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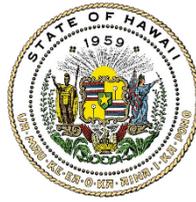
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February 17, 2026

SB 3251: RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY:

**Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lamosao, Vice-Chair Lee,
Members of the Committee on Labor and Technology, and Members of the
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports** SB 3251 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 (ICE) or Border Patrol agents and employees as state law enforcement officers.

As reflected in the detailed legislative findings, the bill documents a series of troubling incidents involving alleged excessive force, wrongful detention of United States citizens, prolonged detention without access to counsel, and failures to provide medical care. These findings articulate a legislative concern that certain immigration enforcement practices undermine constitutional protections and erode public trust.

From the perspective of the OPD, 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 is 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 and

public trust. By establishing a clear employment boundary for individuals who served in agencies identified by the Legislature as engaging in repeated rights violations, the bill prioritizes community confidence and the integrity of state policing institutions.

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 result, the psychological and community impacts are profound. These experiences disproportionately affect marginalized populations which are precisely the communities our office is constitutionally mandated to serve. Legislation that reinforces constitutional safeguards and affirms Hawai'i's commitment to civil liberties directly advances the fairness of our justice system.

This measure does not seek to regulate federal immigration policy. Rather, it addresses Hawai'i's independent authority to define qualifications and standards for state law enforcement employment. The State has a legitimate and compelling interest in ensuring that those who serve in positions of public trust reflect Hawai'i's constitutional values, community norms, 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 Office of the Public Defender **supports** SB 3251.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.



FEBRUARY 18, 2026

SENATE BILL 3251

CURRENT REFERRAL: PSM/LBT

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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

Imua Alliance supports SB 3251, 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

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



COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Sen. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lamosao, Vice Chair Lee, Senator Hashimoto 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**, 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** 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*



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Testimony of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

In SUPPORT of SB3251

Relating to Public Safety

Hearing: Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 3:00 PM, Room 225 & Videoconference

Dear Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Labor and Technology; Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs:

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

SB3251 is a straightforward public safety measure. As described in the bill and hearing notice, it 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 U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Border Patrol agents and employees as law enforcement officers.

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

1. DHS and ICE are expanding at breakneck speed, raising real concerns about standards, oversight, and accountability. Over the past year, the federal government has accelerated immigration enforcement and dramatically expanded ICE capacity. DHS and ICE have publicly stated that ICE hired more than 12,000 officers and agents in less than a year—more than doubling its officer/agent workforce from roughly 10,000 to 22,000. Reporting has also documented a rapid build-out of new ICE footprints nationwide, including fast-tracked leasing and expansion intended to support large-scale hiring and deployment.

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.

2. Reports and public scrutiny indicate ICE training has been compressed, creating concerns about adequacy for high-stakes, armed enforcement work. As ICE expanded rapidly, multiple outlets and fact-checking organizations have documented widespread public concern and disputed claims about shortened training timelines (often framed as “47 days”). Separately, reporting in Illinois on a similar proposal describes lawmakers’ concerns that ICE training has been cut and is not comparable to the training and community-based standards expected of local and state officers.



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

3. ICE operations are already generating serious liability, investigations, and public trust crises—exactly what Hawai‘i should avoid in state law enforcement. Recent events underscore why communities across the country are alarmed—and why states are responding with clearer separation. In Minnesota, multiple high-profile incidents involving ICE have prompted major public scrutiny, including an ICE-involved shooting in Minneapolis in January 2026 and subsequent investigations into ICE officers’ sworn statements in a separate Minneapolis shooting case. These incidents highlight a broader reality: when enforcement agencies act aggressively, expand rapidly, and operate in ways perceived as unaccountable, the public pays the price—through preventable harm, litigation exposure, and eroded trust in public institutions.

Hawai‘i’s state and county law enforcement 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.

4. SB3251 protects community trust—which is 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 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:

- Washington: Legislation has been introduced to bar law enforcement agencies from hiring certain sworn ICE officers (the “ICE Out Act of 2026”).
- Illinois: Legislation has been filed to prevent ICE agents from obtaining state or local police jobs, driven by concerns about training and public trust.
- California: A bill has been introduced to disqualify certain former ICE employees from law



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enforcement (and other public roles), reflecting a broader push for accountability and community trust.

