



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING:  
Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:01 am  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3251, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.**

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

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 3251, SD1**, Relating to Public Safety, which prohibits the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and Department of the Attorney General from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and beyond. Born out of the August 2023 wildfires, we immediately stepped in to move aid, navigate systems alongside families, and build the trusted relationships that still anchor our work today. What began as wildfire response has grown into essential infrastructure for immigrant communities facing overlapping crises—from recovery and housing instability to shifting federal policies, increased enforcement, and rising fear.

The trust we have built has given us proximity to hear stories that rarely reach these chambers. Families who survived the fires, who lost homes, who are still piecing their lives together, now live with the additional terror of being separated from their children, their spouses, their neighbors. Many are afraid to go to work or school, or even to seek necessary medical care. For fire survivors already navigating grief, displacement, and rebuilding, this new crisis lands on top of everything else. Recovery becomes impossible when fear is constant.

Since December 2024, we have been meeting this new man-made disaster head-on. Roots Reborn is a founding coalition member of EPA Maui, a rapid response network and tipline made up of allied organizations and concerned community members. We exist because we believe an informed, calm community is a safer community.

Through this coalition, we have:

- Distributed over 3,500 flyers on constitutional rights
- Trained more than 700 community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Delivered over 50 trainings to healthcare providers, social service organizations, business owners, faith communities, educators, and labor union leaders
- Processed more than 450 calls and texts through our tipline from community members concerned about federal enforcement activity
- Trained over 60 volunteer observers in verification, de-escalation, and peaceful documentation

For months we have seen video evidence of aggressive, heavily armed, masked federal agents subjecting people to excessive force, with no identifying tag or badge, refusing to identify themselves while violating people's constitutional rights to peaceably observe and document their behavior. These tactics heighten fear in the public and interfere with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

On Maui, we are witnessing an erosion of trust and an increase in fear. Community members are afraid to go to work and children are unable to go to school. We have heard stories from healthcare providers of patients forgoing critical care, and from faith leaders that people feel unable to attend religious services due to fear of confrontation by masked and unidentified federal agents. Trust in law enforcement of all kinds, even our local



police departments, has eroded as a result. Coalition member organizations have been called upon to address the potential harms to victims of violent crime, especially women and children subjected to domestic violence, who are now afraid to ask for help from the local law enforcement officers who have a duty to protect them.

This bill sets a clear boundary that helps ensure state law enforcement is perceived as accountable to Hawai'i's public safety priorities and community wellbeing. When residents trust that seeking help will not lead to immigration-related harm, they are more likely to report domestic violence, trafficking, exploitation, and other serious crimes, and to cooperate as witnesses. Stronger trust means stronger public safety outcomes for everyone. Our trained observers do this work daily. We know that transparency enables accountability, and accountability rebuilds trust. We **urge you to support SB 3251, SD1** and to vote to pass it out of this committee.

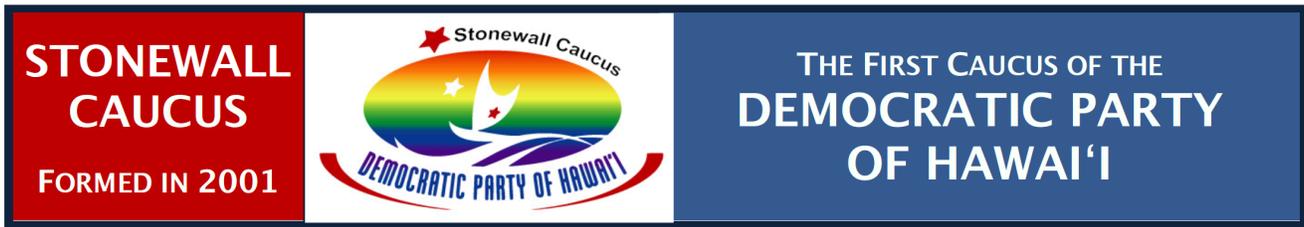
Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica'.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



## STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

### TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB3251 SD1

Relating to Public Safety – State Employment Prohibitions

#### COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

#### NOTICE OF DECISION MAKING

DATE: Thursday, March 5, 2026

TIME: 10:01 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

To the Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, we respectfully submit testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1**.

