



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

Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2026 Regular Session

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

Thursday, February 19, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 & 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.



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.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Parents And
Children Together**

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THAT MATTER MOST**

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

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

TO: Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, & Members,
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Trisha Kajimura, Vice-President of Strategy and External Affairs
DATE: February 19, 2026 at 10:30 AM

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 if you have any questions.



SB2442 SD1 Judiciary Adjust for Inflation

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 19, 2026: 10:30: Room 211 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 WAYS AND MEANS

Sen. Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Sen. Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Thursday, Feb 19, 2026: 10:30: Room 211 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.

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

Dear Senator Dela Cruz, Senator Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

On behalf of Child and Family Service (CFS), I am writing to express our strong support for **SB2442**. This legislation is critical to ensuring that contracts and funding for community-based programs under the Judiciary reflect the true costs of providing services, allowing organizations to continue delivering high-quality, timely, and effective interventions to children and families across the state.

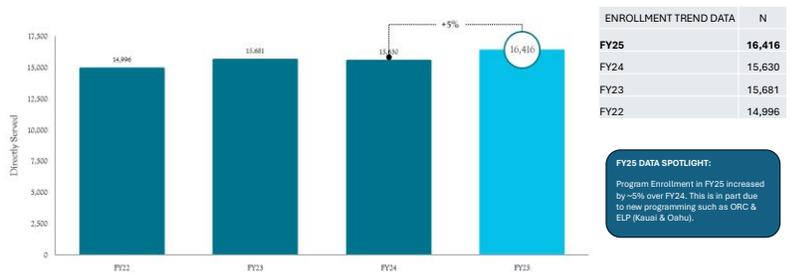
Child and Family Service is a statewide, community-based organization dedicated to supporting children and families through prevention, intervention, and treatment services. Each year, CFS **directly serves approximately 625 individuals** and impacts **3,000 families statewide**.

Rising operational and provisional costs, including workforce expenses, administrative requirements, compliance obligations, and professional liability insurance, which has **tripled since last year** are creating significant sustainability and ethical challenges. Contract funding that does not keep pace with these realities threatens service quality, workforce stability, and the well-being of the children and families we serve.

In FY 2025–2026, CFS experienced a **1% increase in individuals directly served**, and over the past four years, our service volume has grown by **30%**. Additionally, in the last year alone, CFS impacted **117,000 families**, representing a **5% increase** compared to prior years.

SB2442 is a critical step toward aligning Judiciary contract rates with the true costs of providing services amid rising demand and escalating operational expenses. By addressing these cost realities, the bill helps protect service quality, support workforce stability, and ensure that children and families continue to receive the effective care and interventions they need.

4 Year Trend: Directly Served



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Investing in these services enhances public safety and delivers a strong return on investment for the state. Our Developing Options to Violence (DOV) program provides court-mandated domestic violence interventions, serving over 250 individuals annually. It has achieved a recidivism rate of approximately 12.7%, compared to 53.8% statewide for the FY 2016 offender cohort tracked by the Interagency Council on Intermediate Sanctions (ICIS), and roughly 60% nationally (Legal Clarity Criminal Law Team, 2025). By preventing repeat offenses, DOV reduces costs for the criminal justice system, law enforcement, and healthcare. Research shows that every dollar invested in effective violence intervention programs generates multiple dollars in savings (giffords.org), and DOV alone is estimated to save the State of Hawaii approximately \$1.5 million annually. SB 2442 represents a vital step toward aligning Judiciary contract funding with the actual costs of service delivery, ensuring that organizations like CFS can continue providing essential support to children and families while maintaining a stable, capable workforce. Here is one story of many in action:

We first met this family shortly after both parents were released from prison. Living with relatives and caring for a six-month-old baby, they quickly became homeless due to felony records and ineligibility for low-income housing. With weekly visits from a CFS Home Visitor, the family set goals for themselves and their child. Over the course of a year, both parents gained full-time employment, secured a three-bedroom home, were reunified with their other children, and enrolled their children in quality educational programs. This transformation demonstrates how targeted support, consistent home visiting, and community resources can create lasting change from homelessness and unemployment to stability, reunification, and opportunity.