- Maryland: Lawmakers have proposed measures that would restrict certain ICE officers from serving in state law enforcement roles.
- Cities: Cambridge, Massachusetts is actively considering codifying restrictions that include barring its police department from hiring former ICE/HSI/CBP personnel.

These proposals reflect a growing recognition that “trust is public safety,” and that state and local agencies must draw bright 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 is a prudent, preventive public safety policy.

HCIR respectfully urges the Committees to PASS SB3251.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

With gratitude,

Liza Ryan Gill

Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 10:52:04 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Young	Testifying for CARES Community Advocacy Research Education Services	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Support

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 3:57:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Comments	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

Although I'm active in pro democracy groups that oppose the tactics employed by current ICE/CBP agents, I can't but wonder what is driving this poorly conceived bill.

I'm also a retired Deputy Attorney General and believe the review by the dept. of the AG will have significant reservations -- there are also practical problems with unintended consequences of the bill should it become law.

I hope Sen. Lee will find more effective ways to deal with the very real problems posed by ICE/CBP actions in Hawai'i -- this current bill appears to be little more than a hop on the bandwagon.

Sincerely,

James Raymond

Kailua

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 4:17:39 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Fukuzawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Senators:

I strongly oppose SB3251. I think this law would set up a precedence for discrimination law suit. Just to blanket state that because the person applying for a law enforcement position with the State of Hawaii previously worked for Immigration and Customs Enforcement, precludes him from the opportunity of employment would set us up for a major class action law suit. This is a dumb proposed statute. I hope the people who decided to write some legislation like this will rethink their objective. Now if someone had done something illegal while working for ICE or any federal agency, then that should preclude them. Don't make it just because they worked for ICE or any other federal agency as a reason to eliminate them from the possibility of employment.

Sincerely,

David Fukuzawa, SAS-5 (Retired)

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 8:10:44 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I respectfully oppose the proposed ban on hiring former ICE or Border Patrol agents for state law enforcement positions. While recent investigations have documented serious misconduct by some federal immigration agents in 2025, including wrongful detentions and excessive force incidents affecting U.S. citizens, these reports also show that the problems were systemic and tied to the extraordinary political climate and large-scale federal operations—not the character of every individual agent. It is unfair and counterproductive to bar all former ICE or Border Patrol personnel from serving our state simply because they previously worked for a federal agency during a turbulent period. Many agents followed the law, upheld their duty, and did nothing wrong. A blanket ban punishes innocent people, harms fair hiring practices, and prevents Hawai'i from accessing experienced candidates who could strengthen our state's law enforcement workforce. Instead of excluding an entire group, we should evaluate applicants individually, based on their actual conduct and qualifications.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 11:05:20 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this legislation as it stereotypes all federal law enforcement officers who uphold the constitution. We have many law abiding Hawaii-born and Native Hawaiian officers working in our local field offices who may want to work for the state or counties. This unfairly gives them this opportunity. This measure is fear mongering, in my opinion.

Mahalo

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 11:14:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:39:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!!! THIS IS DISCRIMINATION AND A TOTAL OVERREACTION TO WHAT'S BEEN HAPPENING ON THE MAINLAND.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:23:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberta Hickey-Gómez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Fukunaga, Vice-Chair Lee, and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of S.B. 3251. This bill 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 agents or employees of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) or U.S. Border Patrol as State law enforcement officers.

Extreme escalations in abusive ICE enforcement began during the administrations of the current president. I respectfully propose that the Committee consider an amendment specifying that this restriction apply to all former ICE and Border Patrol employees from 2016 through 2028, with a provision allowing the restriction to extend if the current administration and its immigration enforcement policies remain in effect past 2028. To ensure legal durability, the amendment could include a severability clause stating that if a court strikes down the retroactive portion, the remainder of the law would remain in effect. This approach addresses the period of heightened federal enforcement while preserving enforceability of the bill.

Federal immigration enforcement agencies have long been associated with civil rights concerns and community mistrust, particularly among immigrant and mixed-status families. Keeping local law enforcement separate from federal immigration agents protects the ability of all residents to interact with police without fear of immigration consequences.

This bill strengthens public safety by ensuring that Hawai‘i’s law enforcement workforce aligns with community expectations and fosters trust and cooperation between residents and officers.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to support and pass S.B. 3251, and to consider the proposed amendment including the 2016–2028 period, potential extension past 2028, and severability provision.