SB3251 SD1 establishes a prohibition on the appointment or employment, after June 30, 2026, of individuals with post-June 30, 2026 employment history with United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol in certain Hawaii state law enforcement positions. The measure applies to employees of the Department of Law Enforcement conferred with police powers, as well as specified positions within the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Department of the Attorney General who are conferred with general police powers.

The bill's findings detail numerous incidents nationwide involving alleged violations of constitutional rights, excessive use of force, prolonged detention of United States citizens, and lack of accountability in immigration enforcement operations. These findings reflect legislative concern that practices associated with certain federal enforcement actions have eroded public trust and raised serious civil rights questions.

Public confidence is foundational to effective state law enforcement. Hawaii has long prioritized community-centered policing, constitutional safeguards, and respect for civil rights. SB3251 SD1 represents a policy decision to ensure that individuals serving in state positions of law enforcement authority meet standards aligned with these values and that the State's law enforcement agencies remain distinct from federal immigration enforcement practices described in the bill's findings.

By establishing a clear statewide employment standard, the measure seeks to promote transparency, reinforce constitutional accountability, and maintain public trust in Hawaii's law enforcement institutions.

## Testimony in Strong Support of SB3251 SD1

For these reasons, the Stonewall Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass SB3251 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration and for your continued work to uphold public safety and civil rights in Hawai'i.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)

Chair

Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 11:46:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Munkelt	Testifying for Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251 SD1. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 SD1 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino  
In SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

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

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD1**, which prohibits certain state departments from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

We are partners in life and in community work, and co-founders of Mercado de la Raza, a space created to uplift and support Hawai'i's Latino community. Beyond operating a small business, we have worked together to connect families with critical resources during times of crisis — including helping Latino residents navigate aid and support during the Lahaina fires and assisting community members affected by the recent government shutdown. Mercado de la Raza also serves as a gathering place for Latino families and a platform for local Latino entrepreneurs to showcase and grow their businesses. Through this work, we are deeply connected to and invested in the well-being, safety, and dignity of our community.

Public safety depends on community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families already fear that interactions with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences. SB3251 SD1 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability in hiring practices. It creates a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy of state agencies and reduces fear-based avoidance of government institutions. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino  
Mercado de La Raza  
808.593.2226



**Testimony of Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association  
In SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

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

My name is Wilfredo Tungol, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD1**, which prohibits certain state departments from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

I am a board member and chair of the Advocacy Committee for the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA). I am testifying as on behalf of HFLA which has strong concern for protecting our immigrant population.

Public safety depends on community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families already fear that interactions with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences. SB3251 SD1 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability in hiring practices. It creates a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy of state agencies and reduces fear-based avoidance of government institutions. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Wilfredo Tungol  
Chair, HFLA Advocacy Committee  
[tungolw@gmail.com](mailto:tungolw@gmail.com) 808-387-7412



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

Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill  
In STRONG SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

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

The Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) submits this testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1.

SB3251 SD1 is a straightforward public safety measure. As described in the bill, it prohibits the Department of Law Enforcement, the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Taxation, and the Department of the Attorney General from appointing or employing former U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers. The bill is effective 7/1/2050.

HCIR is a coalition of 30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations across the pae ‘āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai‘i as a place where all families can thrive.

#### WHY THIS BILL IS URGENT IN THE CURRENT DHS/ICE MOMENT

DHS and ICE are expanding rapidly, raising real concerns about standards, oversight, and accountability. Over the past year, the federal government has accelerated immigration enforcement and significantly expanded ICE capacity. Rapid growth on this scale inevitably strains recruitment, training pipelines, and supervision systems. Hawai‘i should not import those risks into state law enforcement leadership and frontline roles.

HCIR is not arguing that every former federal employee is unqualified as an individual. Our point is this: when a federal agency is scaling up quickly and adjusting hiring and training practices to meet aggressive staffing goals, downstream risks to safety, professionalism, and accountability increase. State agencies should not be put in the position of absorbing that risk.

ICE operations are also generating serious public trust crises, investigations, and liability concerns in multiple jurisdictions—exactly what Hawai‘i should avoid in state law enforcement. When enforcement agencies expand rapidly and operate in ways perceived as unaccountable, the



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

public pays the price through preventable harm, litigation exposure, and eroded trust in public institutions. Hawai‘i’s state agencies should not be placed at heightened risk of civil liability, reputational damage, and community non-cooperation by integrating individuals whose most recent law enforcement experience was in a federal civil immigration enforcement apparatus under intense controversy and scrutiny.

