

A Broken System

Hawai'i: 1,400 Immigration Court case backlog

783% increase from 2022

USA: 3.4M Immigration Court case backlog

11.3M USCIS (U.S. Citizenship & Immigration Service) applications backlog

Syracuse University – TRAC data – August 2025

Immigration System



Hawai'i's Foreign-Born Residents



92,800

residents of Hawai'i are
non-citizens

62,495

are legal permanent
residents,
eligible to apply
for U.S. citizenship

74%

of Hawai'i's immigrants
have lived in the U.S. since
2009 or earlier

Critical sectors:

Healthcare • Agriculture • Construction • Tourism



U.S. Citizenship & Immig. Service Dec 2025

*2023 ACS 1-Year Estimates
data.census.gov*

✓ No Public Defenders for Federal Immigration Court

12
immigration
attorneys

at 6-7
nonprofits
serve
thousands
across
Hawai'i

8
of them

can take
removal
defense cases
& represent
those in
detention

Most
of these
attorney
positions

**are not
funded
beyond a
year**

ACLU
Hawai'i



CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII



LEGAL AID
SOCIETY OF HAWAII



PACIFIC GATEWAY CENTER



**Roots
Reborn**



Legal Representation is Key

Studies have shown that without legal counsel, deportation (removal order) is the near-universal outcome.

With legal counsel, a defendant is:

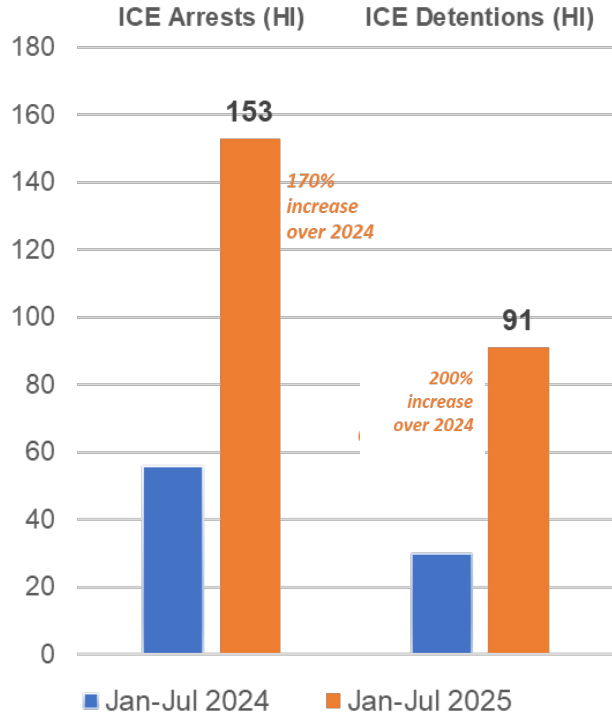
5x more likely to obtain relief in immigration court; and

10x more likely if detained

(Syracuse University)



Federal Enforcement is Escalating



- 67% of those detained by ICE at the Honolulu detention center have no criminal history
- Very few if any have been charged with a violent crime



Due Process



tlchawaii.org