Mahalo nui loa for your consideration,

Roberta Hickey -Gómez

Pūowaina Resident

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:26:52 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Los	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Alyssa Los

In SUPPORT of SB3251

Committees on Labor and Technology

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 18, 2026

Dear Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Labor and Technology; Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

My name is Alyssa Los, and I submit this testimony in support of SB3251, which prohibits certain agencies from hiring individuals who previously worked for ICE or U.S. Customs

and Border Protection into specified state law enforcement officer positions, as defined in the bill.

I am a dietitian and nurse in Oahu, and I am dedicated to improving health and safety in our community. I strongly support this bill, as we should not allow people who have terrorized immigrants and citizens in government, as they do not represent improving safety in our community.

SB3251 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Los

Makiki Citizen

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs / Labor & Technology
Chairs Carol Fukunaga and Brandon Elefante; Vice Chairs Chris Lee and Rachele
Lamosao

February 18, 2026 @ 3:00 pm CR225 & Videoconference
SB3251 – ICE; DLE; DLNR; ATG; Law Enforcement; State Employment

TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, Indivisible Hawaii State Network

Chairs Fukunaga, Elefante, Vice Chairs Lee, Lamosao, and Committee Members:

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.

Stephen Munkelt
Kailua-Kona

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 9:57:18 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because trust is integral to public safety: people report crime and seek help when they believe law enforcement will protect—not target—they. This bill helps prevent a chilling effect where immigrant families avoid police, courts, and emergency services. As we have learned from recent ICE and CBP actions on the mainland, many ICE and/CBP personnel are not adequately trained in de-escalating situations and prioritizing public safety. I do not believe that personnel seeking law enforcement and local government jobs should be able to use questionable ICE and CBP training and 'experience' as qualifications for other public facing positions that are intended to be public SERVING not positions to mete out punishment. This bill It will also help ensure that state law enforcement remains focused on local public safety priorities, not civil immigration enforcement.

Thank you.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 10:27:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Mills-Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Currently ICE agents and Border Patrol agents are exhibiting behaviors that have no place in proper policing.

Testimony of Jeremiah Brown in SUPPORT of SB3251

Committees on Labor and Technology
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 18, 2026

Dear Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Labor and Technology; Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in support of SB3251, which prohibits certain agencies from hiring individuals who previously worked for ICE or U.S. Customs and Border Protection into specified state law enforcement officer positions, as defined in the bill.

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 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 12:40:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB3251.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 12:59:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Arinaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT this bill. Please pass it.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:12:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB3251

Tina Marie Even

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:42:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen A Valasek	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 compromise 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.

Karen Valasek

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:43:52 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to 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.

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

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 1:58:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 2:05:15 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, I strongly support this measure.

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

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:02:00 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
david gierlach	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this legislation because the current version of ice is nothing more than an American Gestapo. People need to be convinced not to join such a group and prohibiting such people from subsequently becoming law-enforcement in Hawaii is an excellent idea.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:03:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Nakajima	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you. Martha Nakajima, Honolulu, member of Indivisible

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:47:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Hester	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm an immigration activist and we don't want ICE in our law enforcement.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 3:51:47 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Teare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this bill to prohibit hiring of past ICE or Border Patrol as our Hawaii law enforcement. These people are not fit for ANY position in law enforcement.

Im a member of East Hawaii Indivisible.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 4:35:16 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon, everyone. Thank you for hearing this bill.

I support the general intent of this measure. The violence, misogyny, and racism demonstrated by employees of ICE and DHS are well documented. The list included in the bill is far from complete, albeit terrifying.

Hiring former employees of ICE/DHS poses a difficult problem. The lack of federal cooperation with local law enforcement regarding possible illegal acts committed by these federal agents means that people can behave horrendously without any legal consequences either within their agency or without. They can commit crimes without developing a trackable disciplinary or criminal history that can be checked during the hiring process. That is completely unacceptable. It makes the group as a whole into very chancy potential hires.

However, I cannot endorse the idea of collective guilt.

Specifying a hiring date which disqualifies a former ICE/DHS agent would not disqualify Jonathan Ross, the person who killed Renee Nicole Good. Apparently, he worked at his present position for fifteen (15) years.

We need a more nuanced approach to sorting out former employees of ICE/DHS who apply for work in Hawai'i. They should neither be automatically qualified nor disqualified.

