



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*  
*Ka ‘Oihana Ho‘okolokolo, Moku‘āina ‘o Hawai‘i*

**Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**  
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

By

Brandon M. Kimura  
Administrative Director of the Courts

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

---

**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 2442, Senate Draft 1, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary.

**Purpose:** Beginning 1/1/2027, requires contracts for services awarded to community-based organizations by the Judiciary in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State to include certain protections against inflation. Appropriates funds to the Judiciary to increase the contract price in existing contracts for certain services provided by community-based organizations in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State. Effective 3/22/2075.

**Judiciary’s Position:**

The Judiciary provides the following comments.

The Judiciary acknowledges and supports the intent of this measure, which includes the provision of additional resources and inflationary protections for community-based organizations and service providers. These partners are essential to the justice system, and we share the Legislature’s commitment to their stability.



Senate Bill No. 2442, SD1, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the  
Judiciary  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.  
Page 2

However, the Judiciary is unable to commit to funding contracts with ongoing “adjust[ment] on an annual basis based on increases in the Consumer Price Index ...” without corresponding increases in legislative appropriations to the Judiciary. While the Judiciary appreciates the potential in Section 3 of this measure for an appropriation necessary to implement this measure for Fiscal Year 2026–2027, the Judiciary is highly concerned with the ongoing funding necessary to continue increases in future years without corresponding increases in legislative appropriations.

In addition, while the Judiciary generally does not object to the portion of Section 2 that requires contracts be for terms of multiple years, the Judiciary notes that there are instances—*e.g.*, pilot programs—where a contract for a period shorter than “multiple years” may be appropriate, especially at the outset.

Finally, and again noting the importance of community-based organizations and service providers, generally, to the justice system, additional specificity may be necessary in the following portion of this measure to ensure any funds can be distributed as the Legislature intends:

... to community-based organizations by the judiciary for services in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State, including supporting access to justice ....

(P. 2, lines 13–16).

And for the same reason, additional specificity may be necessary in the following language to ensure any funds can be distributed as the Legislature intends:

... for services provided by community-based organizations in support of fulfilling the judiciary’s statutory mandate toward individuals, families, and communities.

(P. 3, lines 6–9).

In light of the measure’s proposed additional appropriation to the Judiciary for this purpose for FY26–27, the Judiciary supports an increase in the maximum for contracts according to the level of additional legislative appropriations.

Ultimately, the Judiciary respectfully requests that any appropriation provided for this purpose for FY26–27 not supplant the Judiciary’s existing funding or budget requests, and that Section 2 requiring an automatic increase in contract amounts not be required unless a legal budgetary mechanism is identified and put in place for corresponding automatic increase in legislative appropriations for this purpose.



Senate Bill No. 2442, SD1, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the  
Judiciary  
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.  
Page 3

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

---

**TO:** HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee

**FROM:** Michelle Kauhane, Chief Operating Officer & Executive Vice President

**RE:** Testimony in Support for SB 2442 SD 1, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

**DATE:** Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm

**LOCATION:** Hearing Room 325

---

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports SB 2442 SD 1**, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary. This legislation would help ensure that the Judiciary has funding to cover the true costs of services provided by contracted nonprofit and community-based organizations, in addition to protecting these contracts from inflation.

HCF believes that critical basic needs and services are delivered by organizations that can sustain operations and cover the cost of delivering those services in Hawai'i. Child welfare is a focus under HCF's CHANGE Framework Health and Wellness sector and HCF administers the Hawai'i Children's Trust Fund to prevent child abuse and neglect. Philanthropy does not have sufficient resources to address the funding gap that nonprofit organizations face when delivering critical services that are not fully funded.

Adequate funding for Judiciary-partnered contracts is essential to protect Hawai'i's public and social safety net that provides for residents and families. Hawai'i nonprofits make up 12% of the state's private workforce and generate 60,000 jobs.<sup>1</sup> HCF grantee partners share with us the demand for services rising while funding lags behind true costs, including paying for insurance and staff expenses. This is a perfect storm of historic demand for services, uncertain federal funding, and chronic underfunding of true costs of services within state contracts.