## SB3251 SD1 PROTECTS COMMUNITY TRUST—THE FOUNDATION OF PUBLIC SAFETY

Immigrant and mixed-status families already hesitate to report crimes, call 911, or cooperate as witnesses when they fear any connection between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement. SB3251 SD1 sets a clear boundary that strengthens confidence that Hawai‘i law enforcement serves Hawai‘i’s public safety priorities—not civil immigration enforcement.

This matters for everyone. When survivors and witnesses trust law enforcement, they report domestic violence, trafficking, exploitation, and other serious crimes earlier, and they cooperate in investigations and prosecutions—improving safety statewide.

## OTHER JURISDICTIONS ARE MOVING SIMILAR POLICIES

Hawai‘i is not alone in recognizing the need for bright-line separation and clear standards. Across the country, lawmakers and local governments are considering or advancing policies to restrict the hiring of former ICE/CBP personnel into state and local law enforcement roles, reflecting a growing recognition that “trust is public safety,” and that state and local agencies must draw clear lines to keep local public safety institutions distinct from federal civil immigration enforcement.

In today’s context—DHS and ICE expanding rapidly, persistent questions about training and oversight under surge conditions, and real-world incidents already producing investigations and public trust crises—SB3251 SD1 is a prudent, preventive public safety policy.

For these reasons, HCIR respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SB3251 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With gratitude,

Liza Ryan-Gill

Executive Director, Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)

[lryangill@hicir.org](mailto:lryangill@hicir.org)



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

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:04:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Andrea	Testifying for In	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mr Chairman, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee;

ICE has struck our islands but it has been nothing like the havoc they have wreaked in our sister cities across the mainland. They have caused terror, injury and death to our fellow citizens. This is not the ICE from previous administrations. No, this version of ICE under this Trump and Miller administration creates fear and chaos. Generally speaking, they are unqualified, untrained and unfit to be on the streets of America. They are geared up with tactical garb and armed with automatic weapons that one would need if they were fighting terrorists in the Middle East. We do not want ICE in Hawai'i. The history of colonization and overthrow is in the DNA of Hawaiians. How triggering and stressful to have bands of masked people taking our neighbors by force. This scenario is horrifying. Keep ICE out of Hawai'i. Keep our state safe and as peaceful as possible. Thank you

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:22:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support of SB3251**, which would prohibit the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and Department of the Attorney General from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Border Patrol agents as law enforcement officers. This bill affirms that Hawai‘i has the right and responsibility to set its own standards for who serves in positions of public trust within our state.

**Law enforcement officers in Hawai‘i must be suited to serve our unique communities.** Our state has a distinct cultural fabric, a diverse population, and a history that demands officers who understand and respect the people they are sworn to protect. Federal immigration enforcement agents operate under a different mandate, with different training, different priorities, and a different relationship to the communities they encounter. SB3251 simply recognizes that experience in federal immigration enforcement does not automatically qualify someone to serve as a law enforcement officer in Hawai‘i.

**Trust is the foundation of effective policing.** When community members fear those who carry badges, they do not call 911. They do not report crimes. They do not cooperate with investigations. That breakdown in trust makes everyone less safe. Hawai‘i has the authority to determine which backgrounds and experiences align with the kind of community-based, trust-centered policing our residents expect and deserve.

**This bill is about state standards, not federal policy.** It does not comment on the work of federal agencies generally. It simply establishes that individuals whose entire law enforcement experience has been within a federal immigration enforcement framework—one focused on detention and removal rather than community safety—are not automatically qualified for state law enforcement positions. That is a reasonable exercise of state discretion.

**Hawai‘i should set its own hiring standards for its own officers.** SB3251 ensures that those entrusted with enforcing our state laws are suited to the communities they will serve. It is a measured, appropriate exercise of state authority.

I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:30:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. All too often law enforcement officers and others look to change jobs, often in another jurisdiction. They are supposed to undergo thorough background checks. Given what we have seen with ICE on the mainland, we know that many of their officers do not follow the law, track protesters home addresses and at times arrive at those locations before the “protester” does. They wrongfully believe that anyone taking photos of them is a “domestic terrorist.” We cannot have these people getting jobs here. This is not Hawaii. This is not how we live. This behavior is not aloha.

