

**STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF LANGUAGE ACCESS**

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In reply, please refer to:
File: 24-003

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787 SD1
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Hearing Date: 2/28/2024

Room Number: Conf. Room 211 &
Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's
2 Executive Supplemental Budget Request.

3 **Agency's Position:** The Office of Language Access (OLA) supports this measure, provided the
4 measure's passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Governor's Executive
5 Supplemental Budget Request and defers to the Office of Community Services (OCS) on
6 implementation and resource needs.

7 **Purpose and Justification:** The purpose of this measure is to establish and appropriate funds for
8 the Immigrant Services and Access Unit within the Department of Labor and Industrial
9 Relations' Office of Community Services (OCS) and to declare that the general fund expenditure
10 is exceeded.

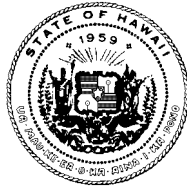
11 Hawaii is one of the most culturally diverse states and has one of the highest proportions of non-
12 English speakers in the nation. Many of these non-English speakers are immigrants and migrants
13 with limited English proficiency (LEP). According to the U.S. Census Bureau, 2018-2022
14 American Community Survey (ACS) 5-year estimates, it is estimated that 25.73%, or 351,542, of
15 Hawaii's residents aged 5 years and older speak a language other than English at home. Of these,
16 150,743, or 11.06%, indicated that they speak English "less than very well."

1 English proficiency, or the lack thereof, has a great impact on people's economic and social
2 activities, and health literacy and wellness. It affects their ability to successfully access
3 education, employment, and important public assistance, benefits, programs, and services.
4 Establishing an immigrant service and access unit will provide a critical link for communication
5 and make services accessible to individuals with limited English proficiency.

6 This measure will allow OLA to work closely with other partners to further improve language
7 access in our state government. If the measure is passed, OLA will collaborate with OCS to
8 assist immigrant and migrant individuals with limited English proficiency to the extent allowable
9 by law.

10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 26, 2024

TO: The Honorable Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senate Committee on Ways & Means

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 2787 SD1 – RELATING TO IMMIGRATION.**

Hearing: February 28, 2024, 10:01 a.m.
Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Video Conference

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this measure, provides comments, and defers to the Department of Labor & Industrial Relations, the Office of Community Services, and the Office of Language Access. DHS respectfully requests that any appropriation not replace or reduce budget priorities identified in the executive budget.

PURPOSE: This bill establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit. Declares that the general fund expenditure is exceeded. Establishes positions. Makes an appropriation. (SD1)

The Committee on Labor and Technology amended the measure by making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

Immigrants in Hawaii are vital members of the community and make up a growing percentage of the workforce. No matter the reason for immigration, many immigrants faced hardships in their home countries to come to the United States to pursue their dreams and a better life for themselves and their families. Many immigrants have limited English proficiency

(LEP), and seeking legal information and resources in English and navigating the government systems is difficult.

Reinvesting immigrant services in the OCS will support immigrant, migrant, and refugee populations transitioning to life in the United States. The Department also encourages the Legislature to provide funds to DLIR OCS to consider serving Hawaii's migrant populations. Importantly, having trustworthy immigrant services may also prevent harm perpetrated by the unfortunate elements of society who prey on vulnerable individuals and immigrants.

In addition to the cultural diversity that immigrants and migrants contribute that makes Hawaii a unique and vibrant place, the immigrant and migrant community brings additional experience, investment, and innovation that enhances our workforce and economy.

If the measure passes, DHS will collaborate with DLIR OCS to assist immigrant and migrant individuals and families to the extent allowable by law.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR

WILLIAM G. KUNSTMAN
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

JOVANIA DOMINGO DELA CRUZ
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS
KA 'OIHANA PONO LIMAHANA
OFFICE OF COMMUNITY SERVICES
830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 420
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
www.hawaii.gov/labor
Phone: (808) 586-8675 / Fax: (808) 586-8685
Email: dlir.ocs@hawaii.gov

IN REPLY, REFER TO:
OCS 24.1077

February 26, 2024

To: The Honorable Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair,
The Honorable Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Wednesday, February 28, 2024

Time: 10:01 a.m.

Place: Conference Room 211, State Capitol & Videoconference

From: 
Jovanie Domingo dela Cruz, Executive Director
DLIR – Office of Community Services

Position: Support

Re: S.B. 2787, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

I. OVERVIEW OF PROPOSED LEGISLATION

This bill would appropriate funds to the Office of Community Services (OCS) to provide for additional dedicated staff and additional program funds to direct OCS to establish an immigration services and access unit (hereinafter, sometimes “ISAU”) within OCS.

The bill would add a section to HRS Chapter 371K, which established OCS, to describe the purpose of the unit as to “promote immigrant economic self-sufficiency, community inclusion, and integration. The immigration services and access unit shall provide statewide services, coordinate with relevant government and nonprofit agencies, and approve contracts with qualified nonprofit organizations to support integration and civic engagement. The immigration services and access unit shall also be responsible for the immigrant resource centers, administration of the refugee program, and management of other programs relating to immigrants.”

The bill would appropriate sums, in amounts to be identified, for the new State fiscal year – FY 2024-2025, which starts on July 1, 2024. The funds would allow for one or more FTE staff in the ISAU plus additional funds for services to be provided by the ISAU. The bill also states that the appropriation is made in accordance with Hawaii State Constitution Art VII and HRS §§37-91 and -93 relating to appropriations that cause the general fund expenditure to be exceeded, and states that the appropriation is in the public interest and the appropriation made in this bill meets the needs addressed by the bill.