Strategic investment and protections will sustain critical services and help expand access to these services statewide. Supporting this bill has the potential for strengthening the longevity

---

<sup>1</sup> Nonprofit Finance Fund, [Hawai'i Nonprofit Sector in 2025](#) report

of much needed services in Hawai'i. We respectfully urge the legislature to **advance SB 2442 SD 1.**



Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**  
Haidee Abe

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Jessica Uchida

**TREASURER**  
James Kunimura

**SECRETARY**  
Kimberly Lin

**DIRECTORS**  
Douglass Shipman Adams  
Rev. Eric S. Anderson  
Amanda Craig  
Ha'aheo Kaho'ohalahala  
Amanda Lee  
Rebecca Lester  
Karen Maedo  
Colby Miyose  
Sandra Tokuuke

**DIRECTORS EMERIT**  
Andrew Wilson  
Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter

**STAFF**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Julie Mitchell

**CASE MANAGERS**  
Ashlee McCormick  
Tanner Purdy

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Diana Blizzard

**PROGRAMS MANAGER**  
Carol Pacheco

**PROGRAMS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**  
Shelby Morrison

**RE: Support of SB 2442 SD1, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary**

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

**Ku'ikahi Mediation is submitting testimony to strongly support SB 2442 SD1**, which requires contracts for services awarded to community-based organizations by the Judiciary in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State to include certain protections against inflation beginning 7/1/2027. This bill appropriates funds to the Judiciary to increase the contract price in existing contracts for certain services provided by community-based organizations in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State.

Hawai'i's families depend on a network of community-based nonprofit organizations that serve as a critical safety net. Unfortunately, this safety net is fraying due to insufficient government funding.

The Judiciary relies on its non-profit partners to provide legal aid, case management, and mediation services. Local court self-help centers receive more inquiries than they can process. Mediation is integral to Hawai'i's "Access to Justice" framework, which strives to ensure that all people have access to civil processes.

Approximately 50% of Ku'ikahi Mediation Center's clients have annual incomes under \$20,000. Census data shows that the Ka'u and Puna districts, which are among those we serve, house some of the poorest populations in the state. Sample opportunities include: 1) domestic mediations to help parents put kids first after separations and divorces, 2) debt meditations for credit cards or medical bills to negotiate debt reduction, payment plans, or forgiveness due to hardship, and 3) landlord/tenant mediations to prevent eviction and homelessness.

Our agency provides a vital service to the community, especially in domestic (divorce, paternity, family), consumer/merchant, landlord/tenant, and restraining order cases. Our mediation services are provided either free of charge or on an affordable sliding scale, and no one is turned away for lack of funds.

According to the report "The Social Economic Impact and Return on Investment: Mediation services delivered by the Mediation Centers of Hawaii during Fiscal Year 2023-2024," for every \$1 spent in providing mediation services, they delivered \$15.92 in immediate and long-term consequential financial benefits. (This analysis was conducted by the accredited Community Services Analysis LLC in Arizona.)

*a partner agency of the*



Ku'ikahi Mediation Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax-deductible. We welcome your support!



**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

**PRESIDENT**  
Haidee Abe

**VICE PRESIDENT**  
Jessica Uchida

**TREASURER**  
James Kunimura

**SECRETARY**  
Kimberly Lin

**DIRECTORS**  
Douglass Shipman Adams  
Rev. Eric S. Anderson  
Amanda Craig  
Ha'aheo Kaho'ohalahala  
Amanda Lee  
Rebecca Lester  
Karen Maedo  
Colby Miyose  
Sandra Tokuuke

**DIRECTORS EMERIT**  
Andrew Wilson  
Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter

**STAFF**

**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR**  
Julie Mitchell

**CASE MANAGERS**  
Ashlee McCormick  
Tanner Purdy

**OFFICE MANAGER**  
Diana Blizzard

**PROGRAMS MANAGER**  
Carol Pacheco

**PROGRAMS & COMMUNICATIONS COORDINATOR**  
Shelby Morrison

Government contract rates remain below actual service costs and haven't kept up with inflation. For example, The Mediation Centers of Hawaii—of which Ku'ikahi is a member—had its Judiciary contract restored in December 2023 to funding rates from FY 2009-2010. While the nominal increase was appreciated, these rates are now a decade-and-a-half old and do not reflect the cost of doing business in a post-COVID island economy.

Community-based nonprofit organizations like ours fill funding gaps through private fundraising, staff reductions, loans and lines of credit, and non-government grants. However, these methods are no longer viable, and organizations may soon face hard decisions to decline contracts, reduce services, or even shut down entirely.

Without adequate funding, Hawai'i's safety net for vulnerable families will unravel. Urgent legislative action is needed to ensure the sustainability of community-based nonprofit organizations and the services we provide.

We strongly urge you to pass this legislation. Thank you for reading this testimony.

Mahalo,

**Julie Mitchell**  
Executive Director

*a partner agency of the*



Ku'ikahi Mediation Center is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, donations to which are tax-deductible. We welcome your support!

