarantine, Segregation, and Property Intrusion (a)(1):** Authority to quarantine individuals "believed to have been exposed," enter private premises without permission, abate nuisances, or destroy property. These powers lack required judicial oversight, medical due process, or compensation mechanisms, risking violations of Hawai'i Constitution Article I, Section 5 (due process) and federal Fourth Amendment protections. Post-COVID and post-wildfire, we know how such discretion can lead to disproportionate impacts on vulnerable populations.
- **Mandatory Evacuations and Utility Control (a)(7), (a)(6):** Direct control over civilian evacuations and shutting off services. In Lahaina, evacuation failures highlighted the dangers of relying on executive judgment alone—yet this bill entrenches that reliance.
- **Firearms and Hazardous Materials Regulation (a)(12):** Broad discretion to regulate or prohibit firearms, ammunition, and other items during emergencies, potentially infringing Second Amendment rights as clarified in *New York State Rifle & Pistol Ass'n v. Bruen* (2022). Rural Maui residents rely on lawful firearms for protection; this could enable de facto restrictions without necessity.
- **Law Suspensions and Post-Emergency Extensions (a)(3):** While suspensions must now be justified and limited in scope/duration, they can extend beyond the emergency for infrastructure repairs—creating loopholes for prolonged overrides of laws, including permitting and environmental reviews. This echoes concerns from past housing proclamations upheld but criticized for separation-of-powers issues.

Similar powers apply to mayors (Section 127A-13(b)), risking inconsistent or abusive local applications.

3. Inadequate Accountability Mechanisms

Positive elements include:

- Automatic 60-day termination unless extended (Section 127A-14(d)).
- Legislative (two-thirds vote) or county council termination authority (Sections 127A-14(e)-(f)).
- Prohibition on suspending public/vital records requests (new Section 127A-), though "reasonable delays" up to six months could still obstruct oversight during crises.

These are insufficient. The high two-thirds threshold makes termination unlikely in polarized bodies, and the governor/mayor retains sole initial judgment. No mandatory judicial review, public hearings for extensions, or independent audits are required—gaps exposed by Maui's 2023 response failures.

Legal and Practical Risks

This bill risks constitutional challenges under Hawai'i's separation of powers (Article III), due process, and home rule provisions (Article VIII). Federally, it could conflict with Fourteenth Amendment protections against arbitrary deprivations. Recent court rulings (e.g., on housing proclamations) affirm emergency powers but emphasize rational necessity—yet this legislation codifies breadth without tightening those standards.

As a Maui resident, I call for true reform: shorter automatic terminations (e.g., 30 days), mandatory legislative approval for extensions, judicial oversight for individual rights infringements, and community input requirements. Rejecting or heavily amending this bill would better honor lessons from COVID and the Lahaina fires—prioritizing preparedness, transparency, and rights over unchecked executive authority.

I urge a **NO** vote on this bill in its current form. Mahalo for your service and for hearing the voices of those most affected by emergency mismanagement.

Respectfully submitted,

Tammy Perkins Makawao, Maui, Hawai'i

LATE

I am writing in strong opposition to SB 2151 and HB 2236. Emergency powers do not grant the authority to suspend the United States Constitution.

State elected officials should not advance legislation that conflicts with the Constitution. While these bills claim to clarify emergency management authority, they in fact propose an expansion of power that undermines the vision of our nation's founders and the constitutional framework they established.

Article I, Sections 9 and 10 of the Constitution prohibit bills of attainder—laws that punish specific individuals or groups without due process. Such actions violate fundamental principles of fairness and justice.

The United States Bill of Rights guarantees essential liberties to all people, including freedom of speech, freedom of assembly, freedom of religion, the right to travel, and the right to keep and bear arms. These protections do not disappear during times of emergency.

The Constitution also safeguards the separation of powers. No single branch of government—and certainly no single individual—should have unchecked authority to define, expand, or extend governmental power beyond constitutional limits.

It may be time for We the People to establish a precedent of holding elected officials legally accountable when they introduce or support legislation that violates the United States Constitution they have sworn to uphold.

Andrea Rodgers

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 12:42:47 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katja Bajema	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to SB 2151

Relating to Emergency Management

February 23, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Members of the Committee

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

My name is Katja Bajema, and I am a resident of Honolulu, Hawaii. I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to SB 2151, which seeks to amend Hawaii Revised Statutes Chapter 127A relating to emergency management. While the bill purports to clarify and add some guardrails to emergency powers, it ultimately reaffirms and entrenches sweeping authorities for the Governor and county mayors that pose significant risks to individual liberties, constitutional rights, and democratic accountability. These powers, even with proposed limitations, are prone to abuse and overreach, as evidenced by past emergency declarations during the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises. I urge the committee to reject this bill in its current form.