Please move this bill forward.

lynne matusow

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 9:12:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure. It is not fair to the one's who uphold the law. Why do you generalize the actions of some to the entire department? If this is the case, why not ban them from working for any department of the state. If they are that bad, I certainly don't want any of them working in our prisons, judiciary, DOE, DHS, etc.

Mahalo

# Letter in Support of SB3251

February 27, 2026

To: Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Hawaii State Legislature  
Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Strong Support for SB3251 – Protecting Civil Rights and Public Safety Through State Non-Cooperation with ICE**

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Ryan K. Gomes, and I am a resident of Honolulu. I write to you today as a concerned private citizen in strong support of SB3251, which prohibits state law enforcement and other government agencies from using state resources to assist in federal immigration enforcement activities and protects the civil rights of all Hawai'i residents, including U.S. citizens and lawful residents who have been wrongfully detained in ICE operations.

## The Problem: Wrongful Detentions and Erosion of Trust

Federal immigration enforcement has repeatedly demonstrated that its operations pose significant risks to the civil rights of U.S. citizens, lawful permanent residents, and other individuals who are lawfully present in the United States. Documented cases across the nation show that ICE detainers and enforcement actions have led to the wrongful detention of American citizens, sometimes for days or weeks, based solely on suspicion of immigration status.

When state and local law enforcement agencies cooperate with ICE by honoring detainer requests, providing personal information, or using state resources to support federal immigration enforcement, they become complicit in these civil rights violations. This entanglement also erodes trust between immigrant communities and local law enforcement, making victims and witnesses less likely to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, or seek help when they need it most.

SB3251 addresses these problems by establishing clear boundaries between state law enforcement responsibilities and federal immigration enforcement, ensuring that Hawai'i's public safety agencies focus on protecting all residents—not acting as extensions of ICE.

## Why SB3251 is Critical

**This bill protects civil rights and public safety by:**

- **Prohibiting state agencies from honoring ICE detainer requests** that are not supported by a judicial warrant, preventing wrongful detentions of individuals who have committed no state crime and who may be U.S. citizens or lawful residents mistakenly targeted by ICE.

- **Preventing the sharing of non-public personal information** such as release dates, home addresses, and other data that ICE could use to conduct immigration enforcement operations, ensuring that state agencies do not facilitate civil rights violations.
- **Ensuring state resources remain focused on state priorities**, by barring the use of staff time, facilities, equipment, or funds for federal civil immigration enforcement activities that do not serve Hawai'i's public safety interests.
- **Maintaining community trust in law enforcement**, by ensuring that immigrant community members—including victims and witnesses of crimes—can interact with police, report crimes, and seek help without fear that state agencies will share their information with ICE or participate in their detention.
- **Protecting all residents from wrongful detention**, including U.S. citizens and lawful residents who have been caught up in ICE operations due to mistaken identity, inaccurate databases, or discriminatory profiling.

## Who This Bill Benefits

SB3251 is designed to benefit all Hawai'i residents by protecting civil rights, strengthening community trust, and ensuring that state law enforcement remains focused on public safety.

- **U.S. citizens and lawful residents** are protected from wrongful detention and civil rights violations that occur when state agencies cooperate with ICE enforcement activities based on unreliable information.
- **Immigrant communities** gain the confidence to report crimes, serve as witnesses, seek help from law enforcement, and engage with public agencies without fear that their immigration status will be shared with ICE.
- **Crime victims and witnesses** benefit when all community members feel safe reporting crimes and cooperating with investigations, regardless of immigration status.
- **Law enforcement agencies** can focus on their core mission of protecting public safety and solving crimes, rather than diverting resources and staff time to assist with federal civil immigration enforcement.
- **Taxpayers** benefit when state resources are used for state priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement, and when community trust in law enforcement leads to better crime reporting and public safety outcomes.

This is not a bill that benefits criminals or "illegal immigrants" at the expense of public safety. It is a civil rights protection that ensures state agencies serve all residents equally and do not participate in federal operations that have repeatedly violated the rights of U.S. citizens and lawful residents.

## The Evidence: Non-Cooperation Enhances Public Safety

Research consistently shows that when immigrant communities trust local law enforcement, public safety improves. Cities and states that have implemented non-cooperation policies with ICE have seen:

- **Increased crime reporting** from immigrant communities, leading to better clearance rates and safer neighborhoods.
- **Stronger cooperation with investigations**, as witnesses and victims are more willing to come forward when they do not fear deportation.
- **Reduced wrongful detentions** of U.S. citizens and lawful residents, protecting civil rights and avoiding costly litigation.
- **More efficient use of law enforcement resources**, as officers focus on local public safety priorities rather than federal immigration enforcement.