# COMMUNITY ALLIANCE ON PRISONS

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

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

*Today's Inmate; Tomorrow's Neighbor*



## COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Representative David Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 17, 2026

2:00 pm

Room 325 & VIDEOCONFERENCE

### **STRONG SUPPORT FOR SB 2442 SD1 - PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY**

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

My name is Kat Brady and I am the Coordinator of Community Alliance on Prisons, a community initiative promoting smart justice policies in Hawai`i for more than two decades. This testimony is respectfully offered on behalf of the 3,637 Hawai`i individuals living behind bars<sup>1</sup> and under the "care and custody" of the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation on March 9, 2026. We are always mindful that 797 of Hawai`i's imprisoned male population are serving their sentences abroad -- thousands of miles away from their loved ones, their homes and, for the disproportionate number of incarcerated Kanaka Maoli, far, far from their ancestral lands.

Community Alliance on Prisons, as a member of the True Cost Coalition, is pleased to express our **STRONG SUPPORT for SB 2442 SD1** that appropriates funds to the Judiciary to increase the contract price in existing contracts for certain services provided by community-based organizations in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities across Hawai`i nei. These service providers are doing the work of the government and must be compensated in order to continue delivering these vital services to our communities.

---

<sup>1</sup> DCR Weekly Population Report, March 9, 2026  
[Pop-Reports-Weekly-2026-03-9 .pdf](#)

The Judiciary's ability to deliver justice is directly tied to the stability of the community-based organizations that carry out this work. Community Alliance on Prisons is grateful to these organizations that lift up our communities by providing the vital services needed.

We respectfully ask the committee to honor this commitment and provide the necessary funding to allow them to continue this important work. Please pass SB 2442 SD1!

Mahalo for this chance to express our strong support and gratitude to these community-based organizations!



**TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2442, SD1  
RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY**

Aloha Chair Representative Tarnas, Vice Chair Representative Poepoe, and Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

My name is **Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros**, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of SB2442**.

I serve as the President and CEO of **Hale Kipa**, a community-based organization that for more than 55 years has partnered with the State to serve youth, families, and individuals who are deeply impacted by trauma, court involvement, and system involvement. Our work and the work of many community-based organizations across Hawai'i is essential to helping the Judiciary fulfill its statutory mandate to promote access to justice, accountability, and healing for our communities.

Community-based organizations are not ancillary to the justice system, we are a core part of it. We provide services that courts rely on every day: supervision, intervention, treatment, family support, stabilization, and prevention. Yet for far too long, the contracts that fund this work have failed to keep pace with the rising cost of doing business in Hawai'i.

Inflation has significantly increased the cost of labor, insurance, rent, utilities, and transportation. At the same time, many Judiciary purchase-of-service contracts have remained flat for years. This disconnect places community-based organizations in an unsustainable position, forcing us to absorb rising costs, struggle to retain qualified staff, and stretch already-limited resources to meet court-ordered and court-referred obligations.

SB2442 is an important and long-overdue step toward addressing this structural imbalance. By requiring inflationary protections in future contracts and appropriating funds to adjust existing contracts, this measure recognizes a fundamental truth: **the Judiciary's ability to deliver justice is directly tied to the stability of the community-based organizations that carry out this work**.

Without these protections, organizations face staff turnover, program instability, and the real risk of reducing or discontinuing services. When that happens, the impact ripples outward, cases are delayed, families lose support, and individuals who need intervention and guidance are left without meaningful options. This ultimately undermines the very outcomes the Judiciary seeks to achieve.

SB2442 reflects sound policy, fiscal responsibility, and respect for partnership. It acknowledges that contracts must be responsive to economic realities if we expect consistent, high-quality services and accountability. Most importantly, it helps ensure that justice in Hawai'i remains accessible, humane, and effective.

I respectfully urge you to pass SB2442, SD1 and affirm the State's commitment to sustaining the community-based organizations that are critical to our justice system and the well-being of our communities.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit this testimony and for your thoughtful consideration.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Venus Rosete-Medeiros". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

**Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros**  
President & CEO, Hale Kipa



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### **SUPPORT FOR SB 2442 SD1: RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY**

TO: House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
FROM: Shellie Niles, VP of Mission, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Tuesday, 3/17/26; 2:00 PM; CR 325 or Videoconference

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **strong support of SB 2442 SD1**, which seeks additional funding for the Judiciary to increase contract prices in existing contracts and to include essential protections against inflation.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax-exempt, community-based organization that has provided vital social services in Hawai'i for more than 78 years, now serving over 40,000 individuals statewide each year. We offer a comprehensive range of programs supporting children, families, older adults, immigrants, and individuals experiencing homelessness. Our mission is to provide compassionate services and strong advocacy for Hawai'i's most vulnerable people, and we have a long-standing history of leadership in affordable housing, homelessness solutions, and child welfare.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i is also a proud member of the Hawai'i True Cost Coalition, a network of community-based organizations collectively serving more than 500,000 people across the state. Coalition members work directly with Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations and partner closely with the Judiciary to deliver life-changing—and often life-stabilizing—services.

Despite this critical role, organizations providing contracted services for the Judiciary have faced dramatically rising operating costs, while contract funding has remained stagnant for many years. With continued uncertainty surrounding federal funding streams, it is more important than ever that Hawai'i take decisive action to sustain these essential programs. Catholic Charities Hawai'i strongly supports the bill's proposed inflation protections, including contract price adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index and the use of multi-year contracts. These measures would provide much-needed stability, enabling organizations to plan responsibly, retain qualified staff, and continue delivering high-quality services amid challenging economic conditions.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i respectfully urges your strong support of SB 2442 SD1 as an urgently needed investment in the long-term health and resilience of both our judicial system and the community-based organizations that support it. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. For questions, please contact Shellie Niles, Vice President of Mission, at (808) 527-4813.





## **SB2442 SD1 Judiciary Adjust for Inflation**

### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep David Tarnas, Chair

Rep Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026: 2:00: Room 325 Videoconference

### **Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition Supports SB2442 SD1:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Alan Johnson. I am the ad hoc leader of the Hawaii Substance Abuse Coalition (HSAC), a statewide organization for substance use disorder and co-occurring mental health disorder prevention and treatment agencies and recovery-oriented services.*

**Community-based organizations are essential** partners in delivering critical human services across our state. They provide food assistance, housing stability, behavioral health services, disability support, family services, and culturally responsive care that government alone cannot provide.

Over the past several years, **nonprofit providers have experienced sharp and sustained cost increases** in:

- Labor, driven by workforce shortages and rising wages, needed to retain qualified staff
- Insurance, including liability and workers' compensation
- Utilities and fuel, which directly affect service delivery and transportation
- Rent and facility costs, particularly for organizations serving high-need communities

Non-profits operate on thin margins and are often contractually obligated to deliver services at fixed reimbursement rates that have not kept pace with current economic conditions.

**Non-profits have limited ability to absorb cost increases** unlike all other sectors because they cannot raise prices, reduce demand, or quickly restructure services without harming vulnerable populations.

**PROVIDERS ARE NOW FACING DIFFICULT DECISIONS –  
REDUCE SERVICES, FREEZING PROGRAMS, DECREASE  
OUTCOMES FROM STAFF BURNOUT, OR CLOSE ENTIRELY.**

**This would shift costs back to the state** through increased emergency services, institutional care, homelessness, and unmet behavioral health needs.

This bill provides a practical and responsible solution. By allowing the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts, the legislature ensures:

- Continuity of essential services
- Stability in the human services workforce
- Protection of prior state investments
- Stronger community-based infrastructure statewide

Importantly, **these funds do not expand programs unnecessarily**—they simply allow existing services to continue operating as intended under current economic realities.

**Investing in non-profits is a corner stone of American policies.** It is a more cost-effective way to serve residents and ensure that families receive help earlier, crises are prevented, and long-term public interests are met.

For these reasons, we respectfully **urge your support for this bill and thank you** for recognizing the vital role community-based organizations play in the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide testimony and are available for questions.



## **SB2442,SD1 Judiciary Adjust for Inflation**

### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Sen. David Tarnas, Chair

Sen. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Tuesday, Mar 17, 2026: 2:00: Room 325 Videoconference

### **Hina Mauka Supports SB2442,SD1:**

*ALOHA CHAIR, VICE CHAIR, AND DISTINGUISHED COMMITTEE MEMBERS. My name is Brian Baker. I am the President and CEO for Hina Mauka, a mental health and substance use disorder treatment and prevention agency for thousands of adults and adolescents on Oahu and Kauai, including recovery-oriented services and housing transitional living programs.*

**Community-based organizations are essential** partners in delivering critical human services across our state. They provide food assistance, housing stability, behavioral health services, disability support, family services, and culturally responsive care that government alone cannot provide. **Non-profits are part of the overall government support plan for our most vulnerable citizens, but are funded well below sustainability.**

Over the past several years, **nonprofit providers have experienced sharp and sustained cost increases** in:

- **Labor**, driven by workforce shortages and rising wages, needed to retain qualified staff
- **Insurance**, including liability and workers' compensation
- **Utilities and fuel**, which directly affect service delivery and transportation
- **Rent and facility costs**, particularly for organizations serving high-need communities



---

Non-profits have limited ability to absorb cost increases unlike all other sectors because they cannot raise prices, reduce demand, or quickly restructure services without harming vulnerable populations

---



**Failing to support this bill will shift costs back to the state** through increased emergency services, institutional care, homelessness, and unmet behavioral health needs.

This bill provides a practical and responsible solution. By allowing the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts, the legislature ensures:

- Continuity of essential services
- Stability in the human services workforce
- Protection of prior state investments
- Stronger community-based infrastructure statewide

Importantly, **these funds do not expand programs unnecessarily**—they simply allow existing services to continue operating as intended under current economic realities.

**Investing in non-profits is a corner stone of American policies.** It is a more cost-effective way to serve residents and ensure that families receive help earlier, crises are prevented, and long-term public interests are met.

For these reasons, we respectfully **urge your support for this bill and thank you** for recognizing the vital role community-based organizations play in the health, safety, and well-being of our communities.

Despite years of inflation, labor, insurance, and other rising costs, many of our most vulnerable providers are making decisions about potentially shutting down or cutting programs, due to rates that have not been updated in more than a decade.



# The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

March 17, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2442 SD1, Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

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

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is writing its strong support of SB 2442 SD1, relating to purchase of service contracts by the Judiciary. This bill requires contracts for services awarded by the Judiciary to community-based organizations to include protections against inflation and appropriates funds to increase the prices of certain existing contracts. It is intended to ensure that organizations providing services to individuals, families, and communities across the State can continue operating sustainably while fulfilling the Judiciary's statutory mandate.

Hawai'i's safety net often goes unnoticed—until it begins to fray. It is built on community-based organizations that deliver essential services state agencies cannot provide alone, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and crisis response for families in need. Yet decades of chronic underfunding have forced many organizations to reduce services, underpay staff, and rely heavily on private fundraising simply to remain operational. Members of the True Cost Coalition report working under contracts that have not received meaningful budget increases for more than ten years, despite rising costs for labor, facilities, and compliance. Without swift action, these pressures will continue to erode programs and leave Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents without the support systems they depend on.

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is an alliance of more than 70 community-based nonprofit organizations serving over 500,000 residents statewide. Since its formation in 2020, the coalition has worked to strengthen partnerships

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | Aloha United Way | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Appleseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

between nonprofits and the State of Hawai'i to ensure public funds are allocated equitably, efficiently, and sustainably. By advocating for fair and realistic funding, the coalition helps safeguard critical programs for children, kupuna, individuals experiencing homelessness, people with disabilities, veterans, and survivors of domestic violence—ensuring that nonprofits can continue providing the vital care and support on which so many residents rely.

SB 2442 SD1 would further these goals by strengthening the Judiciary's partnerships with the organizations that support access to justice and assist individuals navigating court-connected services. Requiring multi-year contracts with annual inflation adjustments and increasing current contract rates would allow providers to better manage rising operational costs—such as wages, utilities, and administrative expenses—while maintaining essential services for victims of domestic violence, court-involved youth, and families in crisis. This targeted investment would promote stability, expand access to justice, and sustain the community-based infrastructure that underpins effective court-connected services across Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

<sup>1</sup> **Hawai'i Human Services Nonprofits - Ten Year Comparison of Operating Expenses**

Category	Years compared	Absolute Change	Average Annual Change
Electricity (cents/kWh)	2015-2024	41.8%	4.5%
Insurance (annual total of relevant premiums)	2014-2023	46.3%	4.5%
Payroll (annual average/employee)	2013-2022	44.1%	4.2%
Inflation (CPI All Items)	2015-2024	30.8%	3.0%

*\*Estimated office rent increased 7.8 percent over ten years, variable based on island/location.*

Source: *Hawaii Data Collaborative in cooperation with the True Cost Coalition January, 2026*

Achieve Zero | Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Care | Aloha Harvest | Arc of Kona | Aloha United Way | Big Brothers Big Sisters | Blueprint for Change | Boys and Girls Clubs of Hawaii | Catholic Charities | Child and Family Service | Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii | Community Alliance on Prisons | Community First Hawaii | Connecting Community LLC | DVAC | Easter Seals | Epic Ohana | Family Programs Hawaii | Full Life | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale Na'au Pono | Hale Opio Kauai, Inc. | HANO | Hawaii Afterschool Alliance | Hawaii Children's Action Network | Hawaii Community Benefit Consultants | Hawaii Community Foundation | Hawaii Data Collaborative | Hawaii Foodbank | Hawaii Housing Affordability Coalition | Hawaii Applesseed | Hawaii Public Health Institute | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Helping Hands Hawaii | Hawaii State Coalition for Domestic Violence | Ho'ola Na Pua | Honolulu Habitat for Humanity | Honolulu International Film Festival | IHS | Imua Family Services | Cameron Center | Ka Po'e o Kaka'ako | Kamehameha Schools | Kinai 'Eha | Kui'kahi Mediation Center | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui Economic Opportunity | Maui Family Support Services, Inc. | Maui United Way | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mental Health Kokua | Metro YMCA | Mindful Living Group | Na Hale O Maui | Na Maka Haloa O Waipio | Nurturing Wahine | Olelo Community Media | PACT | Care | People Attentive to Children | PIC | PID Foundation | Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii | RYSE | Samaritan Counseling Center | Starting Over in Recovery | Susannah Wesley | The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc. | Transform Hawaii Government | U.S. Vets | Volunteer Legal Services of Hawaii | Women Helping Women | YMCA Honolulu | YWCA of Kauai | YWCA of Oahu

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 2:52:44 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Share Your Mana	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Vice-Chair Poepoe,

As a very small nonprofit, we continue to support SB2442 SD1 to bring needed recognition through equity to nonprofits and those serving our community.

Mahalo for your continued support and I look forward to ensuring our community gain needed supports.

Mahalo plenty,

Lisa Darcy, Share Your Mana

Maui, HI



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Re: **SB2442 SD1 – Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary**  
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference  
March 17, 2026, 2:00 PM

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of SB2442 SD1**, which requires contracts for services awarded to community-based organizations by the Judiciary in support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals, families, and communities in the State to include certain protections against inflation.

Community-based organizations partnering with the Judiciary provide essential services—supervised visitation, domestic violence support, court-involved youth programs, and other family-focused services. These programs help keep our keiki safe and families stable.

Rising costs in Hawai'i, including housing, utilities, and staff wages, strain these organizations. Without inflation-adjusted contracts, services risk disruption, longer waitlists, and reduced support for vulnerable children and their families.

This ensures future contracts include annual inflation adjustments and provides funds to stabilize existing agreements. This safeguards continuity of care for keiki and supports families navigating the court system.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo  
Director of Research and Economic Policy

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:06:34 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sonia Blackiston	Hawaii Youth Services Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chair, Vice-Chair and members,

Hawaii Youth Services Network supports SB2442 and strongly urges your support of this meaningful step to ensure providers are better equipped to cover the true cost of operations that support the most vulnerable populations on our state. By supporting this measure, you will help ensure continuity of essential services in our communities across Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support,

Sonia Blackiston, Executive Director

Hawaii Youth Services Network



March 17, 2026

Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

Chair David A. Tarnas  
Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Elle Cochran  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem  
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama  
Rep. Gregg Takayama  
Rep. Diamond Garcia  
Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

Re: SB 2442 SD1 Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

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

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) mission is to unite Hawai'i to end all forms of domestic violence. We are a statewide partnership of domestic violence programs and shelters.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 20 member programs, I respectfully submit testimony in support of SB2442 SD1, which appropriates funds to the Judiciary to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas costs. Domestic violence programs rely on these contracts to meet the needs of survivors and their families.

Hawai'i's safety net often goes unnoticed, until it begins to fray. This safety net is built on community-based organizations that provide essential services state agencies cannot deliver alone, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and crisis response for families in need. Yet decades of chronic underfunding have forced many organizations to reduce services, underpay staff, and rely heavily on private fundraising just to keep their doors open. Without swift action, these pressures could lead to further program cuts, leaving Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents without the support systems they depend on.

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

Sincerely,  
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2442 SD1  
RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY**

**TO:** Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, & Members,  
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
**FROM:** Trisha Kajimura, Vice-President of Strategy and External Affairs  
**DATE:** March 17, 2026 at 2:00 PM

**Parents and Children Together (PACT) strongly supports SB 2442 SD1**, which appropriates funds for the Judiciary to increase allocation for contracts with community-based organizations providing critical services in Hawaii and provide these contracts with protection from inflation.

PACT is contracted by the Judiciary to provide services related to domestic violence in three counties – Honolulu, Maui and Kaua’i. Through these contracts we help survivors and child witnesses cope through their trauma, heal from abuse, and rebuild safe and self-sufficient households. We also work with individuals who have committed crimes of domestic violence through classes and counseling. These services and the staff dedicated to providing them are specialized and essential to the safety and well-being of our community.

We submit this testimony as a member of the Hawai’i True Cost Coalition – over 70 community-based non-profit organizations fighting to sustain essential services for our communities. The people of our community are strong, resilient and capable yet challenged by systems of scarcity that are difficult to overcome without targeted support. They must be supported by high-quality organizations that are sustainable. When state contract amounts do not increase over time as operating costs do, this important service for the community becomes unsustainable.

Founded by residents of Kuhio Park Terrace in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 18,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Please contact Trisha Kajimura at (808) 847-3285 or [tkajimura@pacthawaii.org](mailto:tkajimura@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs  
March 17, 2026 at 2:00 PM  
Room 325**

**Testimony in SUPPORT for SB2442 SD1**

---

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

On behalf of the Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), we respectfully submit comments in **support of SB2442 SD1**, which seeks to increase funding for the Judiciary to strengthen and expand its partnerships with nonprofit organizations.

HANO is a statewide, sector-wide professional association representing Hawai'i's nonprofit community. Since 2006, HANO has worked to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life across the state by leveraging resources, educating leaders, and advocating for policies that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

Hawai'i relies heavily on nonprofit and community-based organizations to deliver essential services such as legal aid, case management, mediation, and behavioral and family support. These organizations assist community members—including low-income families, immigrants, individuals in crisis, and others navigating complex legal challenges—in accessing justice and understanding judicial processes. Their ability to deliver these services effectively depends on stable funding and strong, collaborative partnerships with the Judiciary.

The need to invest in these partnerships has become increasingly urgent due to reductions in federal funding for critical social services and broader uncertainty affecting access to constitutional and civil rights protections. As federal resources become less reliable, nonprofit organizations that work in and alongside the judicial system are experiencing increased demand while facing growing capacity constraints. Strengthening state funding for Judiciary–nonprofit partnerships is therefore critical to maintaining continuity of services and ensuring that community-based supports remain available to those who rely on them.

HANO supports this bill as a crucial step in securing state funding and ensuring continued access to vital legal services for our most vulnerable residents. Given the ongoing uncertainty and shifts in federal policy, it is critical for our legislature to act swiftly and protect the stability of community-based organizations providing essential legal services in Hawai'i.

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



March 13, 2026

**Testimony in Support of SB2442 S.D.1  
Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary**

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

On behalf of Aloha United Way and as a member of the True Cost Coalition, I write in **strong support of S.B. 2442 S.D.1**, which helps ensure sustainable funding for community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide services in support of the Judiciary's statutory mandate.

Many Hawai'i residents face significant barriers when navigating the legal system, particularly low-income families, individuals in crisis, survivors of domestic violence, and those requiring behavioral health or mediation services. Community-based organizations are essential partners in providing legal aid, case management, counseling, and other supports that help individuals access justice while also helping courts operate more efficiently.

However, the cost of providing these services has increased significantly over time. Nonprofits face rising expenses for wages, rent, utilities, and administrative costs, yet government contract rates have remained largely stagnant. Without adjustments to reflect inflation and rising operational costs, organizations providing these services may struggle to sustain programs or meet growing demand.

If community-based organizations are forced to scale back or cease services due to insufficient funding, vulnerable residents may lose access to critical support, while courts face increased strain as individuals attempt to navigate complex legal processes without assistance. This not only puts residents at a disadvantage, it increases the likelihood of more costly interventions down the road.

S.B. 2442 S.D.1 takes an important step by requiring multi-year contracts and incorporating annual adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index. These provisions help ensure greater stability for CBOs



and allow them to maintain the workforce and infrastructure necessary to deliver critical services to Hawai'i's residents.

By strengthening these partnerships, the State helps ensure that vulnerable individuals and families can access the support they need while reinforcing the Judiciary's ability to fulfill its mission.

Aloha United Way respectfully urges the Committee to pass S.B. 2442 S.D.1.

Mahalo,

Michelle Bartell  
President & CEO  
Aloha United Way

**Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**  
**Hearing Date: Tuesday March 17, 2026**

**Submitted by Mediation Centers of Hawaii**  
**SB 2442 SD1**

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

I am submitting testimony on behalf of Mediation Centers of Hawaii (MCH) in STRONG SUPPORT OF SB 2442 SD1, which urges the Judiciary to support community-based organizations (CBOs) by ensuring service contracts with CBOs are for a term of multiple years and include a provision that adjusts the contract price on an annual basis according to increases in the Consumer Price Index.

CBOs throughout the State, including MCH which is comprised of five community mediation centers located on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai, and Hawaii, provide critical services that address community needs such as housing stability, family strengthening, the elderly, and more. And while the provision of these services by the mediation centers and other CBOs reduce government costs overall, the government contracts rates for these services do not cover the CBOs costs for providing those services. In fact, while the need for the services provided by CBOs continues to grow and the cost of doing business increases, government contract rates remain the same.

The services provided by CBOs are critical for the people of Hawaii and the need for those services has increased. For example, the work of MCH more than doubled over the past eleven years. In Fiscal Year 2013-2014, MCH opened 1,654 new cases and conducted 1,287 mediations involving 6,404 mediator hours. Whereas in the recently ended Fiscal Year 2024-2025, MCH opened 3,857 new cases (an increase of 2,203 new cases) and conducted 2,004 mediations (an increase of 717 mediations) involving 9,837 mediator hours (an increase of 3,433 hours). Despite the increase in services, the contract price remained the same. And yet the total net value resulting from those services was \$18,475,000 as shown by a return on investment analysis conducted by Community Services Analysis, LLC for MCH in 2025.

To continue providing a high volume of services that meet critical community needs while simultaneously saving the Government money, CBOs require the financial resources that cover the cost of providing those services. We urge you to pass SB 2442 SD1 to ensure government contracts are provided for a term of multiple years and include a provision that adjusts the contract price on an annual basis according to increases in the Consumer Price Index.



Tracey S. Wiltgen, Contract Administrator  
Mediation Center of Hawaii

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:05:41 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Keith Kauila Kopper	Legal Aid Society of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legal Aid Society of Hawai'i strongly supports SB2442.

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:21:25 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Tjapkes	Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

My name is Greg Tjapkes, Executive Director of the Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i. We support SB2442, SD1.

- Our organization provides **family therapy for juvenile drug court youth**, a key intervention to reduce substance use and prevent deeper system involvement.
- **Contract rates were cut a few years ago and have not kept pace with rising costs**, making it increasingly difficult to recruit and retain qualified clinicians.
- **Stable, inflation-adjusted, multi-year contracts** are essential to sustain prevention-focused treatment services and ensure consistent support for youth and families.

SB2442 helps stabilize the workforce and maintain critical youth substance use prevention services.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 8:45:51 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Nonprofit staff need living wages to provide important services for our community.

**Judith F. Clark**  
48-218 Kamehameha Highway  
808-499-9966  
[Judithforceclark@gmail.com](mailto:Judithforceclark@gmail.com)  
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

March 13, 2026

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair,  
And members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**Testimony in Support of SB 2442 SD 1 Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts  
by the Judiciary**

As a community advocate and the former Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network who worked for non-profit organizations for 50 years, I strongly support SB 2442 SD 1 which aims to increase funding for the Judiciary to enhance its partnership with Community-Based Organizations (CBOs).

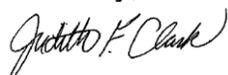
Hawaii's most vulnerable populations including children, youth, and young adults, need mental health, domestic violence, family strengthening, and other services provided by CBOs. It takes a network of trauma-informed, culturally relevant, and accessible services to children, youth, families, and seniors.

CBOs struggle to attract and retain qualified staff. When contracts and grants do not pay the full cost of providing services, CBOs are not able to pay competitive wages. Workers choose higher paying jobs or places with a lower cost of living. It is shameful that too many of our CBO staff qualify for public assistance benefits. Staff working with homeless persons are often concerned about becoming homeless themselves. One outreach worker shared with me, "If my landlord raises my rent, I won't be able to afford my housing."

Non-profits cannot take on state contracts and provide high quality services when the amount of funding is insufficient to provide the mandated services. Some contracts run for as long as 6 years with no increases. This is exacerbated by recent cuts in and restrictions on federal funding to non-profits.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:35:29 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Kent	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 2442, SD 1. Over the course of my work in the public and private sectors, I have worked with non-profits that provide services to the Judiciary and been impressed with the dedication of the staff and the breadth of the services they provide. In particular, I worked closely with the community mediation centers and have been a volunteer as well.

The community mediation centers provide vital conflict resolution services that help people through some of the most difficult situations in their lives such as divorce, eviction, dealing with debts, and disputes with family members and neighbors. Despite the important work that they do, funding has not increased over the years, and they have been forced to do “more with less” or to provide the same level and quality of services without an increase or, in some cases, a decrease. This bill would help to fix that.

It is exciting to imagine what the community mediation centers could do if “more with less” was changed to “more with more!” I look forward to this bill passing and to seeing the innovative programs that will be developed and the additional services that the community mediation centers may be able to provide, as well as more community outreach and services being provided to parts of the community they have not been able to reach.

I urge you to pass this bill out of your Committee.

Elizabeth Kent

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 10:24:11 AM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Isabella Zingray	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit testimony in support of SB2442 SD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to issue supplemental contracts to community-based organizations to address increases in costs related to labor, insurance, utilities, rent, and gas. Domestic violence programs rely on these contracts to meet the needs of survivors and their families.

Hawaii's safety net often goes unnoticed-until it begins to fray. This safety net is built on community-based organizations that provide essential services state agencies cannot deliver alone, including shelter for at-risk youth, meals for seniors, behavioral health care, housing assistance, and crisis response for families in need. Yet decades of chronic underfunding have forced many organizations to reduce services, underpay staff, and rely heavily on private fundraising just to keep their doors open. Without swift action, these pressures could lead to further program cuts, leaving Hawaii's most vulnerable residents without the support systems they depend on.

**SB-2442-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:20:41 PM

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

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

Comments:

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

My name is Carolyn Eaton. I am a resident of Honolulu, and I strongly support this bill which simply protects against inflation the important contracts made by the Judiciary with community-based organizations for services mandated by statute.

Mahalo for considering this important change to properly compensate the community organizations on which we rely.