

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



KEITH T. HAYASHI
SUPERINTENDENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/21/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 1118, HD1 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Purpose of Bill: Prohibits new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawai'i State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1118, HD1, which proposes to repeal non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements for school attendance in Hawai'i.

The Department defers to the Department of Health (DOH) on public health and safety matters and is committed to maintaining a safe, healthy, and accessible learning environment. Immunization requirements help protect school communities, and if the DOH determines that revoking exemptions is necessary due to increased health risks, the Department will comply to safeguard students and staff.

The Department recognizes that changes to exemption policies may impact families with religious objections to vaccination, potentially affecting the educational access for some students. Any decision on these changes will require careful consideration by the DOH and legislature. The Department remains committed to balancing public health and educational access for all students.

The provision on page 4, lines 3-7, which ensures that students qualifying for an Individualized Education Program under federal and state law are able to access special education services, is

appreciated. Should the measure move forward, the Department respectfully requests the following revision for the purpose of clarity:

Page 4, line 8: amend as “for an individualized education [~~action~~] program pursuant to”.

The Department remains committed to promoting inclusive policies that ensure all students have access to quality education. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to continued collaboration to support the diverse needs of students in Hawai'i.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA

PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 21, 2025

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Tarnas, and Committee members:

SUBJECT: HB1118 HD1 Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1118 HD1** which prohibits new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

This legislation is critical for maintaining high immunization rates and ensuring herd immunity, a vital protective measure for individuals with developmental disabilities who may be medically unable to receive vaccines. Herd immunity is essential for safeguarding those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions such as immunodeficiency disorders, complex health needs, or treatments that weaken the immune system. For individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom rely on specialized healthcare and support services, exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases can lead to severe, even fatal, health complications. Maintaining a high community vaccination rate is the most effective way to prevent outbreaks and protect our most vulnerable residents.

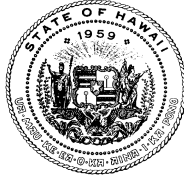
The increasing trend of non-medical exemptions, as cited in the bill, is eroding this critical layer of protection. In the 2023-2024 school year, non-medical exemptions more than doubled compared to previous years, weakening the herd immunity that individuals with developmental disabilities depend on to safely participate in schools, workplaces, and community settings. Without strong immunization coverage, we risk outbreaks that disproportionately harm those least able to fight infections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1118 HD1**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1118 H.D. 1
RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

REPRESENTATIVE DAVID A. TARNAS, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, February 21, 2025, 3:00 PM, Room Number: 325

Fiscal Implications: Elimination of non-medical exemptions to school entry and attendance requirements would serve to improve immunization rates; thereby increasing community-wide protection from vaccine-preventable diseases and ultimately reducing costs related to medical care and treatment, potential hospitalization, reduced work days or loss of employment due to illness or child-care needs, and Departmental outbreak investigation and response activities.

Department Position: The Department strongly supports this measure and offers comments. The purpose of this measure is to provide a safe and healthy learning environment for all children in Hawaii. Immunizations are our best defense against preventing severe disease and death from a wide range of infectious diseases. In Hawaii, vaccines have prevented an estimated 3,876 deaths, 112,752 hospitalizations, and 1,789,945 illnesses over the past decade. However, if recent declines in immunization coverage continue, we could again see a rise in illness and death in our state.

During the 2023-24 school year, Hawaii's overall non-medical exemption rate grew to 5.3% with 55 of 382 schools reporting non-medical exemption rates exceeding 10% of their student populations. Decreasing immunization coverage due to rising rates of exemptions which have no medical basis increases the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be

1 potentially fatal to children who attend school. While immunizations reduce risk of severe
2 illness for everyone, this trend is especially concerning for students with medical conditions
3 who are unable to be immunized and who must rely on their vaccinated peers to prevent the
4 introduction of vaccine preventable diseases in their schools.

5 All 50 U.S. states including Hawaii currently have school entry vaccination requirements. This
6 measure does not alter which vaccines are required for school entry in Hawaii. Of note, neither
7 COVID-19 nor influenza vaccines are required for school entry in Hawaii. What this measure
8 does is remove non-medical exemptions to existing school vaccination requirements. There are
9 5 states that only allow medical exemptions to their vaccination requirements: California,
10 Connecticut, Maine, New York, and West Virginia.

11 The elimination of non-medical exemptions proposed in this measure applies only to students
12 newly entering Hawaii schools or newly requesting a non-medical exemption to vaccination
13 requirements for attendance at a school in Hawaii. It does not impact students who already
14 have an approved exemption. If implemented now, this measure can help us re-establish herd
15 immunity to protect our community against life-threatening communicable diseases, hopefully
16 before we experience a large-scale outbreak. If this measure is not implemented the likelihood
17 of a large-scale outbreak is high. In the event of a large-scale outbreak, removal of non-medical
18 exemptions might need to be pursued more rapidly and comprehensively on an emergency
19 basis, which could be more disruptive to students that already have an approved non-medical
20 exemption.

21 The American Academy of Family Physicians, American Academy of Pediatrics, American
22 College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American Medical
23 Association, American Nurses Association, Infectious Diseases Society of America, National
24 Association of County and City Health Officials, National Association of Pediatric Nurse
25 Practitioners, Pediatric Infectious Diseases Society, and Society for Healthcare Epidemiology of

1 America all endorse reduction or elimination of non-medical exemptions to school and
2 childcare vaccination requirements.

3 Maintaining the highest level of safety for Hawaii's keiki is crucial. Elimination of non-medical
4 exemptions would provide a significant level of protection for all keiki attending schools in
5 Hawaii.

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

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualī'i, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Fern Holland
Arryl Kaneshiro



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Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
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Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Līhu'e, Kaua'i, Hawai'i 96766

February 20, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF FELICIA COWDEN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**HB 1118, HD 1, RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Friday, February 21, 2025

3:00 p.m.

Conference Room 325

Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **OPPOSITION** of HB 1118, HD 1, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kaua'i County Council and the Public Safety & Human Services Committee Chair of the Kaua'i County Council.

HB 1118, HD 1 is of broad concern to a number of parents in Kaua'i County as it infringes on personal freedoms, parental rights, and religious liberties. Medical decisions, including vaccination, should remain a matter of personal choice, guided by informed consent. Eliminating non-medical exemptions would force individuals to undergo medical procedures against their deeply held religious beliefs or personal convictions. This is a concerning overreach of government authority.

In my personal experience, I had a child admittedly injured by the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) shot, as was evident in the doctor's office. Another child showed symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and Dyslexia in early childhood, without necessarily a clear tie-in to his vaccinations obtained up to kindergarten. I chose to homeschool my sons for middle school and sent them to private high school to avoid the vaccine risk. No parent should have to choose between their child's safety and education. My older son fortunately grew out of his ADHD, and my children have been healthy as only having half of their vaccine schedule. Everyone should have this freedom.

Chair Tarnas and Members of the Committee

Re: HB 1118, HD 1, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization
Requirements

February 20, 2025

Page 2

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HB 1118, HD 1. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicia Cowden". The script is cursive and fluid, with the first name and last name clearly legible.

FELICIA COWDEN

Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:slr

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:20:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica dias	Free Citizens of Maunaloa	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. It is unconstitutional in addition to violating the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which prohibits religious discrimination. This bill is also in violation of Hawaii public accommodations laws that prohibit discrimination. Stop colonizing the children of Hawaii!



HIPHI Board

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Garret Sugai
HMSA

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John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
Hawaiian Research Office

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: February 19, 2025

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: Support for HB 1118 HD1, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to
Immunization Requirements

Hrg: Friday, February 21, 2025, at 3:00 PM, Conference Room 325

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ **supports HB 1118 HD1**, which repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Immunization is critical to public safety. Vaccines can prevent common diseases that seriously harm or cause the death of infants, children, and adults. The direct benefits of vaccination in reducing disease morbidity and mortality in a cost-effective manner have been well-established by medical research.

Benefits of Immunization

According to a landmark study published by The Lancet in 2024, vaccination has likely averted 154 million deaths since 1974, including 146 million among children younger than 5 years old and 101 million infants.²

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called immunization "one of modern medicine's greatest success stories." The WHO notes that immunization not only protects public health, but also advances broader gains in education and economic development worldwide.³

An analysis conducted by researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the Center for Disease Dynamics found that preventing vaccine-preventable infectious diseases helps avert associated out-of-pocket medical expenses, healthcare provider costs, and losses in wages of patients and caregivers, while improving cognition, school attainment, and long-term economic productivity.⁴

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00850-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00850-X/fulltext)

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization>

⁴ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7482790/#:~:text=Childhood%20vaccines%20save%20an%20estimated,1990%20to%2029%20in%202018.>



Immunization Is Safe

Vaccines are safe for public use, including for our keiki. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), new vaccines are extensively lab-tested to ensure that they are medically secure. Once clinical trials involving people begin, it can often take years of additional testing before a vaccine is licensed. After a vaccine is licensed, the Food and Drug Administration, CDC, National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies rigorously monitor potential safety concerns.⁵

Unfortunately, our state is currently experiencing an increase in respiratory viruses, which health officials believe may be attributable to declining vaccination rates across the islands, especially among students. According to the Department of Health, of 382 schools reporting for the 2023-2024 school year, 282 schools, or nearly 75%, have more than 5% of their students not up to date on vaccines, of which 36 schools reported that over half of their students are missing required immunizations.⁶

DOH officials have also stated that Hawai'i's 2022-2023 kindergarten MMR vaccine coverage rate is about 86%, which is nearly 10% lower than the 95% coverage recommended for community protection by the CDC. Hawai'i had the largest increase in exemptions in the U.S. for non-medical kindergarten vaccines from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year.⁷ Currently, California, Mississippi, and West Virginia do not allow non-medical vaccine exemptions, as this bill proposes.⁸

An uptick in unvaccinated students could lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including illnesses like measles. To keep our state safe from preventable illness, we urge your committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nate Hix".

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/reasons/index.html>

⁶ <https://www.khon2.com/local-news/rising-illnesses-dropping-vaccines-hawaii-faces-a-winter-health-crisis>

⁷ <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2024/03/06/doh-warns-hawaii-measles>

⁸ <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements#:~:text=California%20removed%20its%20personal%20and%20religious%20exemption%20option%20in%202015.>



Where LGBTQIA+ Rights Meet the Labor Movement
A constituency group of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO

February 19, 2025

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hawai'i State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Friday, February 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for House Bill 1118 HD 1**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work - Hawai'i strongly supports House Bill 1118 HD 1, which seeks to prohibit new non-medical exemptions for required immunizations among school-aged children. As an organization committed to advocating for the rights and well-being of LGBTQIA+ workers and their families, we believe this bill is critical to safeguarding public health, ensuring equity in healthcare, and protecting vulnerable communities across our state.

Vaccination has long been recognized as one of the most effective public health measures in preventing the spread of infectious diseases. By limiting exemptions to only medically necessary cases, HB 1118 will help ensure higher immunization rates, reduce the risk of disease outbreaks, and protect those who are immunocompromised or unable to be vaccinated for legitimate medical reasons. This is especially crucial for LGBTQIA+ individuals, many of whom already face systemic barriers to healthcare and are more likely to experience health disparities.

Furthermore, maintaining strong immunization requirements aligns with the principles of community responsibility and collective well-being. Schools should be safe spaces for all children, free from preventable health risks. By closing loopholes that allow non-medical exemptions, Hawai'i can uphold its commitment to public health, science-based policy, and the welfare of its keiki.

We urge this committee to pass HB 1118 and take this vital step toward protecting Hawai'i's future generations. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)
President
[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



**Church of Satan
Coeur d'Alene Chapter
415 Sherman Ave
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814**

***Lex Talionis*
'Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law'**

20th of Adar I, 5785

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

Thank you for the opportunity to **provide comments on HB 1118**. We are the Coeur d'Alene Chapter of the Church of Satanism and we have grave concerns about the precedent this bill sets for religious groups across the country. Our chapter is active in submitting testimony across the country on measures like HB 1118 to provide a guiding light and a unique perspective to state legislators grappling with the challenges of living in a multi-polar and democratic society with freedom as its core tenet. We see the need to speak out and we are Legion.

While we as a Humanist organization and a 501(c)(3) religious organization firmly believe in the merits of vaccinations as a monumental human achievement and a beacon of reason in an age of increasing tenebrosity and obscurantism, our comments must relate specifically to the precedent set through removing religious exemptions from the implementation of school immunization requirements.

We are a chapter of an oft-reviled religion, particularly in our fundamentalist-majority section of the country here in Northern Idaho. The majority of our Chapter are either foreign-born and newly minted U.S. citizens originating in Middle Eastern countries ruled with an iron-fist by fundamentalists with their own interpretation of Sharia Law or, similarly, ex-Mormons. Our freedom to practice our religion is tenuous at best, and any laws that reduce religious exemptions in heretical Democratic-led states such as Hawai'i set a precedent for the majority fundamentalist population in Idaho.