First, the bill maintains and explicitly authorizes the Governor's power to quarantine or segregate individuals who are merely "believed to have been exposed" to a disease or contamination, without requiring evidence, due process, or judicial oversight. Section 4 of the bill, amending HRS §127A-13(a)(1), allows for such actions when the Governor deems existing laws inadequate. This provision opens the door to arbitrary detentions based on suspicion alone, potentially affecting healthy individuals or those with minor exposures. History shows that quarantine powers can be weaponized against vulnerable populations, leading to discrimination and unnecessary restrictions on freedom of movement. In a state like Hawaii, where tourism and inter-island travel are essential, such broad authority could devastate livelihoods and families without sufficient checks. The bill's attempt to limit emergencies to "catastrophic harm and immediate danger" is vague and insufficient, as the Governor remains the "sole judge" under amended HRS §127A-14(c), allowing subjective interpretations that erode civil liberties.

Second, the bill permits warrantless entry onto private property without the permission of owners or occupants for purposes such as isolating contaminated areas or abating "public nuisances." This is outlined in the same section, HRS §127A-13(a)(1), and represents a direct violation of the Fourth Amendment's protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. Private property is a cornerstone of personal autonomy, and allowing government officials to enter homes or businesses without consent or a warrant—even in emergencies—sets a dangerous precedent. While the bill requires justifications for suspending laws elsewhere, it provides no such explicit safeguards for property intrusions, leaving room for misuse in non-imminent scenarios. Hawaii residents, many of whom live in close-knit communities or on ancestral lands, deserve better protections against such invasive actions.

Third, SB 2151 continues to empower the Governor and mayors to suspend laws that "impede emergency functions," as amended in HRS §127A-13(a)(3) and (b)(2). Although the bill adds requirements for specificity, justification, and time limits tied to necessity, these are weak constraints that rely on the executive's self-assessment. Suspending laws undermines the role of the Legislature as the people's representatives and could lead to the indefinite override of statutes on everything from environmental protections to labor rights. The provision allowing suspensions to extend beyond the emergency period for infrastructure projects further blurs the line, potentially turning temporary crises into excuses for permanent policy changes without legislative input. Requiring a two-thirds vote of the Legislature or county councils to terminate an emergency (as implied in supportive testimonies) is an overly high bar that favors executive overreach rather than balancing powers.

Finally, the bill explicitly authorizes the Governor to investigate, regulate, prohibit, or seize firearms, ammunition, and related items during emergencies, as detailed in HRS §127A-13(a)(12). This power to "seize and forfeit" unlawfully possessed items could easily expand to broader restrictions on lawful gun owners, infringing on Second Amendment rights and the right to self-defense. In times of crisis—such as natural disasters when law enforcement may be stretched thin—disarming citizens increases vulnerability rather than enhancing safety. Hawaii's already strict gun laws make this additional emergency authority unnecessary and alarming, especially given the potential for selective enforcement.

In summary, SB 2151 does not sufficiently curb the potential for abuse inherent in these emergency powers; instead, it codifies them with minimal oversight, designating the Governor and mayors as sole arbiters of crises. True reform would require mandatory judicial review for quarantines and property entries, automatic sunsets without extensions unless approved by the Legislature, and explicit prohibitions on firearm seizures except in cases of immediate threat. Emergency powers should protect the public, not empower unchecked executive actions that trample constitutional rights. For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote NO on SB 2151.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Sincerely, Katja Bajema Honolulu, Hawaii