They should have to meet specific, meaningful standards for training, and pass written tests on ethics and Hawai'i State laws. Over the long term, I would like to see a requirement that they have graduated with a four-year degree from an accredited school. These suggestions are preliminary on my part.

We need State of Hawai'i employees of good character with appropriate training, who are not racist, violent, or misogynistic. They should be able to work well professionally in our multiracial, multicultural environment, demonstrate good judgement, emotional control and restraint. They should treat people with courtesy and respect.

Thank you for considering this bill. It raises important issues.

Thank you also for considering my comments.

Mahalo,

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M. A.

Moili'ili, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 5:34:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Uyeno-Pidot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Fukunaga and Elefante, Co-chairs Lee and Lamosao, and committee members,

I would like to submit testimony in strong support of SB 3251 (Relating to Public Safety). Given the many documented cases of Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents carrying out legally dubious orders, engaging in use of excessive force, and acting in defiance of people’s civil rights, hiring anyone who worked for this agency would pose significant risks to the health and safety of our community. This would also weaken public trust in law enforcement, which could lead to unnecessarily fraught interactions.

Employees who are qualified to work for the Department of Law Enforcement, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Taxation, and the Department of the Attorney General must uphold the law, which ICE agents have proven themselves time and again to be incapable of doing. With the unique diversity of Hawai‘i’s community—and ICE’s frequent mistreatment of people who are not White—employing former agents of this organization would be particularly hazardous, and perhaps even fatal. As such, I humbly request that you vote in favor of this measure.

Mahalo,
Julie Uyeno-Pidot

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 5:36:13 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 3251. People in Hawaii do not need former ICE agents to serve them. ICE agents are trained to see people as either "migrants" or "citizens" and largely use ideas of "race" to do so. Hiring them will increase racism in public service in Hawaii and that is unacceptable.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 5:54:35 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jody Weidemann	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual associated with Indivisible Hawai'i in support of SB3251. This bill would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was employed by ICE or CBP after June 30, 2025 to [ositions in HAWAII with general police powers.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been numerous and appalling incidents of excessive force, violations of civil rights and illegal and abusive detentions by these federal agents and agencies during the first year of the current regime. This brings into question the training, values and leadership of ICE & CBP. This bill is a proactive measure designed to protect Hawaii's law enforcement agencies from corruption and compromise if persons (some who are pardoned rioters from January 6th) with experiences in these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands.

As we are seeing on the National level to not be proactive in having plans and controls in place is a case of disaster waiting to happen, and then it is too late to try to do anything to control the mess or take corrective measures.

I urge your committee to pass this measure of protection for Hawai'i and it's people.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 6:07:43 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krystal N Barnett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for protecting our community!

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:05:18 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
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.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 7:58:05 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maryellen Tuttell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Support of SB3251

I am writing as an individual 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

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:32:26 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an individual and as a member of Indivisible in Hawaii I strongly urge support of this bill. The behavior of ICE personnel has in many cases been horrifying; this is probably a result of the training and recruitment methods of ICE. Such people absolutely should not be employed in law enforcement roles in Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this issue.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/16/2026 8:48:30 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need to ensure that law enforcement agents are transparent, accountable, and trustworthy.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:44:24 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Submitted in strong support.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:41:33 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:51:49 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Burns	Individual	Comments	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.

We don't need individuals with ICE attitudes employed in this State.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:39:16 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Wassell	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.

JJ Wassell

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:50:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muftiah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha State legislators, thank you for considering Senate Bill 3251. Recent events in Minneapolis and other places have shown us that we cannot trust the training that ICE and border patrol agents are receiving. Please protect Hawaii residents and visitors by ensuring that our local law enforcement does not hire officers from these organizations. We must protect ourselves since the federal government is unable to do it at this time.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 6:50:58 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Savage	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB3251

Joanna Savage

2/17/26

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB3251. My name is **Joanna Savage**, and I am a resident of Hilo, Hawai‘i who cares deeply about policies that strengthen public trust, uphold constitutional principles, and ensure that our systems operate with fairness and integrity.

SB3251 represents an important step toward improving how our state manages responsibilities that directly affect the safety, rights, and well-being of our communities. By clarifying procedures, strengthening oversight, and promoting consistent standards, this bill addresses gaps that have too often left individuals and families vulnerable to inconsistent or opaque government actions.