SB3251 brings these evidence-based practices to Hawai‘i, ensuring that our state law enforcement agencies prioritize public safety and civil rights over entanglement with federal immigration operations.

## Addressing Concerns

Some may argue that SB3251 prevents cooperation with federal law enforcement or protects dangerous criminals. This is not accurate.

SB3251 **does not prevent state agencies from:**

- Cooperating with federal law enforcement on **criminal investigations** involving state or federal crimes.
- Responding to **judicial warrants** for arrest or detention.
- Complying with federal requirements **mandated by law**.
- Sharing information about **criminal convictions** that is publicly available.

What SB3251 prevents is the use of state resources for **civil immigration enforcement**, which is fundamentally different from criminal law enforcement. Immigration violations are civil, not criminal, matters under federal law. When state agencies divert resources to assist ICE with civil enforcement, they are not fighting crime—they are participating in a federal administrative process that has repeatedly violated the civil rights of U.S. citizens and lawful residents.

Others may worry that non-cooperation policies create "sanctuary" jurisdictions that undermine federal law. But SB3251 does not prohibit federal immigration enforcement—it simply ensures that **state resources are not used** for that purpose. ICE remains free to conduct its own operations using its own personnel and resources, as is appropriate for a federal agency enforcing federal law.

Moreover, the Tenth Amendment to the U.S. Constitution affirms that states are not required to enforce federal law or dedicate state resources to federal priorities. SB3251 is a constitutionally sound assertion of state sovereignty and resource allocation.

## A Matter of Justice and Community Safety

Hawai‘i has a long history of standing up for civil rights, immigrant communities, and the principle that all people deserve equal protection under the law. SB3251 is consistent with these values.

When state agencies cooperate with ICE, they send a message to immigrant communities that they are not safe, that they are not welcome, and that local law enforcement is not there to protect them. This undermines public safety, drives crime underground, and creates a culture of fear that benefits no one.

SB3251 sends a different message: that Hawai‘i's law enforcement agencies exist to serve and protect **all residents**, regardless of immigration status, and that civil rights matter more than participation in federal enforcement operations that have repeatedly harmed innocent people.

## Conclusion

SB3251 is a necessary, constitutional, and evidence-based measure that protects civil rights, strengthens community trust, and ensures that state law enforcement resources are used for state public safety priorities. It prevents wrongful detentions of U.S. citizens and lawful residents, encourages crime reporting and cooperation from all community members, and affirms Hawai‘i's commitment to justice and equal protection under the law.

No U.S. citizen should be wrongfully detained because state agencies cooperated with ICE based on unreliable information. No crime victim should be afraid to report a crime because they fear deportation. No community should live in fear of law enforcement that prioritizes federal immigration enforcement over local public safety.

SB3251 ensures that none of these outcomes occurs in Hawai‘i.

**I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB3251.**

Mahalo nui for your commitment to civil rights, public safety, and ensuring that Hawai‘i remains a place where all residents are protected equally under the law.

Me ka ha‘aha‘a,

Ryan K. Gomes  
Honolulu, Hawai‘i

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 6:31:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Kathleen Dickson

Waikiki

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 10:57:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Please support this Bill.

Larry Smith

CD 27

Member, Indivisible

808 286 2958

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/28/2026 12:01:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 6:52:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 9:10:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to support SB3251.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 11:14:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB3251 SD1

ICE IS EVIL

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 4:10:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All current police officers should have gone through the proper training.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Thursday, March 5, 2026 at 10:01 am  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3251, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.**

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

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of SB 3251, SD1**, Relating to Public Safety, which prohibits the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and Department of the Attorney General from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

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

The images we see on the news and social media of aggressive, untrained, unmasked, unbadged persons attacking citizens and noncitizens alike is eroding trust in law enforcement. Community members are concerned that our local police are collaborating with federal agencies on immigration enforcement. There have been reports that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call the police for protection because of fear that it may result in the victim being detained by federal agents for immigration matters instead.