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:00:00 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
debra engel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AS A RESIDENT AND CITIZEN OF HAWAII AND THE UNITED STATES, I ABSOLUTLY OPPOSE SB2151. GIVING TOTAL POWER TO A GOVENOR,OR MAYOR, BASED ON HIS,THEIR, OWN OPINION, TO CONTROL, ANY PERSON AND OR THEIR PROPERTIES, BECAUSE HE, GOVENOR OR MAYOR, IN HIS/THEIR OPINION IS DECLARING ANY DISASTER, EMERGENCY, OF ANY KIND, ESPECIALLY A SO CALLED MEDICAL EMERGENCY THAT IS HARMFUL TO THE PUBLIC, OR ANY OTHER DISASTER MAY BE HAPPENNG ON THE MAINLAND, AND HE FOLLOWS SUIT, IS UNLAWFUL. HE WOULD HAVE THE POWER TO SUSPEND ALL LAWS THAT WOULD NORMALLY PROTECT THE CITIZENS FROM TYRANNY OR POLITICAL CONTROL. THIS BILL MUST NOT, MUST NOT PASS. IT WILL INFRINGE UPON OUR RIGHTS. THIS WOULD BE COMMUNISTIC, TRYANNY AND WE ARE STILL A FREE NATION TO MAKE OUR OWN CHOICES CONCERNING MEDICAL ISSUES. I WILL NOT BE FORCED TO BE INNOCULATED, IMMUNIZED, OR TAKE A VAXCINE OF ANY KIND. MY BODY, MY CHOICE. THE GOVENOR SHOULD NEVER HAVE THIS KIND OF POWER. WE KNOW HE WANTS TO TAKE THE RURAL LANDS OF HAWAII, TAKE AWAY THE RIGHT TO HUNT.. CAMP, AND WANTS TO PUT THEM UNDER THE NAME OF CONSERVATION.. THIS IS OUR LAND, NOT HIS.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 1:01:58 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No, no, no - we don't need anyone changing anything during "emergencies" nor do we need to give anyone the power to infringe upon, remove or surrender our First Amendment rights during someone's administrative definition of an emergency.

Advanced warnings and *accurate* regularly updated information is what we need, not a broad-scope overreach in an "overabundance of caution" measure that will be terminated by decree of people who are not on-the-ground first responders.

If you're going to say, "The fire chief has advised ABC during a fire emergency" or "the USGS HVO has advised XYZ during a volcanic emergency" or "The PacIOOS recommends 123 during an ocean-related emergency", *that's all we need* - we don't need people without subject matter expertise one-step removed telling us what we can and cannot do.

People have to use common sense and be free to make their own decisions, right or wrong, good or bad - you can't take that away from them "for their own good" - parents don't even have that control once their own children turn 18!

I do **NOT SUPPORT SB2151** and do not believe this should be imposed upon the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in Opposition.

Respectfully submitted ~

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:28:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Maile Pokipala Resurrection	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Joanna M P Resurrection and I oppose bill SB2151. This bill violates my right to my own health choices. He does not control me or any citizen in that matter. He should learn how to stay in "his lane".

Mahalo,

Joanna Resurrection

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:41:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

As a long-time Hawaii resident, taxpayer & voter I stand in strong opposition to this bill as it is an illegal grab for even more tyrannical power by an already imbalanced Hawaii legislature & governor. Please vote NO on my behalf.

These bills hand one person—the governor—near-unchecked power to declare emergencies, suspend our rights, enter our property without permission, lock us down, seize assets, or disarm us, all with too little real accountability from the Legislature or courts. Hawaii needs genuine protections & balance of power, not more reinforcement of executive overreach disguised as reform. He has already committed more than 90 Executive Orders of his own will without checks and balances put in place by the U.S. Constitution & our Hawaii State Constitution. AUWE!

Again, please vote NO on behalf of myself and many more 'ohana & our keiki for our future but also for right now. Mahalo & May God bless you.

Aloha Always WINS!

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:44:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Humpert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as a dictatorial power grab designed to give unrestrained power to an oppressive regime.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:22:42 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

This legislation explicitly cites COVID-19 as justification for strengthening emergency authority, stating:

“The COVID-19 pandemic highlights the importance of clear legal frameworks for state and county emergency management to ensure that the State and counties are ready for any type of emergency.”

Governor Authorized to Quarantine Residents & Enter Private Property Without Permission

One of the most consequential provisions would formally authorize forced quarantine and government entry onto private property.

The bill states that Hawaii Governor Josh Green (D) may:

“Require the quarantine or segregation of persons who are affected with or believed to have been exposed to any infectious, communicable, or other disease...”

It further grants authority to:

“Authorize without the permission of the owners or occupants, entry on private premises for any of these purposes.”

This authority applies not only to confirmed infections but also to individuals merely “believed to have been exposed.”

The legislation also allows the government to order the destruction of property deemed hazardous:

“Authorize that public nuisances be summarily abated and, if need be, that the property be destroyed by any police officer or authorized person.”