II. CURRENT LAW

The Office of Community Services (OCS) is an agency attached to the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. OCS was created by the Legislature by Act 305, SLH 1985, codified as Chapter 371K, Hawai'i Revised Statutes.

The mission of OCS is to eliminate the causes and conditions of poverty for economically disadvantaged persons, immigrants, and refugees in the State of Hawaii, by facilitating and enhancing the development, delivery, and coordination of effective programs for these persons and communities to enable them to achieve and maintain greater economic self-sufficiency and integration into Hawaii's society.

III. COMMENTS ON THE BILL

OCS supports the intent of this bill, provided that appropriations would not replace or adversely impact priorities in the Governor's Executive Budget Request.

S.B. 2787, S.D. 1, would reinforce the mandate that OCS already has pursuant to HRS Chapter 371K. Having a unit dedicated to coordinating and addressing the need of one of OCS's major service populations is very critical to ensuring that these population receives proper government and social services. The need for such coordinated services was highlighted during the recent Maui wildfires. Having the ISAU would help OCS fulfill one of its legislative mandates.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.



Testimony in support of SB 2787 SD1
RELATING TO IMMIGRANT SERVICES
Submitted by Hawai`i Friends of Civil Rights,
Co-chairs: Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki and members

Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights strongly supports SB2787 sd 1 RELATING TO IMMIGRANT SERVICES. This bill establishes and appropriates money and positions for an Immigrant Services and Access unit within the Office of Community Services, Department of Labor and Industrial Relations.

We appreciate the legislature's approval of the Filipino Legislative Caucus priorities related to immigration services the past sessions eg. HCR 169 (2021) and SB 2457(2022). We also appreciated consideration of bills in 2023 for an OCS immigrant service unit and funding (SB 812 and HB 439)

Community leaders and the legislature acknowledge that OCS resources for immigrants were significantly reduced over the years and provided recommendation and resources for immigrants and the Office of Community Service to meet its legislative mandate relating to immigrants and refugees.

We respectfully request you support SB 2787 sd1, which is one of the Filipino Legislative Caucus priority bills. SB 2787 will establish an Immigrant Services and Access unit within the Office of Community Services whose purpose is

to promote economic self-sufficiency, inclusion, and community integration for immigrants in our state. Many states and cities have an administrative organization, staffing and programs like the proposed Immigrant Services and Access.

There are over 250,000 foreign born persons in the state; nearly half of all immigrants to Hawai'i are from the Philippines (46%); Japan (8%), China (8%), Korea (7%), Micronesia (5%), Vietnam (4%) and Mexico (2%). Fifty-seven percent of Hawaii's immigrants are naturalized US citizens and many have US born children. A significant number of immigrants who are eligible for various government services have limited proficiency in English and unable to access services.

We believe an Immigrant Services and Access unit will improve OCS's capacity to serve the immigrant community who face barriers to accessing government resources and are excluded from full participation in our community. Immigrants continue to contribute to our economy and our multicultural community. We respectfully ask you to support SB 2787 sdl for it will benefit our state and immigrant communities.

Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman, co-chairs
Hawai'i Friends of Civil Service

To: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
Re: **SB 2787 SD1 – Relating to Immigration**
Hawai'i State Capitol & Via Videoconference
February 28, 2024, 10:01 AM

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members,

On behalf of Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!, I am writing in **SUPPORT of SB 2787 SD1**. This bill establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

During the pandemic, non-profit organizations like ours worked hard to help limited English proficiency (LEP) families in Hawai'i access the federal pandemic relief benefits that they were qualified for. While working on this outreach, we learned that our state departments lack resources to provide meaningful language access for LEP families, and that the federal government and national advocacy organizations do not provide translations of key documents¹ in many of the languages that are the most spoken by LEP families in Hawai'i² – such as Ilocano, Marshallese, and Chuukese.

The unit proposed by this bill would help fill such gaps. It could offer services such as English language training, translation and interpretation, workforce development training, legal services, assistance in obtaining citizenship and naturalization, and programs to learn about and access government services. This unit would also coordinate with nonprofit organizations, other immigrant-serving state agencies, and county immigrant services offices and explore all available federal resources.

As one of the states with the highest portion of foreign-born residents,³ combined with the lack of existing resources for translations of government documents and outreach materials into many of the languages that are spoken most here, Hawai'i needs to devote more resources to ensure language access to our government services than most other states do. That's why this bill is so important.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony. Please pass this bill.

Thank you,

Nicole Woo
Director of Research and Economic Policy

¹ United States Department of Agriculture Food and Nutrition Service, <https://www.fns.usda.gov/cn/translated-applications>

² Hawai'i Data Exchange Partnership, https://hawaiiidxp.org/quick_data/datastory/el

³ Statista, <https://www.statista.com/statistics/312701/percentage-of-population-foreign-born-in-the-us-by-state/>

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 9:58:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Detwiler	Testifying for Hawaii Federation of Republican Women	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 25, 2024

Testimony submitted in strong opposition to SB2787_SD1 by Jamie Detwiler, President, Hawaii Federation of Republican Women.

While the federation is in support for legal immigrants, we do not support government support for illegal immigrants.

We are a border state and understand every state has a population of illegal immigrants. We must provide assistance to the legal residents of Hawaii especially those impacted by the Maui Fire.

Hawaii provides illegal immigrants the ability to obtain Hawaii Driver's licenses and while it is illegal to register to vote, many of them do and it is not properly verified.

Please follow your oath of office and vote NO on SB2787_SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**Testimony of The Legal Clinic in
SUPPORT of SENATE BILL 2787, SENATE DRAFT 1,
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair
February 28, 2024 | 10:01 am | Conference Room 211**

Chair Dela Cruz; Vice-Chair Moriwaki; and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (“TLC”) submits this testimony in support of Senate Bill 2787, Senate Draft 1, which would establish an Immigration Services and Access Unit within the Office of Community Services of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The purpose of the new unit would be “to promote immigrant economic self-sufficiency, community inclusion, and integration.”

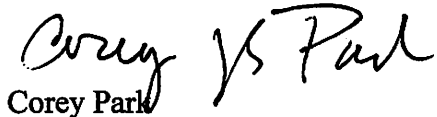
TLC, through our legal staff of three attorneys and three paralegals, provides legal and related services to Hawai‘i’s low- and moderate-income immigrant communities. While our primary function is to provide legal services, we have seen that the needs of our growing immigrant communities extend far beyond legal needs to virtually all aspects of their lives. Further, we have seen that immigrant communities encounter added difficulties, beyond those faced by other under-served communities, in accessing available resources. Factors peculiar to the immigrant community, such as language barriers and the lack of language services, and uncertainty with governmental agencies and the “system,” exacerbate their already difficult situation.

This heightened need was made clear by two recent disasters. First, the Covid-19 pandemic hit the low-income immigrant community with particular force. They were disproportionately affected by the loss of jobs, lower rates of health care coverage, higher rates of Covid-19 infection, and less access to unemployment insurance and other public benefits; this was due, in large part, to language barriers, unfamiliarity with the system, and related factors. Second, we have seen the same disproportionate impact in the Maui wildfires and aftermath. Immigrants, many of whom worked in the hotel and service industries in the Lahaina area, not only lost their jobs, homes, and possessions, but faced added difficulties in obtaining assistance because of the lack of adequate language resources. Many also lost their documents proving their legal status in the United States, which created further difficulties. Others without legal status were understandably apprehensive about applying for needed services for fear of revealing themselves to authorities. And, when they did apply, were found to be ineligible for certain services, such as those provided by the Federal Emergency Management Agency.

An effective state-wide agency could have helped alleviate some of this human suffering. Currently, only Hawai‘i County and Maui County have immigrant services offices, but with limited resources. Hawai‘i needs a state-wide agency to help provide and coordinate the resources – such as language services, workforce development training, legal services, and the like – to promote immigrant economic self-sufficiency, community inclusion and integration.

We strongly urge the adoption of Senate Bill 2787, Senate Draft 1.

Thank you.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Corey Park". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Corey Park
President, Board of Directors
The Legal Clinic



**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) is in full **support of SB2787**, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

Immigrants are significant contributors to our State's economy. With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the State must take proactive measures to support their integration. They accounted for nearly 40 percent of agricultural workers and 33 percent of tourism, entertainment, and hospitality workers. They also constitute 68 percent of housekeeping workers, over half of all chefs and head cooks, 47 percent of all nursing assistants, and 20 percent of all physicians. Furthermore, immigrants contributed \$17.6 billion to our local economy in 2018 alone. Additionally, the same year, over \$874 million from immigrant households went to state and local taxes¹. These figures underscore the significant economic impact of immigrants on our State's prosperity.

It is clear that immigrants are vital to the fabric of our communities and essential for our economy's continued growth and success. Despite their contributions, recent immigrants often

¹ *Immigrants and Migrants in Hawai'i Essential Contributors to the State's Workforce and Economy*, Partnership for a New American Economy Research Fund, research.newamericaneconomy.org/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2021/05/NAE_Hawaii_V7_FINAL.pdf.



face numerous obstacles, including language barriers, legal issues related to their immigration status, and challenges with acculturation and integration. Providing comprehensive services to address these needs is not only a matter of compassion but also of practicality and economic sense. To fully realize the potential of our immigrant population, we must provide them with the necessary support and resources for integration and success.

The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services to ensure that recent immigrants receive the support they need to thrive in our communities. Investing in immigrant integration has proven benefits for our State. Immigrants who receive support and opportunities for economic self-sufficiency contribute more effectively to our workforce and economy as mentioned in the statistics above.

Importantly, this bill is not only about providing vital services but also about fiscal responsibility. By investing in immigrant integration, we can prevent long-term costs associated with unaddressed challenges, such as reliance on public assistance or underutilization of immigrant talent and potential. Moreover, by coordinating with existing resources and nonprofit organizations, we can maximize the impact of state funding.

We urge you to support this bill and ensure its swift passage for the well-being of Hawaii and all its residents.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Maria Rallojaj

Policy and Communications Coordinator



COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Support: SB 2787

Wednesday, February 28, 2024 10:01 a.m. Conference Room 221

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

HAPA is writing in support of SB 2787, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawaii has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community. The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the successful passage of SB 2787 SD1.

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

Anne Frederick
Executive Director



World Education Services Statement of Support for SB 2787 SD1

World Education services (WES) supports SB 2787 SD1, which promotes the economic inclusion of the more than 263,904 immigrants and refugees who live in Hawaii¹ by establishing an immigration services and access unit within the office of community services in the state.

In partnership with the American Immigration Council, WES convenes the Office of New Americans (ONA) State Network: a forum for state policy leaders across the U.S. to drive transformative reforms that ensure immigrants and refugees are welcomed in their communities and have meaningful access to programs and services. State ONAs – and other offices that perform similar functions but may go by different names, such as the immigration services and access unit - improve the efficiency and efficacy of immigrant and refugee inclusion initiatives. They serve as a central hub to facilitate state-level, cross-sector coordination of services, resources, and policy development.

As U.S. immigrant and refugee populations continue to grow, so does the potential for state ONAs and similar offices to make a positive impact on local economies. With nationwide labor shortages² deepening across critical sectors, immigrant and refugee workers have become increasingly crucial to Hawaii's economy, comprising almost 21 percent of the state's workforce.³ Yet many of Hawaii's immigrants remain unemployed or underemployed, systemic barriers preventing them from fully utilizing their education and skills - including more than 27 percent of those who hold a bachelor's degree or higher.⁴ At the same time, the U.S. Chamber of Commerce classifies Hawaii's labor shortage as "more severe," with only 58 workers available for every 100 job vacancies.⁵ An immigration services and access unit can help diversify and bolster Hawaii's workforce by facilitating the transition of competent, qualified immigrant and refugee workers into the fields that need them.

¹ "Immigrants in Hawaii." American Immigration Council.

<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/hawaii/>

² "Understanding America's Labor Shortage." U.S. Chamber of Commerce, January 9, 2024.

<https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/understanding-americas-labor-shortage>.

³ "Immigrants in Hawaii." American Immigration Council.

<https://map.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/locations/hawaii/>

⁴ "State Workforce Data - US." Migration Policy Institute, 2022. <https://www.migrationpolicy.org/data/state-profiles/state/workforce/US/HI/>

⁵ "Understanding Hawaii's Labor Market." U.S. Chamber of Commerce, November 1, 2023.

<https://www.uschamber.com/workforce/the-states-suffering-most-from-the-labor-shortage?state=hi>



By establishing an immigration services and access unit within the office of community services, tasked with promoting economic mobility for immigrants and refugees, SB 2787 SD1 will provide essential support to Hawaii's efforts to address labor shortages and ensure a more inclusive workforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this statement of support.

WES is a non-profit social enterprise that supports the educational, economic, and social inclusion of immigrants, refugees, and international students. For 50 years, WES has set the standard for international academic credential evaluation, supporting millions of people as they seek to achieve their academic and professional goals. Through decades of experience as a leader in global education, WES has developed a wide range of tools to pursue social impact at scale. From evaluating academic credentials to shaping policy, designing programs, and providing philanthropic funding, we partner with a diverse set of organizations, leaders, and networks to uplift individuals and drive systems change. Together with its partners, WES enables people to learn, work, and thrive in new places.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 5:44:32 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tania victorine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Do not support civic engagement.

we already have a problem with our economy here and this will make things worse

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 6:24:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it seeks to increase further government into a problem that more government intends to hurt rather than solve. This bill shows the people that the Department of Homeland Security along with other government agencies was a waste of time being established. This bill does absolutely nothing to curb the increasing migrant problems plaguing our country. Especially in the state. Rather than listen to illegal migrants, how about listening to our natural citizens first !!!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 7:37:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sash Fitzsimmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii Residents should get government aid before any immigrants, taxpayers can not afford to help immigrants with aid

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 7:49:36 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manulani Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. Focus and funds should be used to help Maui

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 8:13:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Handog	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 8:23:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel De Costa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you are illegal migrant, you are breaking the law and not one tax dollar should be allowed to used other than deportation.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2024 10:11:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alberta Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask that you oppose SB2787 for we are not following the ways of the federal government as far as the southern border is concerned

In Liberty

Alberta Lono-Morolt

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:38:34 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leolani Mahuka iwaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:48:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:51:13 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 11:56:30 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:16:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Aguirre	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Only American citizens should be able to vote in local state and municipality elections. This should be verified with valid Government identification in person as well, ensuring the validity of the vote.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:18:49 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allocating taxpayer dollars to increasing "civic engagement" among non-citizens is outrageous. Tax dollars should go towards benefiting taxpayers. Hawaii has so many needs that are the responsibility of the government and are unmet. If we have extra money for non-citizens, how about we lighten the tax burden on citizens?

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:24:52 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Parmenter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose SB2787

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 12:54:18 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose- Utilize the immigragrations laws and use OUR tax dollars for American/Hawaiian citizens please. Our own residents are in need, our communities have needs that are not being met. Handle those first. Tired of our tax \$ being spent on things we do not want or agree with.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 1:09:17 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharron VanDeusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB2787.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:19:45 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE, this bill will allow illegal immigrants to vote in our corrupt system

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Totally oppose. The government of hawaii needs to take care of the US citizens that it's supposed to be representing, not illegals and citizens of other countries. This bill sounds like the beginnings of allowing non citizens & illegals to vote. OPPOSED

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 3:34:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlies Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our small state doesn't need to create services to illegal immigration. Come legal or go home.

WE NEED TO TAKE CARE OF OUR LAHAINA FAMILIES FIRST!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 5:37:22 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RICHARD HOLIBAUGH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern: I urge you to oppose SB 2787. Another department within our massive state bureaucracy is not needed at the expense of the taxpayer. For hundreds of years, both before and after statehood, immigrants have been successful in Hawaii. Another layer of government is not needed. In this time of high costs, lack of affordable housing, chronic homelessness, I believe our hard-earned taxes will be better used in other ways instead of creating a sub-section within an existing department. Thank you for your time.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 6:11:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislature,

OPPOSE! The only people who should be allowed to vote in the UNITED STATES OF AMERICA are the legal citizens of the USA why because we pay taxes! It's a no brainer. What happened to your common sense?

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 7:39:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. No immigrant should be afforded the same rights as a citizen. They need to take and complete the proper and legal path to citizenship and earn the rights to civil engagement afforded US citizens.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 7:41:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy MacPherson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means,

I SUPPORT SB2787 SD1.

Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 8:36:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHESTER LUM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

HB2787 should be withdrawn and no funds appropriated.

Once again, thank you for allowing me to submit testimony opposing this bill.

Chester Lum

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 10:25:08 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. America has a serious problem with corruption and lawlessness. Oppose this bill.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2024 10:43:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Yoshinaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

I oppose this bill.

Referring to the sanctuary states of Massachusetts, New York & California and sanctuary cities of Los Angeles, San Francisco, and Seattle as examples where immigration and refugee services have been established suggests that you, our elected officials, are putting us on the path of becoming a sanctuary state.

WE DO NOT WANT TO BE A SANCTUARY STATE!

Here are some examples of how immigrant programs in states mentioned in this bill are NOT working. If the mainstream national and local media were not so biased, this would already be familiar to you.

New York City Will Be Destroyed by Migrant Influx—Eric Adams

Newsweek Published Sep 07, 2023 at 8:29 AM EDT Updated Sep 08, 2023 at 8:49 AM EDT
<https://www.newsweek.com/eric-adams-migrant-influx-destroy-new-york-city-1825250>

Illegal-immigrant suspects in NYPD attack may have fled to California

By Victor Morton *The Washington Times* Thursday, February 1, 2024
<https://www.washingtontimes.com/news/2024/fab/1/illegal-immigrant-suspects-nypd-attack-may-have-fl>

LA made \$1.3B in illegal immigrant welfare payouts in just 2 years

ByTori Richards, Published September 26, 2017 Fox News
<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/la-made-1-3b-in-illegal-immigrant-welfare-payouts-in-just-2-years.print>

Illegal Migration's Effects on Wages, Prices, and Taxes

The Gateway Pundit Feb. 9, 2024 11:00 am
<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2024/02/illegal-migrations-effects-wages-prices-taxes/>

San Fran (the city littered with feces and needles) approves \$20K trash cans to be placed around city

Law Enforcement Today Posted by:Gregory Hoyt Editorial, July 26, 2021
<https://www.lawenforcementtoday.com/san-fran-the-city-littered-with-feces-and-needles-approves-20k-trash-cans-to-be-placed-around-city/>

"I Plead With You for Mercy" - Illinois Gov. JB Pritzker is The Latest Pro-Illegal Immigration Democrat to Beg Greg Abbott to stop Sending Illegals - Pritzker Previously Diverted Housing Dollars From Citizens to House Illegals

The Gateway Pundit Jan. 13, 2024 6:00 pm
<https://www.thegatewaypundit.com/2024/01/i-plead-you-mercy-illinois-gov-jb-pritzker/>

Airport Travelers Shocked by Signs Allowing Illegal Migrants to Fly Without ID

By The Politics Brief. January 21, 2024
<https://thepoliticsbrief.com/airport-travelers-shocked-by-signs-allowing-illegal-migrants-to-fly-without-id/>

Nowhere in this bill does it state that services will be available ONLY to immigrants entering the USA legally. Using the figures provided in the bill, how many of the approximately 8.5% of non-naturalized immigrants are here illegally? Our national borders are open and illegal migrants are allowed to fly anywhere in the USA without identification. It's only a matter of time that more illegal migrants and refugees find their way to Hawaii to take advantage of services paid for by our resident taxpayers. Remember when other states were sending their homeless here on a one way ticket and were enrolled in our generous welfare system? Why establish services for people who shouldn't be here in the first place?

As many of our local citizens are currently facing inflation induced economic hardship, State funding should be appropriated for services only benefiting our residents who are US citizens.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 1:29:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeff miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

1800 Syrians are here wearing Berkah's and you know in 10 years how many Arabs will try to take land and reek havoc?making babies every 8 months?!!!!

Look at Europe!!! And you want them voting? No they all must be returned to Syria. Other Asian countries who are not deemed enemies can stay after being vetted and pay taxes and pass all laws to become a citizen but untill then NoNo and No!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:57:46 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

THIS IS A HARD NO AND THANK YOU!!! STOP MAKING LAWS THAT ARE NOT HELPFUL BUT HURTFUL TO THE NATION OF HAWAII! MAY GOD HAVE MERCY ON YOUR SOULS!

CONCERNED CITIZEN

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 10:06:21 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB2787.

Our citizens need to be prioritized.

Please take care of our Lahaina residents without housing, our kūpuna that live in tents, and our keiki before giving any taxpayer money to immigrants.

Respectfully submitted

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 11:33:35 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **OPPOSE** this Bill.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 5:05:23 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition of Hawaii Senate Bill SB2787

Statement of Position: This testimony is written to express strong opposition to **Senate Bill SB2787**, which relates to the Immigration Services and Access Unit to increase civic engagement among Hawaii’s immigrants and refugees. This bill is unnecessary, costly, and harmful.

Background Information: SB2787 aims to appropriate an unspecified amount of funds for the Immigration Services and Access Unit, which is a program within the Office of Community Services under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations. The bill claims that this program is necessary to provide information, education, and assistance to immigrants and refugees in Hawaii, and to increase their civic engagement and participation. However, this bill is unnecessary, as there are already existing programs and services that address the needs and interests of immigrants and refugees in Hawaii. It is also costly, as it would spend taxpayer money on a program that has no clear goals, objectives, or outcomes. It is also harmful, as it could create a conflict of interest, a duplication of efforts, and a potential for fraud and abuse.

Specific Arguments and Evidence:

1. Unnecessariness and Existing Programs:

- SB2787 is unnecessary, as there are already existing programs and services that address the needs and interests of immigrants and refugees in Hawaii.
- [The Office of Community Services already administers several programs that provide information, education, and assistance to immigrants and refugees, such as the Immigrant Resource Centers, the Language Access Program, the Refugee Assistance Program, and the Hawaii Immigrant Justice Center1.](#)
- [The Department of Human Services also administers several programs that provide benefits and services to immigrants and refugees, such as the Med-QUEST Division, the Benefit, Employment and Support Services Division, and the Social Services Division2.](#)
- [The Department of Education also administers several programs that provide education and support to immigrant and refugee students, such as the English Learners Program, the Migrant Education Program, and the McKinney-Vento Homeless Assistance Program3.](#)

- SB2787 is unnecessary, as there are already existing programs and services that address the needs and interests of immigrants and refugees in Hawaii, and that are more appropriate and effective than the Immigration Services and Access Unit.
2. **Costliness and Funding:**
- SB2787 is costly, as it would spend taxpayer money on a program that has no clear goals, objectives, or outcomes.
 - SB2787 does not specify the amount of funds to be appropriated for the Immigration Services and Access Unit, nor does it provide any estimate of the cost or the demand for such funds.
 - SB2787 does not establish any criteria or standards for the quality, quantity, variety, or distribution of the information, education, and assistance to be provided by the Immigration Services and Access Unit, nor does it require any monitoring or evaluation of the effectiveness or impact of the program.
 - SB2787 does not demonstrate any clear benefit or return on investment for the Immigration Services and Access Unit, nor does it justify the need for additional funding for the program.
 - SB2787 is costly, as it would spend taxpayer money on a program that has no clear goals, objectives, or outcomes, and that does not provide any accountability or transparency.
3. **Harmfulness and Conflict of Interest:**
- SB2787 is harmful, as it could create a conflict of interest, a duplication of efforts, and a potential for fraud and abuse.
 - [SB2787 could create a conflict of interest, as the Immigration Services and Access Unit would be under the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, which is also responsible for enforcing labor laws and regulations, including those that affect immigrants and refugees, such as wage and hour, occupational safety and health, and workers' compensation laws⁴.](#)
 - SB2787 could create a duplication of efforts, as the Immigration Services and Access Unit would overlap with the existing programs and services that provide information, education, and assistance to immigrants and refugees, as mentioned above, and that are under different departments and agencies.
 - SB2787 could create a potential for fraud and abuse, as the Immigration Services and Access Unit would have access to sensitive and confidential information of immigrants and refugees, such as their immigration status, personal identification, and financial records, and that could be misused or exploited by unscrupulous individuals or entities.
 - SB2787 is harmful, as it could create a conflict of interest, a duplication of efforts, and a potential for fraud and abuse, and that could jeopardize the rights, interests, and welfare of immigrants and refugees in Hawaii.

Conclusion: This testimony urges the legislature to reject SB2787. This bill is unnecessary, costly, and harmful, as it would appropriate funds for the Immigration Services and Access Unit to increase civic engagement among Hawaii's immigrants and refugees. This bill is unnecessary, as there are already existing programs and services that address the needs and interests of immigrants and refugees in Hawaii. It is also costly, as it would spend taxpayer money on a

program that has no clear goals, objectives, or outcomes. It is also harmful, as it could create a conflict of interest, a duplication of efforts, and a potential for fraud and abuse.

This testimony is written in opposition to this bill.

Mahalo,

Larry Duclayan

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:02:16 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry Murakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:41:06 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peggy Regentine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I totally disagree with giving immigrants rights that legal immigrants have worked for and earned. Vote No on this bill.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:52:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this legislation.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 7:58:55 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANTHONY M GAIRNESE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. There is a process that new LEGAL immigrants must follow which they are educated to the American civic and political processes, however no illegal immigrant shall ever vote in local, state and federal elections until citizenship is EARNED.

Anthony M. Gairnese

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:16:59 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2787.

Thank you,

Teri Savaiinaea

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 8:27:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivek Pathela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE! Illegal immigrants NEVER get the rights of a US citizen. Get the latest influx of Biden's illegal immigrants **OUT OF THE COUNTRY!** Never give them voting privileges that give the DNC and DEMs their ability to **RIG and STEAL ELECTIONS** again. Hawaii is ranked the **WORST** in the US in Election Integrity!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2024 10:38:37 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB2787. We should be helping our own homeless who you guys created. Making more government agencies "Immigration Services" is only growing our greedy government. That's why Hawaii is voted once again as the most Corrupt State in America!!! Keep going in that direction well be nuba 1 for eva!!!! Sad but True.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:38:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernelle Oku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Please do not use taxpayer funds for more illegal alien programs.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:18:01 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, because the Statues should focus put more money and resources to help Maui Lahaina fire victims.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:14:20 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why increase immigration services? We are over populated and are living pay check to pay check. The infrastructure cant support anymore. This is ridiculous. Especially if these means voting, we dont need illegal immigrants to illegally vote. Take care of the people of Hawai'i first!

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 7:36:53 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Gillard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Put those resources to the Hawaiians and the ones born here. Once the people of Hawaii are taken care of and doing good, than spend our tax dollars on helping others.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:02:12 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose to Bill SB2787 SD1

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:11:54 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you are not a citizen in the United States, then legally you don't truly have a say in our elections and politics. Because someone who's not a U.S. citizen cannot vote, they can't really engage in our elections in any way.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:25:14 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joelle Seashell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This proposal is unacceptable.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:43:39 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly Oppose SB2787!

Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:44:24 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB 2787

non citizens should have no rights

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:51:08 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 8:54:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoë Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:03:55 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2787

unless you are a legal, English speaking citizen of the USA you should not get a license, vote or hold office.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:32:03 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Masunaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. Tax dollors to immigrants like CA or NY is bad idea. How about supporting US citizens and Hawaii residents first . Do not pass this bill

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:32:57 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose sb2787

voting, holding office, enlisting in military and driving a vehicle are American citizen rights only. Not illegals that cannot speak English,

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:34:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 9:47:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Masunaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No , oppose !! We cannot be funding illegal immigrants . If. this is passed we will be attractiong more illegal immigration and other states will send illegals to us . NO , OPPOSE !

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:56:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2787, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawaii has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community. The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the successful passage of SB2787.

me ke aloha 'āina,

Nanea Lo, Mō'ili'ili, O'ahu

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 12:02:57 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ro Kaing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immigrants and refugees should not have the same rights as birth or naturalized citizens. The very nature of immigration is change, it cannot be predicted if an immigrant will remain in the U.S. If an immigrant becomes a naturalized citizens, at that point in time the individual will have voting rights. My parents are refugees that immigrated to America. Taxpayers and citizens should have voting rights and amenities provided by tax dollars.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:11:26 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nyla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE BILL SB2787

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:14:54 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominic	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL SB2787

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 1:37:21 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AnnDionne Selestin	Testifying for Roots Reborn	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787

RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2787, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawaii has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community. The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse

needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services.

Being an immigrant child who struggled in school , finding a job and so much more ,I support this bill. The numbers are rising and we are hardworkers, fast learners , we just need help in understanding the new. New language , new land , new people . Lets work together and rise one another.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the successful passage of SB2787.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

AnnDionne Selestin

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2787, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

As a first-generation immigrant, I intimately understand the challenges of adapting to a new country, especially when unforeseen crises arise, such as the COVID-19 pandemic.

When the pandemic hit, I was working at a restaurant where many of my coworkers, predominantly immigrants who had arrived in the United States within the last five years, suddenly found themselves unemployed. Unfortunately, most were unaware of their eligibility for unemployment benefits. Recognizing this, I took it upon myself to educate them about the available resources and guide them through the application process. I assisted them with navigating the online system, understanding their claims, and provided ongoing support. This proactive intervention proved crucial in preventing financial insecurity and helping them stay afloat during uncertain times.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawaii has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community.

This experience underscores the pressing need for a dedicated office to support immigrant services. Many immigrants, like my coworkers, lack awareness of the assistance programs and benefits accessible to them. Establishing a centralized hub where they can access accurate information and receive tailored support would be invaluable. Given our state's significant immigrant population, it is essential to cultivate a welcoming and inclusive environment that empowers immigrants and fosters their integration into their new communities.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the successful passage of SB2787.

Thank you for your support and consideration,
Maria Rallojaj

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 6:50:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 10:43:04 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2024 11:08:33 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Villalobos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787

RELATING TO IMMIGRATION

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2787, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawaii has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community. The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services.

Knowing all of those facts you cannot simply ignore it. I'm from Lahaina Maui as an immigrant daughter brought here for a better life. I am thankful I did have a better life. The person that had a hard time was my mother. There was a lack of language support for her. She was able to get her citizenship. However, she found out about it through word of mouth, and even then did not understand what she was doing. There was and is a lack of resources. When the fires happened I didn't realize how much my people suffered. There's a huge lack of language access and it goes for all the communities. It was very difficult for everyone and still is. This bill will create access to knowledge. It will empower the community. After so much tragedy let's not make more mistakes and take care of these people. They contribute so much to the communities. Making Hawai'i a special place to live.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the successful passage of SB2787.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Stephanie Villalobos

Roots Reborn

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 8:26:27 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thaddeus Pham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and WAM Committee Members,

As the child of refugees and contributing citizen, I write in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB2787 SD1, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawai'i's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawai'i has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community. The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services.

In both my professional and personal life, I have witnessed the many needs of our immigrant communities, as well as the significant contributions they make to our local communities, both financially and culturally.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration of this bill.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 9:33:09 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Haleyalpiy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i is a beautiful melting pot with people from all corners of the world. Whatever their reason for coming to these islands, it is part of what makes this place so beautiful. As a son of immigrants, I have seen all the struggles that comes with integrating into a new society, a new culture, basically a new life. My parents and many of my uncles and aunties learned through trial and error. They did their best to keep their head down and do what needed to be done to provide for our families. I strongly support bill SB2787 for it offers a welcoming hope to a new chapter of their lives. It will make navigating social services easier and understanding different processes involved with everyday tasks like seeking employment or healthcare. The money allotted to unit within the office of community services as mentioned in the bill will be well worth the investment by the state as these people will seek to attain employment and contribute to our economy. The bill already references data as it describes different sectors and the percentage of employees in these sectors that our immigrants. These numbers already show the active contribution immigrants are making to the state. Let's foster their growth. Your ancestors will be proud as I am willing to wager that everyone listening/reading this testimony are immigrants within at least the past three generations of your family.

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 10:05:43 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmeline Macanas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE BILL SB2787. This BIL is NOT NECESSARY and should not move forward. Kill this BILL!! This is taxpayers money and it should be allocated somewhere else for we the people.

LATE

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2024 11:09:41 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james pirtle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not consent

LATE

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2787
RELATING TO IMMIGRATION
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair**

Hearing Date: February 28, 2024

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of SB2787, which establishes within the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations' Office of Community Services the Immigration Services and Access Unit.

With immigrants comprising eighteen percent of Hawaii's population, the state must take proactive measures to support their integration. The need for comprehensive services for immigrants is evident, considering the various issues they encounter upon arrival, ranging from language access and legal matters to acculturation challenges and employment searches. Hawaii has a significant number of new immigrants every year, as well as 18 percent of the population comprising immigrants, who have played an essential role in contributing to the state's economy, workforce, and community. The proposed Immigration Services and Access Unit will play a pivotal role in addressing the diverse needs of immigrants, including English language training, legal services related to immigration status, and support for accessing government services.

Nationwide the workforce is upheld by immigrants. It is important that we invest in our Hawaii workforce by establishing a Immigration Services and Access Unit. For our economy to thrive it is important that we create equitable opportunities for all residents. The unit will support our community in ways they have never received before. As an advocate of the immigrant community, this unit would provide resources that are needed.

Thank you for your attention to this matter, and I look forward to the successful passage of SB2787.

Thank you for your support and consideration,
Genesis Gil

KAIBIGAN NG LAHAINA

LATE



February 27, 2024

Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Sen. Sharon Moriwaki, Vice-Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways & Means

Re: S.B. 2787, S.D. 1 – Relating to Immigration

Dear Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means,

Kaibigan ng Lahaina is a community organization established after the August 8, 2023, Lahaina Wildfires with the mission to promote and facilitate the relief, recovery and revitalization of the Filipino community in Lahaina. We are the only Filipino-based organization established in the wake of the wildfire to comprise of Lahaina residents. We would like to offer testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of S.B. 2787, S.D. 1.

Immigrants in Lahaina are facing daunting circumstances in wake of the August 2023 wildfire. As we attempt to grasp the long-standing challenges that face our community, we must dedicate special attention to how these challenges affect our immigrant community members, many of whom play important contributing roles in the economic and social fabric of Lahaina. With nearly half of the Lahaina community being of Filipino descent and the multi-ethnic make up of our community including Tongan, Samoan, Latino, Micronesian, Vietnamese immigrants and others, we fully understand that the proposal in this bill is designed to assist immigrants in economic self-sufficiency and community integration. The rebuilding of Lahaina cannot be achieved without these individuals and families and by empowering their ability to sustain livelihoods in Lahaina, not only do you help to enrich the quality of our community but within the state as well.

Many immigrants bring forth valuable contributions not only in the aspect of economy through the tourism and hospitality and services industries; but also, we are formidable in attempts to bring forth unity, diversity and compassion through our cultural heritages. Facilitating these programs that will aide immigrants to become contributors to communities is vital for the long-term successes in our state and we attest this is a necessary component for Lahaina's recovery. Many immigrants relocate to Lahaina in search of greater opportunities, and we have personally seen how our immigrant population has positively affected our town. Immigrant groups and entrepreneurs who provided immediate aide to feed and support our community immediately after the fires was evident and welcomed as we grappled with the urgent need for these necessities. We have witnessed so much gratitude and graciousness from immigrant businesses and organizations and it is our belief that services that support their successes ultimately leads to the success our town, our county and the entire state of Hawaii. Yet so many do not receive the assistance and services they need and proceed under the radar due to fears of deportation, exclusion, condescension and financial unviability. We are fully aware of the overwhelming challenges recovery in Lahaina is facing and recognize these challenges are exponentially arduous for our immigrant community members. Support as proposed in S.B. 2787 would greatly benefit our community and relieve the weight of uncertainty for many.

Therefore, we heartily support this measure, asking for the passage of S.B. 2787.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this crucial measure.

Sincerely,

Debbie Andres-Arellano

Eric Arquero

Ryan Corpuz

Sieny Corpuz

Cindy Lulu

Tiffany Somera

Nestor Ugale, Jr.

Board Members for Kaibigan ng Lahaina



LATE

SB-2787-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2024 4:20:17 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/28/2024 10:01:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Vailisale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support bill.