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

**I strongly support SB 3251, SD1**, because it ensures that our local enforcement agencies protect the communities they serve and preserves the historical separation between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement responsibilities. We have seen what federal agents are doing, how they are treating our friends and neighbors, citizens and noncitizens alike. They are not serving the public, and former federal agents associated with this aggressive immigration campaign have no place in Hawai’i law enforcement. To hire such people would interfere with the primary responsibility of our law enforcement agencies, which is to maintain the trust and confidence of the residents that live here by clearly delineating their role as public safety officers. When law enforcement roles inappropriately blur the lines by getting involved with federal agents by hiring former ICE or CBP agents, immigrants will not come forward as witnesses in criminal investigations, and women will feel that they cannot report domestic or sexual violence. Collaboration between state law enforcement and federal agents, such as by including former ICE or CBP agents in their ranks, chills our relationship with state law enforcement agencies and the security of our communities is compromised as a result. Therefore, **I request that you support SB 3251, SD1** and help ensure trust in government law enforcement agencies.

Thank you for siding with your community on this issue.

Mahalo,

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

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/1/2026 10:11:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every day, we see appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights, and illegal and abusive detentions by federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. Ryan Schwank, a former ICE lawyer and training instructor who resigned recently, is warning that the agency has scaled back training hours for recruits and is instructing them to violate the Constitution. Out of a 584-hour program, Schwank explained that DHS cut about 240 hours. And the classes they cut included those on the fundamentals of the Constitution and their duties within the structure of our legal system.

We cannot have these wilfully under- and mis-trained agents in Hawai‘i. They should not be allowed anywhere, but sadly, I am only able to have a voice here.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:34:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No ICE in law enforcement! Show aloha.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 1:56:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

In Support of SB3251

I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.  
Aimee McCullough, PsyD

Kailua

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 2:55:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB3251 SD1. I believe it is important to codify a statute like this into state law. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 4:52:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.**

**As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.**

**We are not a POLICE STATE yet! Stop Trump now!**

**I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.**

**Jane Aquino, Indivisible Hawaii**

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 8:39:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peggy Brandt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.**

**As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii’s law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.**

**I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.**

**Sincerely,**

**Peggy Brandt**

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:46:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB 3251. It is crucial that local law enforcement not allow the hiring of individuals who previously worked for United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) after June 30, 2026.

As you are no doubt aware, there are major concerns over past, documented, or alleged violations of constitutional rights, excessive force, or illegal detentions by federal agents engaged in immigration enforcement.

Keeping local law enforcement separate from federal immigration enforcement encourages community trust, ensuring that residents—including immigrants—are not afraid to report crimes.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 9:48:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/2/2026 11:05:17 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is documented that many ICE Agents have not been properly vetted or trained. They glory in bullying citizens. We dont want criminal minded people working for us locally.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:08:10 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa Gollin	Testifying for Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Lisa Gollin

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 9:30:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 1:35:19 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island I strongly support this measure. "Law and order" begins and ends with how law enforcement treats the community it is meant to serve.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 2:49:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3251 SD1

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 4:55:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 7:33:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

**STRONG OPPOSE!!!**

This bill is an emotional, knee jerk, total over reaction to events on the mainland, mainly Minneapolis, Minnesota. ICE and BP agents have worked in several other states/cities without tragic events. Perhaps the problem is with the people and leaders in Minneapolis.

This is discrimination. It is not illegal to be an ICE or BP agent. Hawaii will be sued and we taxpayers will have to pay the price.

Table this bill and let cooler heads prevail.

Mahalo!

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/3/2026 10:25:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mona Eisa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and Members of the Committee,

I write you today in strong support of SB3251, as it relates to public safety. The people who have joined ICE in recent months have shown the public that they cannot be trusted and do not have our best interests in mind. They have shown a pattern of anger and violence, therefore should be barred from holding another law enforcement job, such as joining local police. We can not allow masked thugs who violate people's rights and the law to hold such positions in our local police force. This will only put fear and distrust in to the hearts and minds of our citizens. For these reasons, I am asking you to please support SB3251.

Mahalo,

Mona Eisa, Honolulu HI

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:47:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submit in full support.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 5:17:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Terrina Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Judiciary Chair Rhoads and Vice Chair Gabbard,

I am writing as the retired Deputy Director of Immigration Services for Pacific Gateway Center, a role I held proudly for almost 15 years. In this capacity I provided direct client assistance to our immigrant community in social and immigration legal services.

I urge you to support this bill because:

- Community trust is essential for public safety — residents report crimes and seek help when they trust local institutions.
- Prevents the perception that state law enforcement is aligned with federal immigration enforcement.
- Supports safer communities by reducing fear-based avoidance of government agencies.