Child and Family Service strongly urges the committee to support SB2442, recognizing that these investments protect children, support families, enhance public safety, and deliver meaningful cost savings for the state.

Thank you for your time, consideration, and continued commitment to children and families across our state.

Sincerely,

Amanda Pump

Amanda Pump

President and CEO



“We’re all about FAMILY”

Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children



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: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Re: **SB2442 SD1 – Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary**
Hawaii State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 19, 2026; 10:30 AM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

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



Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Thursday, January 19, 2026, 10:30 a.m.
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

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

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee:

Ku'ikahi Mediation is submitting testimony to strongly support SB 2442, SD 1, 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!



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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!



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

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

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
FROM: Betty Lou Larson, Legislative Liaison, Catholic Charities Hawai'i
Hearing: Thursday, 2/19/26; 10:30 AM; CR 211 or Videoconference

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

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 social services in Hawai'i for more than **78 years**, now serving **over 40,000 individuals statewide each year**. We offer a broad 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. We have a long-standing history of leadership in affordable housing, homelessness solutions, and child welfare.

We are 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**. Our organizations work directly with Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations and partner closely with the Judiciary to deliver life-changing and often life-stabilizing services. However, organizations providing contracted services for the Judiciary have experienced dramatically rising operating costs, while contract funding has remained stagnant for years. The added pressures of recent crises—including the Maui wildfires—have pushed many organizations to the brink, threatening the continuity of critical community services.

With ongoing uncertainty surrounding federal funding streams, it is more important than ever that Hawai'i act decisively to sustain these essential programs. We strongly support the bill's proposed **inflation protections**, including contract price adjustments tied to the Consumer Price Index and multi-year contracts. These measures would provide the stability necessary for organizations to plan, retain staff, and continue offering high-quality services through challenging economic conditions.

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





February 17, 2026

Testimony in Support of SB 2442 SD 1 Relating to the Judiciary

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 **SB 2442 SD 1**, to increase funding for contracts awarded to community-based organizations (CBOs) that provide services to the Judiciary.

Many Hawai'i residents face significant barriers in navigating the legal system, particularly low-income families, individuals in crisis, and those requiring behavioral interventions. CBOs are essential partners in delivering legal aid, case management, and mediation services that support these individuals and streamline judicial processes.

Costs for nonprofits rise year over year, but government funding has remained stagnant. By committing state funding through this bill, Hawaii's community-based organizations can be assured of receiving the resources they need to ensure consistent support for vulnerable residents navigating the legal system.

Without adequate funding, the CBOs that the State depends on for services cannot sustain operations or meet a growing demand. The True Cost Coalition believes this bill is crucial to ensuring justice for all residents, regardless of their economic status or personal circumstances.

We respectfully urge you to pass SB 2442.

Thank you for your time and dedication to this important issue.

Michelle Bartell
President & CEO
Aloha United Way

SB-2442-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:25:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Tochiki	Testifying for Domestic Violence Action Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The community-based organizations that provide services to the judiciary are essential to its day-to-day function, and to the people of Hawai‘i. I write today wearing two hats: as Chair of the Board of Directors of the Mediation Centers of Hawai‘i and as Interim CEO of the Domestic Violence Action Center.

The Mediation Centers of Hawai‘i has had a contract with the state judiciary to provide mediation services directly in courthouses and to litigants in court cases. Across the state, thousands of disputes are resolved every year under our contract. The result is both better outcomes for litigants who can resolve disputes amicably, and huge cost savings to the state judiciary.

Similarly, the Domestic Violence Action Center provides critical legal advocacy services to survivors of domestic violence through our judiciary contract. Our attorneys and advocates work directly with survivors navigating the court system — helping them obtain protective orders, represent themselves in family court, and access the justice system safely. These services are not optional extras; they are essential to ensuring access to justice for some of our most vulnerable community members.

Both organizations face the same challenge: our contracts do not cover the true cost of the services we provide, and these contracts have not been increased for more than a decade. Meanwhile, the cost of operating has increased significantly — wages, utilities, and administrative expenses have all risen substantially. As a result, many organizations providing court-related services are unable to cover their full costs and maintain stable operations. This jeopardizes the continuity and effectiveness of critical services that the judiciary depends upon.

Without adequate funding, we cannot:

- Maintain competitive salaries to retain experienced staff
- Meet the growing demand for services
- Cover basic operational costs
- Continue providing the quality of services the judiciary and the community depend upon



**Senate Committee on Ways and Means
February 19, 2026 at 10:30 AM
Room 211**

Testimony in SUPPORT for SB2442 SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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.

SB-2442-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 9:10:04 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sonia Blackiston	Testifying for 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



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

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

My name is **Venus Kau'iokawēkiu Rosete-Medeiros**, and I respectfully submit this testimony in **strong support of SB 2442, SD1**

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, SD1 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, SD1 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

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Re: SB 2442 SD1-Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary
Hawai'i State Capitol Room 211 & Via Videoconference 19, 2026, 10:30 AM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Respected Committee Members,

On behalf Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks, I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB 2442 SD1**, which recognizes the essential role that community-based organizations play in supporting individuals, families, and communities involved in the justice system and takes important steps to ensure the sustainability and effectiveness of these services.

Community-based organizations are critical partners to the Judiciary in delivering services that promote access to justice, protect victims of abuse and trauma, support court-involved youth, and assist people navigating civil legal processes. These trusted partners often serve our most vulnerable families and individuals, providing culturally responsive, trauma-informed, and community-centered services that the Judiciary alone cannot deliver. However, rising operating costs, including inflationary pressures on wages, rent, utilities, and program expenses continue to outpace contract rates that have remained stagnant for years. Without meaningful adjustments, contracts become unsustainable, threatening the continuity of critical services and the well-being of the people they serve.

SB 2442 SD1 proactively addresses this challenge by requiring that contracts for services awarded by the Judiciary to community-based organizations include protections against inflation, ensuring contract prices are adjusted to reflect rising costs beginning January 1, 2027. The bill also authorizes appropriations to increase contract prices for existing Judiciary contracts, helping service providers maintain capacity and quality of service during this transition.

HCAN Speaks believes this bill aligns with our shared goals of strengthening family stability, improving access to justice and social supports, and investing in local community infrastructure that keeps Hawai'i families safe and resilient. Sustaining these contracts through multi-year terms and inflation-based adjustments honors the expertise of community partners and protects the vital services they deliver every day to people in crisis.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify. Please **PASS SB 2442 SD1**

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO PURCHASE OF SERVICE CONTRACTS BY THE JUDICIARY.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the judiciary
2 fulfills key components of its statutory mandate through
3 contracts with community-based organizations that provide
4 essential services to individuals and families involved in the
5 justice system. These organizations support access to justice
6 for victims of domestic violence, court-involved youth,
7 individuals navigating civil legal processes, and other
8 vulnerable populations who depend on programs connected to the
9 judiciary for safety, stability, and support.

10 The legislature further finds that the costs incurred by
11 community-based organizations to provide these services,
12 including wages, utilities, and administrative expenses, have
13 increased significantly during the past decade, while government
14 contract rates have remained stagnant. As a result, many
15 organizations providing judiciary-related services are unable to
16 cover their full cost of operations, threatening the continuity
17 and effectiveness of critical services statewide.



1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to ensure the
2 continued delivery of essential services supporting the
3 judiciary's statutory mandate by:

4 (1) Requiring contracts for services awarded by the
5 judiciary to community-based organizations to include
6 protections against inflation; and

7 (2) Appropriating funds to the judiciary to increase the
8 contract price in existing contracts for services
9 provided by community-based organizations in support
10 of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals,
11 families, and communities in the State.

12 SECTION 2. Beginning January 1, 2027, contracts awarded to
13 community-based organizations by the judiciary for services in
14 support of fulfilling its statutory mandate to individuals,
15 families, and communities in the State, including supporting
16 access to justice, shall:

17 (1) Be for a term of multiple years; and

18 (2) Include a provision that requires the contract price
19 to be adjusted on an annual basis based on increases
20 in the Consumer Price Index for All Urban Consumers



1 for Urban Hawaii, or a successor index, as reported by
2 the United States Bureau of Labor Statistics.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State the sum of \$ or so much thereof
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to increase the
6 contract price under existing contracts for services provided by
7 community-based organizations in support of fulfilling the
8 judiciary's statutory mandate toward individuals, families, and
9 communities.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the judiciary for
11 the purposes of this Act.

12 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on March 22, 2075.



Report Title:

Judiciary; Community-Based Organizations; Contract for Services;
Access to Justice; Appropriation

Description:

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. (SD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.



Judith F. Clark
48-218 Kamehameha Highway
808-499-9966
Judithforceclark@gmail.com
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744

February 14, 2026

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

Testimony in Support of SB 2678 SB 1 Relating to Child Welfare Services

As a community advocate and the former Executive Director of Hawaii Youth Services Network, I support SB 2678 SD 1.

The Malama Ohana Work Group's report contains recommendations to strengthen the Family Court process in child welfare cases. This includes reducing delays in legal proceedings and ensuring access to legal representation for youth.

Hawai'i is 1 of 13 states where foster youth do not have the right to an attorney in their court cases. Our youth deserve more. They deserve to be heard in decisions about their lives, their families, and their futures. This bill creates a working group to advance foster youths' access to legal representation, to ensure youth are included in decisions and that their rights are upheld in their cases.

Youth with lawyers have better outcomes, including 40% more likely to exit the foster system within 6 months, 45% more likely to reunify with biological parents, and 65% fewer unnecessary school moves.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Judith F. Clark, MPH



PARTNERS IN DEVELOPMENT
FOUNDATION

February 16, 2026

The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
The Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: Hearing on Wednesday, February 19, 2026 at 10:30 a.m.,
Via VideoConference, Conference Room #211

Regarding SB No. 2442, "Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary"

Dear Chair Dela Cruz and Vice Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

We ask that you **strongly support SB 2442** to appropriate 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.

Partners in Development Foundation is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit that inspires and equips families and communities for success and service, using timeless Native Hawaiian values and traditions. Since 1997, PIDF has served more than 171,000 people in over 75 communities across the state (www.pidf.org). PIDF has a strong record of managing complex, multi-year federal and state grants with measurable results in early childhood education, family engagement, and youth justice. PIDF continues to step to the frontline to meet the ever-changing needs of our low-income, remote, and rural families and communities, including operating a COVID quarantine hotel to keep families safe and healthy during the pandemic, to supporting families displaced by the Maui wildfires to heal and rebuild, to continuing to support and strengthen our most vulnerable children, youth and families as they navigate increasing living costs, unemployment, and loss of federal resources.

It is vital that this critical work provided by not only Partners in Development Foundation but the many other nonprofit organizations in our state continue to be supported through sufficient resources to sustainably operate and SB 2442 will accomplish this by increasing the level of funding available to these nonprofit organizations who are stepping in the gap to meet the needs that government entities cannot fully address. **We ask that you support SB 2442 to equip nonprofit organizations to meet our rising expenses to enable us to continue serving the people of Hawai'i.**

On behalf of Partners in Development Foundation and our many nonprofit partners serving tirelessly in our state, mahalo nui loa for your consideration of this request.

Shawn M. Kana'iaupuni, PhD
President and Chief Executive Officer

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

February 19, 2026

Hawai'i State Legislature
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

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

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, 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 | AUW | 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.

¹ **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 | AUW | 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

SB-2442-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:37:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2026 10:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Fairchild	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.



Our Vision: "Everyone has the help they need to achieve and maintain a foundation for lasting recovery and well-being"

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February 18, 2026

Hawaii State Senate
Committee on Ways and Means

RE: SB2442 SD1
Relating to Purchase of Service Contracts by the Judiciary

Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice-Chair, and Committee Members:

We submit testimony in strong support of this bill for the following reasons:

- We currently have contracts with the Judiciary to provide Drug Court and Juvenile substance abuse treatment services on Maui.
- Our costs to provide these services have increased every year, yet our contract amount has not increased to cover our costs.
- Requiring annual price adjustments in contracts would provide us with protection against inflation and help us to continue providing much needed services on Maui.
- Multiple year contract terms would allow us to spend more time providing direct services to our community and less time on administrative tasks.

Very Truly Yours,

Traci Fujita, Esq.
Chief Compliance Officer and General Counsel