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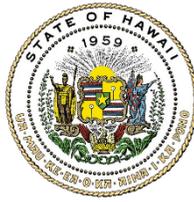
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**March 16, 2026**

**SB 3251, SD2: RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

**Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development and Technology:**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) supports SB 3251 SD2, which prohibits the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Department of the Attorney General from appointing or employing certain former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as state law enforcement officers.

As reflected in the detailed legislative findings contained in this measure, the Legislature has documented numerous incidents across the country involving alleged excessive force, wrongful detention of United States citizens, prolonged detention without access to counsel, and failures to provide adequate medical care during immigration enforcement operations. These findings articulate a broader concern that certain immigration enforcement practices may undermine constitutional protections and erode public trust in law enforcement institutions.

From the perspective of the Office of the Public Defender, public safety and constitutional fidelity are inseparable. Our clients, many of whom are indigent, vulnerable, and already distrustful of systems of authority, depend upon a law enforcement structure that is accountable, transparent, and firmly grounded in due process. When individuals perceive that constitutional violations may be excused or insulated from accountability, public confidence declines. That decline ultimately affects not only immigrant communities, but the justice system as a whole.

This measure represents a forward-looking safeguard. It reflects a policy judgment that Hawai'i's law enforcement agencies, particularly those vested with general police powers, should maintain the highest standards of constitutional compliance, transparency, and accountability. By establishing clear employment standards for positions entrusted with police authority, the Legislature seeks to reinforce community confidence and ensure that the State's law enforcement institutions reflect Hawai'i's commitment to civil liberties and the rule of law.

The OPD regularly represents individuals who have experienced excessive force, wrongful detention, or coercive encounters with law enforcement. Even in situations where no criminal charges ultimately result, the psychological and community impacts of such encounters can be profound. These experiences disproportionately affect marginalized populations, which are precisely the communities our office is constitutionally mandated to serve.

This measure does not attempt to regulate federal immigration enforcement policy. Rather, it addresses Hawai'i's independent authority to establish qualifications and standards for individuals who serve in positions of trust within state and local law enforcement agencies. The State has a legitimate and compelling interest in ensuring that those entrusted with police powers reflect Hawai'i's constitutional values, community expectations, and commitment to accountability.

Public safety is strongest when communities trust law enforcement. When residents feel secure that officers are properly trained, transparent in their identity, accountable for their actions, and respectful of constitutional limits, cooperation increases and safety outcomes improve.

For these reasons, the OPD supports SB 3251 SD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

### HEARING:

Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 8:30 am

Via Videoconference and Conference Room 423

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3251, SD2 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 3251, SD2**, 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, SD2** and to vote to pass it out of this committee.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:24:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bridget Llanes	Indivisible Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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.

Mahalo,

Bridget Llanes

Waianae, Hawaii



MARCH 18, 2026

## SENATE BILL 3251 SD2

CURRENT REFERRAL: ECD

808-679-7454  
kris@imuaalliance.org  
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Kris Coffield,  
*President*

David Negaard,  
*Director*

Mireille Ellsworth,  
*Director*

Justin Salisbury,  
*Director*

Eileen Roco,  
*Director*

Beatrice DeRego,  
*Director*

Corey Rosenlee,  
*Director*

Amy Zhao,  
*Policy and Partnerships  
Strategist*

### POSITION: SUPPORT

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Imua Alliance supports SB 3251 SD2, 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.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence. Many of the survivors with whom we have worked are migrants, who have been subjected to violence and unfathomable harm in our community.

This measure advances Hawai'i's commitment to due process, public safety, and community trust by ensuring that state resources and institutions are not used to facilitate federal immigration enforcement in ways that undermine civil rights or deter survivors from seeking help.

This bill is rooted in a growing national conversation about accountability, public trust, and the role of federal immigration enforcement practices in local policing. Across the country, communities have raised serious concerns about ICE operations, including allegations of wrongful detention of U.S. citizens, racial profiling, and excessive force.

At the same time, federal policy changes have dramatically expanded ICE's enforcement scope, with tens of thousands of additional agents recruited in recent years, raising concerns among policymakers about the risk of importing federal enforcement culture into local policing environments.

Hawai'i is not alone in considering policies like SB 3251. In Washington State, legislators recently introduced a bill that would ban law enforcement agencies from hiring former ICE officers, explicitly citing the need to

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maintain community trust and prevent federal enforcement tactics from shaping local policing culture. Additionally, in Illinois, lawmakers have proposed legislation to restrict the hiring of former ICE agents in public safety roles as part of broader efforts to protect immigrant families and rebuild trust between communities and government institutions. At the federal level, members of Congress have even proposed a freeze on ICE hiring itself, citing concerns about rapid expansion, training capacity, and civil rights violations.

These proposals reflect a clear and growing trend: jurisdictions are taking proactive steps to ensure that local public safety institutions reflect local values of transparency, civil rights, and community trust, rather than importing enforcement cultures associated with aggressive federal immigration practices.

Research consistently shows that when immigrant communities fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, cooperate with investigations, or seek help. By ensuring that Hawai'i's law enforcement agencies are staffed by officers who are accountable under local standards, rather than federal immigration enforcement frameworks, this bill ensures residents feel secure engaging with public safety institutions.

Hawai'i has long prioritized inclusion, civil rights, and community-based public safety. Passing this proposal ensures that state agencies are aligned with those values by maintaining clear boundaries between federal immigration enforcement and local policing roles.

With aloha,

*Kris Coffield*

President, Imua Alliance

**Testimony of Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association  
In SUPPORT of SB3251 SD2**

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

My name is Wilfredo Tungol and I am the Advocacy Chair of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA). We submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD2**, which prohibits certain state departments—including the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Attorney General—from appointing or employing former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

HFLA is concerned about the due process and civil rights of immigrants in 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 SD2 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived—or used—as an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement. Past performance of ICE and BP officers shows their insensitivities to the rights of immigrants or protesters who are advocating for their rights. Thus, they should not be allowed to serve as local law enforcement officers should they apply.

This bill also promotes accountability and clarity in hiring practices. It establishes a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy and community standing of state agencies. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed. The ECD committee has an important role in advancing this community trust measure before it proceeds to its next referral in Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Wilfredo Tungol  
HFLA Advocacy Chair  
808-387-7412

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 6:04:51 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvette Kay	Kona Indivisible & Matriarchy Rising	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of YVETTE KAY

In SUPPORT of SB3251 SD2

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 2026

Dear Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

My name is Yvette Kay and I submit this testimony in support of SB3251 SD2, which prohibits certain state departments—including the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Attorney General—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 Kailua Kona, HI

I am the leader of Matriarchy Rising and am on the leadership team of Kona Indivisible. I am testifying as an individual / on behalf of Matriarchy Rising and Kona Indivisible.

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 SD2 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai‘i’s public safety priorities and are not perceived—or used—as an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability and clarity in hiring practices. It establishes a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy and community standing of state agencies. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as

witnesses, and seek help when needed. The ECD committee has an important role in advancing this community trust measure before it proceeds to its next referral in Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB3251 SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Yvette Kay

Leader of Matriarchy Rising and Kona Indivisible Leadership Team

yvettekay\_99@yahoo.com

415-706-9638

Kailua Kona, HI 96740

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 4:01:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 6:51:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Rivers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual and for the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN) in support of SB3251.

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.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:44:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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 SD2

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 1:49:43 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanani Kai	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.

Mahalo, for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:16:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 11:25:29 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:03:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:40:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 8:42:36 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denize Machit	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. I never thought I would support a bill like this, yet here we are. We must protect ourselves.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Denize Machit

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:27:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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.

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.

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Gregor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

HEARING: Wednesday, March 18, 2026 at 8:30 am, Via Videoconference and Conference Room 423

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 3251, SD2 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, Rep. Yamashita of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of SB 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 11:35:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:55:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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 SB3251 SD2.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:01:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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:

Aloha Representative Ilagan, Chair, Representative Hussey, Vice Chair, and Committee Members.

I am a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. I am writing to provide testimony in strong 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 committee to pass this measure for the protection for Hawaii and its residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:03:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a member of Indivisible. Thank you for supporting this bill.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:26:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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, Honolulu

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 6:44:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT SB3251 SD2

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:39:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janet Teare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill to Prohibit Hawaii from hiring former ICE and Border Patrol agents for our State law enforcement. I'm a member of East Hawaii Indivisible.

## **Testimony in SUPPORT of SB3251 SD2**

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 18, 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 SD2, 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 SD2 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 SD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 2:09:22 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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. I believe it is important to codify a statute like this into state law. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:49:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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.

Doris Segal Matsunaga

Waimea, Hawai'i

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 5:10:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Bellamy	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 and uphold its standards.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 8:46:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ilagan and Committee Members,

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

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL SB-3251 SD2.

SB-3251 SD2 abandons core American principles: individual responsibility, equal treatment under the law, and respect for those who serve this country in dangerous and difficult roles.

This bill categorically bans men and women who served in federal immigration enforcement—specifically ICE and Border Patrol—from future service in certain Hawai'i law-enforcement positions, not because of any proven misconduct, but simply because of where they worked and during which years. That is collective punishment. In the military, we are taught that accountability is individual: if someone violates rules of engagement or abuses their authority, you investigate that person, you present evidence, and you punish that person. You do not blacklist an entire unit, branch, or agency based on the alleged actions of a few.

SB-3251 SD2 does the opposite. It takes a series of national incidents and uses them to justify a blanket prohibition on employment for anyone who served in those agencies within an arbitrary date range. That is not due process. That is not justice. And it sets a dangerous precedent that should alarm every veteran and every citizen who believes in constitutional government. If a legislature can permanently mark one group of federal law-enforcement officers as unfit for state service today, what stops a future legislature from doing the same to veterans of a particular war, to members of certain military specialties, or to anyone whose past lawful service becomes politically unpopular?

As a veteran, I also know what it means to be asked to carry out the policies of elected leaders. We may not agree with every policy, but we follow lawful orders and we perform the mission. ICE and Border Patrol agents are doing exactly that: enforcing federal laws passed by Congress and signed by presidents of both parties. To punish those individuals for answering that call is to blame the soldier for the orders of the commander. In uniform, we consider that both unjust and dishonorable.

I am also deeply concerned about what this bill says to young people in Hawai'i who might consider careers in national service. Many of us joined the military or law enforcement because we wanted to protect our country and our communities. SB-3251 SD2 sends the message that if you choose to serve in certain federal roles, Hawai'i will later treat you as morally suspect and unworthy of trust—regardless of your conduct, your integrity, or your record. That is not how you build a culture of service. It is how you discourage it.

From a practical standpoint, this bill also makes no sense. Law-enforcement agencies across the country, including in Hawai'i, struggle to recruit and retain qualified officers. Veterans and former federal agents often bring exactly the training, discipline, and experience we need: familiarity with high-stress operations, interagency coordination, and use-of-force standards. This bill tells an entire class of those professionals, “You are not welcome here.” At a time of rising concerns about crime and public safety, that is the last signal Hawai'i should send.

If there are specific, documented cases of ICE or Border Patrol personnel who committed abuses and want to work in Hawai'i law enforcement, then address those cases with robust background checks, reference checks, and disciplinary record reviews. Disqualify individuals when there is evidence of excessive force, civil-rights violations, or other serious misconduct. That is fair. That is constitutional. That is consistent with the values I served to defend. But do not write into law a permanent stigma against everyone who wore a particular federal badge during certain years.

Finally, I ask you to consider what this bill does to unity and mutual respect among those who serve. Veterans know that police officers, federal agents, first responders, and military members are all part of the same broader family—Americans willing to run toward danger when others run away. We may serve in different uniforms, but we share the same basic commitment. SB-3251 SD2 drives a wedge into that family. It tells one segment of it, “You are not like us. You are tainted.” That is profoundly wrong.

On behalf of my fellow veterans who still believe in individual accountability, equal opportunity, and honor in service, I urge you to defer SB-3251 SD2. Fix hiring standards if needed. Strengthen oversight where appropriate. But do not blacklist an entire group of Americans for fulfilling their lawful duties to this nation.

Mahalo,

Brett Kulbis  
U.S. Navy Retired

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 5:33:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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 which prohibit hiring former ICE and Border Patrol as state or county law enforcement.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:22:41 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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.**

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

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter,**

**Jane Aquino, Indivisible**

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:54:00 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 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 is discrimination and opens the door to further discrimination in other areas. It is not illegal to work for ICE or BP. You cannot make this a LAW. We are going to be sued for millions of dollars and the taxpayers will have to pay for it. This is a total over-reaction to what happened on the mainland, particularly Minneapolis, Minnesota, where local law enforcement did not even provide crowd control.

MAHALO!

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 10:34:54 AM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB3251 SD2 – Danielle Goren Testimony in Support**

Dear Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

My name is Danielle Goren, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD2**, which prohibits certain state departments—including the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Attorney General—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 Lahaina, and testifying personally, and as a member of Indivisible Hawai'i, and a member of the Hawai'i Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

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 SD2 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived—or used—as an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability and clarity in hiring practices. It establishes a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy and community standing of state agencies. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed. The ECD committee has an important role in advancing this community trust measure before it proceeds to its next referral in Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:10:52 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SB3251 SD2 – Testimony in Support**

Dear Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology,

My name is Jason Lewis, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB3251 SD2**, which prohibits certain state departments—including the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Attorney General—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 Lahaina, and testifying personally, and as a member of Indivisible Hawai'i, and a member of the Hawai'i Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

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 SD2 supports safer communities by helping ensure that state law enforcement agencies remain focused on Hawai'i's public safety priorities and are not perceived—or used—as an extension of federal civil immigration enforcement.

This bill also promotes accountability and clarity in hiring practices. It establishes a clear statewide standard that helps protect the legitimacy and community standing of state agencies. When residents trust local institutions, they are more likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, and seek help when needed. The ECD committee has an important role in advancing

this community trust measure before it proceeds to its next referral in Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB3251 SD2**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, HI

**SB-3251-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 2:26:30 PM

Testimony for ECD on 3/18/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Rabb	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Good morning,

I am aware that my opposition to this bill will surprise many people as I have supported many other pieces of legislation to contain the abuses and horrors committed by some people employed by ICE and Border Control.

I'm submitting testimony in opposition to SB3251, 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 certain former United States Immigration and Customs Enforcement or Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

I hate ICE and Border Control and what they are doing as much as any body else. They are behaving in a lawless fashion and I am ashamed that our federal government would allow their behavior to go on. However, this particular bill is a very bad idea and it's bad law. In Hawaii we can't just blankedly black-list an entire group of people because of policy at the top of the agency. There are indeed people who work for ICE or Border Control who have not been proven to have done anything wrong. All law enforcement personnel should be subject to a comprehensive background check and a psychological exam to determine fitness to be a law enforcement officer. Please amend the bill to require this, instead of an all out prohibition on employment. I doubt that this bill is constitutional. It also reminds me of Joe McCarthy's witch hunt directed toward communists in the 1950s.

We should not become what we are fighting against . We should uphold due process and the rule of law, even when we are angry . We are so much better than this.

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749