In urging passage of SB3251, I believe it is essential that Hawai‘i continue to uphold the rule of law, protect due process, and ensure full transparency in all government actions. This bill strengthens those commitments by promoting practices that are both accountable and humane, recognizing that effective policy must treat every individual with dignity while maintaining public trust. By advancing SB3251, the Legislature reinforces the foundational values that keep our systems fair, open, and grounded in compassion.

The improvements outlined in this measure will help ensure that decisions are made based on clear standards rather than discretionary or uneven processes. This benefits not only those directly affected but also the agencies tasked with implementation, who gain clearer guidance and stronger public confidence in their work. Ultimately, SB3251 supports a more consistent, equitable, and responsible approach to governance—one that reflects Hawai‘i’s values and our shared commitment to justice.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to pass SB3251. Mahalo for your consideration and for your dedication to policies that strengthen our state and protect the rights of all who call Hawai'i home.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:24:37 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:35:21 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for taking my tesimony on this most important bill. I urge you to support this bill to help foster trust in state government and to bolster the legal, ethical and more underpinnings of Hawai'i law.

Mahalo

Dave Cuthbert, East Hawai'i Indivisible

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 7:48:29 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Dickson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of State Bill325, which would prohibit the employment or appointment of a person who was at any time employed by ICE or CBP to positions in Hawai'i 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 abusive detentions by those federal agencies during the first year of the current administration. This brings into question the training, values, and leadership of ICE and CBP. This bill is a protective measure, designed to protect Hawai'i law enforcement agencies from corruption and compromise, if persons with experience within these federal agencies seek employment within law enforcement agencies here in our islands. I urge the committee to pass this measure of protection for Hawai'i.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:21:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joie Yonamine	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 abusive detentions by these federal agencies during the first year of the current administration. 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 compromise 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.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa Valley

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:36:09 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Saarinen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support bill SB3251. The current employees of ICE do not seem like professional law enforcement types. There are many other candidates for law enforcement positions that exemplify professionalism that serves our Hawaii citizens in true form. To me this means following civil rights laws as they perform their jobs. Too many current ICE employees are violating civil rights & it might be difficult to tell which of any former ICE employees would uphold our laws. Hire others candidates!

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:38:07 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Cohen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as an individual (IHSN) in support of SB3251. Please pass this bill to 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 Hawaii citizens from violence and comprise if persons corrupted by these federal agencies seek employment in law enforcement agencies here in the islands. I am member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:02:54 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Mirken	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii resident, I strongly urge you to pass SB 3251.

As detailed in Section 1 of SB3251 there have been many 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. Worse, these agencies appear to be intentionally recruiting far-right extremists. 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.

It must be passed without delay.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:13:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB3251.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 10:14:12 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry McDonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No, there is no way these lawless federal agents should be allowed to become apart of the HPD, not now, not ever. Their work is disqualifying, and i hope this measure is passed here, but also in most of the states in the USA

COMMITTEE ON LABOR AND TECHNOLOGY

Sen. Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair
Sen. Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair
Sen. Chris Lee, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference
State Capitol

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

Aloha Chair Elefante, Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lamosao, Vice Chair Lee, Senator Hashimoto 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**, 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 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** 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

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:23:34 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of SB3251. As you are aware 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 we have seen on the mainland, there have been numerous 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. The agents involved are conditioned to perceive immunity in disregarding their violations contrary to the Constitution, civil liberties, and humanity. We cannot allow such perceptions to exist in our islands' law enforcement agencies.

I urge your committees to pass this measure of protection for Hawaii and all her peoples.

Mahalo for your work and service.

DeWaine Tollefsrud

Kea'au, HI 96749

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:27:51 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas h. Penny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ICE officers and employees have proven themselves to be the the modern equivalent of fascist enforcers and uncontrollable bullies. THEY are the " worst of the worst" and should have no welcome nor part of Hawaii law enforcement. I strongly support SB3251 as a measure against the infiltration of such extremism into Hawaiian affairs.

sincerely, Thomas Penny, Hawaii resident since 1979

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:33:32 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcela Montalto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill helps ensure that Hawai‘i’s law enforcement agencies reflect the values of fairness, community trust, and public safety for all residents. By prohibiting the hiring of former ICE and Border Patrol agents in state law enforcement roles, the measure recognizes the documented harm and fear these federal agencies have caused in many immigrant communities. This policy can help rebuild trust between local law enforcement and residents, encouraging cooperation, reporting of crimes, and stronger community relationships. Ultimately, this bill supports a safer and more inclusive Hawai‘i where all people feel protected and respected by those sworn to serve them.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:33:45 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Judith Mura. Strongly Support SB3251

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:34:36 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariana Monasi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing today to express my deep support for SB3251. Every day we are watching lawless domestic terrorists abandoning that constitutional rights of residents across the country, with malice and abuse, even death. Prohibiting agencies from hiring individuals who work in and enforce white narcissistic policies that go against the law, means that those folks should never again work in law enforcement, abusing their power.