Governor Can Suspend Laws, Licensing Requirements, & Regulatory Protections

The bills explicitly empower the governor to suspend existing laws during an emergency, including medical, licensing, and regulatory protections.

The legislation states the governor may:

“[Suspend] the laws, in whole or in part... including licensing laws, quarantine laws, and laws relating to labels, grades, and standards.”

It also authorizes suspension of any law deemed to impede emergency operations:

“Suspend any law that impedes or tends to impede... emergency functions.”

Crucially, the legislation allows such suspensions to continue beyond the official emergency period:

“Any suspension of law... may continue beyond the emergency period...”

Government Authorized to Take Control of Private Infrastructure & Utilities

The legislation further empowers the governor to assume control of critical infrastructure, including privately owned facilities.

The bill states the governor may:

“Assure the continuity of service by critical infrastructure facilities, both publicly and privately owned... by taking over and operating the same.”

Additional provisions allow the government to:

- Shut off utilities
- Control distribution of goods
- Regulate or prohibit commerce
- Impose rationing

Specifically, the governor may:

“Regulate or prohibit... the storage, transportation, use, possession, maintenance, furnishing, sale, or distribution thereof, and any business or any transaction related thereto.”

Authority to Regulate Firearms & Seize Property

The legislation also grants authority to regulate firearms and confiscate property during emergencies.

It authorizes the governor to prohibit firearm possession during emergencies, meaning firearms that are normally legal could become unlawful to possess under emergency orders and subject to seizure.

The bill states the governor may

“Regulate or prohibit the storage, transportation, use, possession... of firearms, and ammunition... and authorize the seizure and forfeiture.”

Governor Retains Sole Authority to Declare Emergencies

Under the proposed framework, Governor Green retains broad discretion to declare emergencies, including based on perceived threats.

The bill states:

“The governor... shall be the sole judge of the existence of the danger, threat, or circumstances giving rise to a declaration.”

Emergencies may be declared based on “Imminent danger or threat of an emergency or a disaster.”

This allows activation of emergency powers before an actual disaster occurs.

Legislature Adds New Definition of Disaster Including Disease Outbreaks & Bioterrorism

The Senate version expands the legal definition of “disaster” to explicitly include:

“Disease or contagion outbreaks, bioterrorism, terrorism, or incidents involving weapons of mass destruction.”

This codifies infectious disease emergencies as triggers for the expanded powers.

I **Cannot** explain in real enough terms HOW DISAPPOINTED I AM IN THESE 5 Senators who sponsored this hostility toward individuals and families in Hawai'i nei!

At the same time, [Congress](#), the [White House](#), the [Department of Energy](#), the [FBI](#), the [CIA](#), and Germany's [Federal Intelligence Service](#) (BND) have confirmed that the COVID-19 pandemic was likely the result of lab-engineered pathogen manipulation.

That overlap creates a profound conflict-of-interest question: the same government and scientific establishment involved in creating and manipulating pandemic-capable pathogens is also expanding the legal authority to impose quarantines, override constitutional protections, restrict property rights, and control economic life if one of those pathogens triggers the next declared emergency.

If passed, Hawaii's bills would ensure those powers are not improvised in the moment, but already written into law—allowing sweeping restrictions on residents to be activated immediately, the moment the next pandemic or declared threat emerges.

We are sane if we let this craziness continue. End this now. Be a PROTECTOR, THAT IS A LEGISLATOR'S ONLY JOB.

With the Only Power, God's Power, I decree we prevail in this illegal usurpation of our civil liberties and Constitutional Rights of we, United States & Hawai'i Citizens,

April Lee; Hawi, HI

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:00:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D M Cheney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB2151 and HB2236 due to infringement on our civil rights as American citizens. We the people have the rights to freedom to dwell in our homes and on our property. We have the freedom to choose if we need to seek medical help. We have the freedom to peacefully assemble and speak. This goes against our constitutional rights.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:46:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Revells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:50:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Strat Goodhue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for being a blessing to the people of Hawai'i.