This is critical for the well-being of our entire community, especially the vulnerable foreign-born. Please support this bill as community trust is essential and foundational to a healthy community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

## **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

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

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in support of SB3251 SD1, which prohibits certain state departments from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

In my opinion, anyone who chooses to work for ICE or the Border Patrol under the current administration can not be trusted with public safety in any capacity. These agencies are the ones threatening communities, ignoring the Constitution, and murdering people in the streets and they are doing so while hiding their identities and acting with impunity. This is completely unacceptable and anyone who works for these agencies implicitly endorses this behavior. They should have no place in any state law enforcement.

SB3251 SD1 supports public safety by protecting community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families hesitate to contact law enforcement—even when they are victims or witnesses—if they fear any connection to civil immigration enforcement. That fear makes it harder to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, and access emergency help, which ultimately makes communities less safe.

This bill sets a clear boundary that helps ensure state law enforcement is perceived as accountable to Hawai'i's public safety priorities and community wellbeing. When residents trust that seeking help will not lead to immigration-related harm, they are more likely to report domestic violence, trafficking, exploitation, and other serious crimes, and to cooperate as witnesses. Stronger trust means stronger public safety outcomes for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB3251 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani  
In SUPPORT of SB3251 SD1**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

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

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD1**, which prohibits certain state departments from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

I am testifying as an individual born and raised in Hawai'i and an active member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN). I recently retired from a community health center in Kalihi caring for vulnerable underserved populations, primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant families.

We have all observed with our own eyes the increasingly brutal inhumane behavior and tactics of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees. Hiding behind masks and military gear, and quick to pull weapons and abduct and assault community members, ICE and BP agents and employees are known for trampling the civil rights and killings of community residents, citizens and immigrant residents alike.

Individuals who serve with ICE and Border Patrol **habitually override the law and are trained to inspire fear not trust.**

Effective policing that upholds and protects public safety depends on community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families already fear that interactions with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences. SB3251 SD1 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability in hiring practices. It creates a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy of state agencies and reduces fear-based avoidance of government institutions. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Wendy Naomi Sodetani  
Member of Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network  
[naomisodetani@gmail.com](mailto:naomisodetani@gmail.com)  
(808) 741-0555

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:11:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Esteemed Legislators, My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI. I support SB3251 SD1 that Prohibits the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and Department of the Attorney General from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 8:52:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

SRONGLY SUPPORT SB3251 SD1

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:22:45 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Please protect our civil rights and due process.

Respectfully,

Diane Ware Volcano 96785

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 9:49:03 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed at ICE or CBP after June 30, 2026 to positions in Hawaii with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violation of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and comprise if persons with experience in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Gail Morrison 96815

**LATE**

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 11:43:30 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

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

Comments:

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 5, 2026

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

My apologies for providing late testimony on SB3251. However, I hope that you consider it. My name is Robert Justice, M.D., and I submit this testimony in support of SB3251 SD1, which prohibits certain state departments from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

I am a resident of Kapolei and am testifying as an individual and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network (IHSN). As you may know IHSN is concerned about immigrant communities, community safety, and civil rights.

I strongly support this bill because public safety depends on community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families already fear that interactions with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences. SB3251 SD1 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability in hiring practices. It creates a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy of state agencies and reduces fear-based avoidance of government institutions. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee pass SB3251 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Robert Justice, M.D. (retired)  
robertjusticemd@gmail.com

**LATE**

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/4/2026 12:21:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please supporti this , protect our ohana

**LATE**

**SB-3251-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/5/2026 8:06:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/5/2026 10:01:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jen Lum, and I submit this testimony in support of SB3251 SD1, which prohibits certain state departments from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

If a person chooses to sign up for CBP or ICE, this shows a complete lack of human empathy and overall moral judgment. These careers have shown themselves to abuse human rights, use cruel measures, and have zero compassion for other human beings. They should not be allowed to use those tactics on the people of Hawai'i or anywhere else, for that matter.

Public safety depends on community trust. Many immigrant and mixed-status families already fear that interactions with law enforcement could lead to immigration consequences. SB3251 SD1 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived as an extension of federal immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability in hiring practices. It creates a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy of state agencies and reduces fear-based avoidance of government institutions. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB3251 SD1.

Mahalo

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach