



HAKIM OUANSAFI
Chairman

Ather Dar
Vice Chair

Statement of
Hakim Ouansafi
The Muslim Association of Hawaii

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

TUESDAY, APRIL 18, 2017

In consideration, of
HCR 125 CD1
Room 325 9:35 AM

Honorable Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Honorable Vice Chair Karl Rhoads and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Labor, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of HCR 125 declaring Hawaii to be a Ho'Okipa State.

There is no better place than our great Aloha state to send a message of inclusion to all its residents and to our nation that was built and thrived because the immigrant. Not only because immigrants contribute positively to the society but more importantly because to those that God gave much, much is expected. And God has given us American much and we need to share the aloha, kindness and compassion with the vulnerable and those who come to this country to better themselves.

Passage of this resolution will also send a message that our police offices will not act as judge and jury and keep in custody vulnerable people to please ICE. This practice has proven to create many problems, hardship, profiling, increase of distrust and decrease of cooperation between law enforcement agencies and affected communities.

We are grateful for our law makers for showing our Aloha State's inclusiveness and care for all people and we urge you to pass this resolution.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony.

AFRICAN AMERICAN LAWYERS ASSOCIATION OF HAWAI'I
1188 BISHOP 1908
HONOLULU, HI 96813

April 17, 2017

**Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads, and
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor
Hearing: April 18, 2017 @ 9:35 AM
Room No. 235**

RE: African American Lawyers Association Support of HBR125 HD1

Dear Senate Chair Keith Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Committee Members:

The African American Lawyers Association is in support of HCR125 HD1 which declares Hawaii to be a Ho'okina (welcoming) State.

The majority of the people who live in Hawai'i are immigrants. Only Hawaiians are indigenous. Hawai'i is host to many religions and cultures from all over the world, Japanese, Filipinos, Chinese, African Americans, Africans, Koreans, Indonesians, Portuguese, Puerto Ricans, Caucasians, Tongan, Micronesians, Samoans, Jamaicans, Panamanians, and many other people from different parts of the world. This is what makes Hawai'i unique. The variety of cultures are what makes Hawai'i an exciting destination and the aloha spirit in welcoming and getting to know and live with different cultures is exemplary. HCR125 HD1 resolves that Hawai'i remains an aloha and welcoming State. Supporting this resolution is consistent with Hawai'i State Constitution which prohibits discrimination. See Hawai'i State Constitution, Article 1, section 5 and 9. Please pass this resolution.

By Daphne E. Barbee Wooten
President
African American Lawyers Association of Hawai'i

From: Joshua T. de Vera
Sent: April 17, 2017
To: House Committee on Judiciary
Subject: Declaring Hawai'i to be Ho'Okipa HCR 125
Organization: Individual

I honorably thank the House Committee of Judiciary for the opportunity to testify my individual support for HCR 125. I strongly support this potential resolution to urging the House Committee on Judiciary to declare Hawai'i as a welcoming state. Hawai'i has been built with the hands of immigrants and with the hearts of fellow human beings. Hawai'i's history is compiled of many generations of diversity- of different cultures that have contributed to our mixed culture of compassion, family and Aloha. Supporting this resolution discourages, not only policy officials, but all residence here, from profiling and resisting President Trump's travel ban. Enabling the opposition to this resolution would only encourage the fear of those who are suffering for their current state and only to seek refuge in paradise.

As a people, discriminating minorities of racial and religious groups deviates from the historical value of Ho'Opika and becoming a more progressive state. We must look away from selecting our actions through the racial profiling and welcome all who would call Hawai'i their home. Many of us, here in Hawai'i, come from hundreds of different countries overseas and work very hard to maintaining Hawai'i well-being and must honor this progress.

As a state we must cultivate the happiness of our residence by welcoming those who seek refuge in a peaceful society. By being a welcoming state, we could overcome the notion of negative connotations based on race and religious views and oppose the evil that harnesses human hatred for each other. We must support each other's human

rights to live a meaningful life- and we can start that by declaring ourselves a welcoming state- by welcoming all to pursue a meaningful life. Ho'Okipa is only liberating.

From:
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: HCR 125 and HR 76
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 5:32:58 PM

Support for HCR 125 Declaring Hawaii To Be A Ho'okipa (Welcoming) State

As a Big Island participant in the American Civil Liberties Union's People Power training, I advocate the fair and equitable treatment of immigrants and the welcoming of refugees. I appreciate Hawaii's diverse culture and national leadership as a Ho'okipa state. Thus, we support HCR 125 and HR 76.

There is documented concern amongst Hawaii's migrant community about accelerated deportations, often without valid federal warrants or legal due process. The direct assistance of local law enforcement will only undermine trust, making the job of local police all the more difficult. It will also divert scant resources from our local law enforcement. ACLU's "9 Model Policies" addresses these concerns.

Hawaii's agricultural industry (especially coffee growing) depends on immigrants. It is neither realistic nor practical to deport them en mass. In fact, we need more, not less.

Nationally, the Administration's deportation agenda has resulted in divided families and many injustices. These include immediate deportation of young "dreamers", often triggered by minor traffic offenses. All residents of Hawaii, whether permanent or undocumented, deserve more compassion, transparency and justice.

Attorney General Sessions has long opposed comprehensive immigration reform and has advocated decreasing immigration in general. His philosophy goes counter to our Hawaiian heritage as a welcoming state. Since most Hawaiians can trace their ancestry back to undocumented migrants, the administration's nativist policies strike at the very heart of who we are. Thanks to the outstanding initiative of Hawaii's Attorney General in opposing the Administration's Muslim ban in Federal District Court, we are now national leaders in championing diversity and resisting intolerance. Now is the time to seize this historic moment and exercise our state's right to self-determination.

Note that California has recently passed a similar bill, which is awaiting signature by their governor. If we act now, the force of our argument will be magnified.

Thank you for supporting HCR 125.

Sincerely Mahalo,

Michele Chavez-Pardini

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR125 on Apr 18, 2017 09:35AM
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 5:12:23 PM

HCR125

Submitted on: 4/17/2017

Testimony for JDL on Apr 18, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darlene Rodrigues	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support this measure. We must support immigrants and not treat immigrants like criminals. No human being is illegal.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Honolulu, April 18, 2017

To: Committee Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Committee Vice Chair Karl Rhoads
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

From: Beatriz Cantelmo
Resident of Aina Haina, City of Honolulu, Hawai'i

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 125/HB70

My name is Beatriz Cantelmo and I am a resident of Aina Haina, City of Honolulu, in the state of Hawai'i. I am writing to you in support of HCR 125/HB70 because this measure is committed to value one of the most special values that Hawaiian culture is known for and admired across the globe: Ho'okipa. For centuries, we have welcomed guests and strangers with the spirits of aloha, lokomaika'i (generosity of good heart) and Mea Ho'okipa. We must preserve these cultural values because we should continue to care, protect and respect each other as human beings.

I also support HCR 125/HB70 because it ensures that immigration laws are enforced without breaching people's most basic human rights, and without jeopardizing the enforcement of current laws that are in place to ensure that anyone who violates criminal laws, regardless of their immigration status, can continue to be held accountable.

I don't support the United States' executive branch of the federal government decision to revive a program under section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act that allows a state or local law enforcement entity to partner with the Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) division of the Department of Homeland Security to receive delegated authority for immigration enforcement within their jurisdictions because 287 (g) program has several problems.

A study by the University of North Carolina School of Law and American Civil Liberties Union of North Carolina stated that "287 (g) program encourages, or at the very least, tolerates racial profiling and baseless stereotyping, resulting in the harassment of local residents, and the isolation of an increasingly marginalized community". <http://www.law.unc.edu/documents/clinicalprograms/287gpolicyreview.pdf>

By enforcing 287 (g) program, the trust, communication and cooperation from the immigrant community and local police would disappear. That is the finding that Major Cities Chiefs Association (MCCA), a group of police chiefs from the 64 largest police department in the United States and Canada, arrived at. MCCA has stated that, "without assurances that contact with the police would not result in purely civil immigration enforcement action, the hard -earned trust, communication and cooperation from the immigrant community would disappear".

287 (g) program criminalizes immigrants. Local police agencies depend on the cooperation of immigrants, documented or undocumented, in solving all sorts of crimes and in the maintenance of public order. Without assurances that they will not be subject to an immigration investigation and possible deportation for being immigrants, many of them will not come forward, even when heinous crimes are committed against them or their family members.
https://www.majorcitieschiefs.com/pdf/MCC_Position_Statement.pdf

In 2015 and 2016, I worked as a consultant for a local immigrant justice center providing services to undocumented immigrants survivors of sex and domestic violence, as well as human and sex trafficking. I am concerned that if 287 (g) program is enforced in the state of Hawai'i, that these victims and their family members will become more vulnerable and that violence against them will increase because they

will be afraid to report what is happening to them to law enforcement for fear of being deported. Victims should never have to worry about reporting their abusers, or to seek assistance from law enforcement when a crime is being committed against them.

The state of Hawai'i cannot afford to support federal law enforcement initiatives such as 287 (g) program. Not only we lack the financial resources, but we would also be dealing with complex federal immigration law, local authority and state law limitations of authority issues, and risk of civil liability. The state would have to absorb much of the cost to fund 287 (g) program and would have to agree as a state and local government to perform federal law enforcement functions aimed at the deportation/removal of individuals who have committed only non-violent petty misdemeanor or misdemeanor offenses. It appears that the criminal activities of undocumented present immigrants beyond their status is relatively uncommon in the state of Hawai'i.

I thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

In kindness and solidarity, we all thrive.

-Beatriz Cantelmo

April 17, 2017

LATE TESTIMONY

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 125

Testimony in Support of HCR 125 and HR 76 which declares Hawaii to become a Ho'okipa (WelcomingState). As a member of the Church of the Crossroads Peace, Justice and Stewardship of the Creation Mission Team as well a member of Hawaiian organizations, I strongly support this resolution. The Judeo-Christian religious groups have always cared for the unwanted and the stranger seeking comfort and justice in our houses of worship which we call sanctuaries. The early Hawaiians also had sanctuaries or places of refuge called Pu'uhonua, where women and children and defeated warriors sought safe places and protection from the warring chiefs in power. Declaring that the State of Hawaii and/or the City of Honolulu to be a Ho'okipa offers a place of refuge to immigrant refugees coming to Hawaii's shores and also to undocumented immigrants and their families from being forcibly deported by the Immigration Control and Enforcement (ICE) Division of the Department of Homeland Security. Hawaii becoming a Ho'okipa would also encourage more Multifaith religious groups to become "Immigrant Welcoming Congregations" in the traditional concept of it spritual values being Sanctuaries.

Shalom and Me Ka Ha'aha'a

Charles K. Buurows

LATE TESTIMONY

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HCR125 on Apr 18, 2017 09:35AM*
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 9:51:29 PM

HCR125

Submitted on: 4/17/2017

Testimony for JDL on Apr 18, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shereen Kanehisa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Cc:
Subject: Submitted testimony for HCR125 on Apr 18, 2017 09:35AM
Date: Monday, April 17, 2017 3:16:48 PM

HCR125

Submitted on: 4/17/2017

Testimony for JDL on Apr 18, 2017 09:35AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
wilfredo tungol	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Chair Keith Agaran, Vice Chair Rhoads and Members of the Judiciary Committee, Please pass this resolution as a sentiment and symbolic gesture from our citizens that we respect all of the people in our island community, whether they be native born or immigrants from other places. We do not expect the Federal Fire Department to assist us when there is a fire in our neighborhood. We do not expect the U.S. Marshalls to arrest a criminal defendant in our state court system when the defendant jumps bail. We do not expect the U.S. Park Service ranger to arrest someone who illegally trespass and commit violations in our state parks. We do not expect to call the coast guard if we see a fishing vessel dumping waste in our state harbors. Why on earth would we allow our local law enforcement to be deputized by ICE and expend valuable resources to accommodate ICE in their mission? Doing so will only create fear, paranoia and division in our community. Mahalo, Wilfredo Tungol

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LATE TESTIMONY

From: [Katherine Pomeroy](#)
To: [JDL Testimony](#)
Subject: supporting HCR 125
Date: Tuesday, April 18, 2017 10:39:15 AM

Support for HCR 125 Declaring Hawaii To Be A Ho'okipa (Welcoming) State

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Attorney General Sessions has long opposed comprehensive immigration reform and has advocated decreasing immigration in general. His philosophy goes counter to our Hawaiian heritage as a welcoming state. Since most Hawaiians can trace their ancestry back to undocumented migrants, the administration's nativist policies strike at the very heart of who we are. Thanks to the outstanding initiative of Hawaii's Attorney General in opposing the Administration's Muslim ban in Federal District Court, we are now national leaders in championing diversity and resisting intolerance. Now is the time to seize this historic moment and exercise our state's right to self-determination.

Note that California has recently passed a similar bill, which is awaiting signature by their governor. If we act now, the force of our argument will be magnified.

Thank you for supporting HCR 125.

Sincerely,

Katherine Pomeroy