While I fully support government agencies and officials having the needed authority to lead emergency management and relief efforts in our beautiful state, I strongly oppose any legislation that leaves sweeping authoritarian power decisions up to the "governor's opinion" (or a mayor's "opinion") as to whether a "threat" exists that may serve to justify (in their mind) them becoming de facto dictators in our state and counties. Furthermore, I believe if the people of Hawai'i knew what was being proposed, our state could face a possible revolution. I believe it is absolutely wrong to place that kind of power in the hands of a person who can on a whim ("opinion"), decide to suspend "the laws, in whole or in part... including licensing laws, quarantine laws... require the quarantine or segregation of persons who are affected with or believed to have been exposed to any infectious, communicable, or other disease... authorize without the permission of the owners or occupants, entry on private premises for any of these purposes... authorize that 'public nuisances' (whatever he/she may imagine that to be) be summarily abated and, if need be, that the property be destroyed by any police officer or authorized person... regulate or prohibit... any business or any transaction related thereto..." and furthermore, that "any suspension of law... may continue beyond the emergency period..." It is abhorrent that because of our Governor's or mayor's "opinion," that a threat exists, they will have the power to seize private property, take away firearms, and force immunizations. Furthermore, we as a people should oppose any form of potential tyranny such as the stipulation that, "The governor ... shall be the sole judge of the existence of the danger, threat or circumstance giving rise to a declaration." It is absolutely against the US Constitution and against basic moral law. Please reconsider passing such a draconian measure in our beautiful state.

Mahalo,

Strat Goodhue

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:47:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Soon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in opposition to this bill. Current emergency powers are more than sufficient to protect the public against any emergency including health emergencies. Power cannot be concentrated in one or too few people. We must protect individual rights. Please vote no.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:12:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL ING	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:17:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gregory Misakian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2151 SD1.

Gregory Misakian

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:27:05 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Diamond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE!!!

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:31:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Dufault	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a full-time resident on island of Hawaii the past 25 years, I am writing you to Oppose SB2151. This bill is out of alignment with integrity,

Be pono, honor your oath of office, and stop taking away our rights.

SB-2151-SD 1

LATE

Dear Chairman and Members:

I am writing in opposition to SB2151 SD 1 because it continues to provide almost unlimited powers to the State and/or Local governments when an emergency is declared. These powers include:

1. Warrantless entry to private property without any judicial review
2. Allow closure, possession, or destruction of private property without any compensation
3. Suspension of any law by the State and/or Local governments, at their discretion, during an emergency without any judicial review

This bill essentially eliminates rights guaranteed by the constitution of the United States during any emergency declared by the State and/or Local governments. At a minimum I urge you to reconsider the language in this bill to limit those items one through three listed above. Thank you.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:52:41 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB2151. This bill puts power exclusively into the hands of the governor and mayor without conditions or controls. The phrase "in the opinion of" appears repeatedly in the bill when associated with the exercise of the sweeping powers of the the governor, in partifcular. Even the extension of the 60 day period is exercised if emergency powers are deemed warranted.

I'm surprised not seeing marliial law mentioned for, surely, this is the power that the Hawaii peoples are putting into the hands of the governor and mayor.

This is a very dangerous bill since it can be easily abused. There are so many things wrong with this bill on so many levels.

I urge no votes on this bill and its companion bill HB2236.

Respectfully,

Alfred Hagen

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:54:17 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, this is a blatantly unconstitutional and evil attempt at yet another power grab and should be rejected not only on principle but also based on the abyssmal track record of the government's handling of such! Mahalo.

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:33:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Violet Shimoko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Violet Shimoko, and I am in strong opposition to SB 2151.

I support emergency preparedness, but I oppose giving broad emergency powers without strong constitutional guardrails. This bill raises serious concerns about due process, property rights, privacy, checks and balances, and the risk of sweeping actions based on a perceived threat.

We the people are the ultimate authority in a constitutional republic. Government officials are granted limited powers by law, and no emergency declaration should be used to override the rights of the people.

Emergency powers must be narrowly defined, time-limited, transparent, and subject to legislative and judicial oversight. Constitutional rights do not disappear during an emergency.

Please vote NO on SB 2151.

Respectfully submitted,

Violet Shimoko

LATE

SB-2151-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:41:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/24/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Armbruster	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Substantial Amendments to this Bill is needed: Repeal the entire section HRS 127A-13--this section should be stricken from Hawaii statutes--each of the proposed additional powers allow the Governor to use &/or abuse "emergency" powers to strip individuals' Rights & Freedoms that are protected by the US & Hawaii State Constitutions!!!

The legislature & City Councils should only need a simple majority affirmative vote to end Governor or Mayor emergency proclamations..

HRS 127A should explicitly state that Governor or Mayor do NOT have "emergency" power to suspend laws as long as deemed necessary, nor exercise "emergency" powers that would infringe on individual Rights protected in the US & Hawaii State Constitutions!