Mahalo,

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:41:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your continued support for protecting Hawaiian residents against the potential harassment by ICE agents. From the mainland, we have seen a pattern of excessive force, wrongful detentions, and insufficient accountability within immigration enforcement activities. We fear that ex-ICE agents may try to gain employment within Hawaii's Law Enforcement agencies.

Please do not let that happen.

Because ICE agents usually cover their faces, we cannot know which ones are following the law, and which ones are violent. Thank you for proposing an Act to ensure that ex-Ice agents will not be able to serve in positions of trust in Hawaii's state law enforcement agencies.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 11:43:02 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Holce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident and constituent of the state of Hawaii, I would like to submit my testimony in support of SB3251.. After watching the horrific cruel and undemocratic actions of ICE agents over the recent past , it is clear that personnel from that department have no business in any law inforcement agency! Sincerely, Leah Holce retired RN

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:06:31 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We don't need any trouble from the federal government superseding our state laws.

The people that would be hired are not familiar with Hawaii and apparently are violent and not well-trained.

We are fine Mahalo

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:22:34 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am testifying as an individual and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii. I stongly support SB3251 which 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.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 1:29:04 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry J Walker	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.

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 2:49:22 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Flournoy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3251 - Prohibit hiring ICE in Hawaii law enforcement

I currently trust my local HI PD. I WOULD NO LONGER TRUST THEM to be a servant of the people, i believe they would only serve wealthy racist white nationalist men.

Thank you

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 3:05:45 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Kehau Schofield	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.

There are no actions taken by ICE in these last months that demonstrate any Malama for the people of Hawaii, and if we follow our Kanaka Maoli values, we must reject such aggressive actions or allow its fascist ideology in our mostly well respected HPD and Aina based law enforcement agencies.

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this Bill.

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:15:40 PM
Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen O'Guin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am so grateful for law enforcement officers who protect and serve. But this past year ICE agents have been ignoring people's constitutional rights, putting people in inhumane circumstances, debasing and dehumanizing people, using excessive force, KILLING PEOPLE, and doing other things that remind me of the Gestapo.

We NEED our local law enforcement officers to stand strong and protect and serve the people in our communities. We need to be able to TRUST them, and trust our leadership, and know that we are SAFE from unlawful and inhumane dangers from ICE officers.

ICE officers have been gravely misled, poorly trained, poorly vetted, and it seems some of them got into this line of work for the wrong reasons. Please do not taint the rest of our law enforcement with people who have been willing to participate in activities going against the constitution, US citizens, and humans in general.

Thank you so much.
Kristen O'Guin
aloha.nui.blessings@gmail.com
96778

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 5:59:42 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB3251.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 8:27:41 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Caringer, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

In SUPPORT of SB3251

Committees on Labor and Technology

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Chair

Senator Rachele Lamosao, Vice Chair

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Senator Chris Lee, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 18, 2026

Dear Chair Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair Rachele Lamosao, and members of the Committee on Labor and Technology; Chair Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair Chris Lee, and members of the Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs.

My name is Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D. and I am a clinical psychologist in private practice. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB3251, which prohibits certain agencies from hiring individuals who previously worked for ICE or U.S. Customs and Border Protection into specified state law enforcement officer positions, as defined in the bill.

SB3251 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. It is important for us to build stronger trust between the community, particularly our immigrant community and our police departments.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

drcaringer@gmail.com

808-281-7463

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 1:05:23 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose any bill that is discriminatory in nature to a group versus those actually responsible for certain actions.

I also believe this bill, if passed, will result in future litigation.

Please stop now to save future drama.

Mahalo,

Gregory Misakian

LATE

SB-3251

Submitted on: 2/18/2026 12:42:23 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/18/2026 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia L Warner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The behavior and training of ICE agents has been incredibly dangerous and disturbing. I support this measure to keep this type of personal background as far from the people of Hawai'i as possible. Thank you.