We believe these measures that ban religious exemptions for majority religions such as Christianity represent a grave danger to our top policy priority, which is gaining religious exemptions in our 'Heart Beat Bill' state for our religion's practice of authorizing¹, and encouraging, free and fair access to voluntary abortions for the women that make up our faithful congregants.

Religion plays a role in every facet of life here in Northern Idaho. If these exemptions are reduced in liberal safe-havens across the country, minority religious groups such as the Church of Satanism

¹ We'd like to note that our core tenet is not that our congregants are required to obtain permission from our church, but that under the tenets of our religion they are absolutely free to do as they choose.



**Church of Satan
Coeur d'Alene Chapter
415 Sherman Ave
Coeur d'Alene, ID 83814**

***Lex Talionis
'Do what thou wilt shall be the whole of the Law'***

have no recourse to freely practice our human-centered religion and all the rights we are entitled under Amendment I of the Constitution as Americans.

We trust that the Committee will make the right choice to protect children. Thank you again for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Hail Satan,

George Soros
Director of Government Relations
Church of Satanism, Coeur d'Alene Chapter



Hail Satan

Friday, February 21, 2025 at 3:00 PM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 325

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony In Support Of HB 1118, HD1
Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of HB 1118, HD1 which prohibits non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children.

Immunization is an important tool to protect children against many common as well as serious illnesses. High immunization rates at schools are especially important for medically fragile children. Some children have conditions that affect their immunity, such as illnesses that require chemotherapy. These children cannot be safely immunized, and, at the same time, they are less able to fight off illness when they are infected. They depend on herd immunity for their health and their lives. In Hawaii for the 2023-2024 school year, 296 students had a medical exemption from immunization; they were unable to get immunized due to a medical condition and relied on herd immunity to attend school safely.

Decreasing immunization coverage due to non-medical exemptions increases the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be fatal to some children. Minimizing exemptions from school immunization requirements would improve the health and safety of school-aged keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



TESTIMONY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
HB1118_HD1 RELATED TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION
REQUIREMENTS
Friday, February 21, 2025, at 3:00 PM, State Capitol Conference Room 325

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

HB1118_HD1 is a direct violation of our rights found in the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution. Furthermore, any law that is repugnant to the Constitution is void and unenforceable.

U.S. Constitution

Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well-informed conscience. As a retired health care professional and a consumer of health care, we are entitled to Informed Consent and have the right to refuse any medical intervention including immunizations in any circumstance.

Hawaii State Constitution

Article I. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION

Section 4. **No** law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances

HB1118_HD1 proposes:

1. to ELIMINATE this section from current HRS Law, SECTION 2. Section 302A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes: "If any parent, custodian, guardian, or any other person in loco parentis of a child objects to immunization in writing on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with that person's bona fide religious tenets and practices. Upon showing the appropriate school, official satisfactory evidence of the exemption, no certificate or other evidence of immunization shall be required for entry into school.
2. to ADD: The department of health pursuant to chapter 91 may adopt rules that it deems necessary for public health and safety. (This gives the Department of Health authority over parent's medical decisions for their children)
3. to ADD: no objection (from parent/guardian) shall be recognized when, in the opinion of the director of health, there is danger of an epidemic from any communicable disease." (This gives all power to the Director of Health, p.12)

Please preserve our constitutional right of freedom of religious liberty and our God-given inalienable rights.

May I respectfully remind you of your Oath of Office. Please vote NO on HB1118_HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:04:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina L Everett	PROJECT NEHEMIAH HAWAII	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This bill infringes on our first amendment rights by disregarding deeply religious beliefs. This bill will grant government excessive control over personal medical decisions. If this pass it will be a stepping stone to control religious freedom in other areas. We oppose this bill HB1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:04:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J KAUWALU	Outlawz Athletics	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Justin Kauwalu

PO BOX 1132

Wai'anae, HI 96792

8083087965

Outlawz96792@yahoo.com

02/19/25

To:

Hawaii State Legislature

Josh Green

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S. Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB 1113 “Concerning Vaccine Mandates

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to respectfully express my strong opposition to HB 1113 regarding vaccine requirements in the state of Hawaii. My opposition is rooted in both deeply held religious beliefs and personal experiences that have profoundly shaped my perspective on this matter.

As a person of faith, I believe that decisions regarding medical interventions, including vaccinations, are deeply personal and should be made in accordance with one conscience and religious convictions. Many religious traditions emphasize the sanctity of the body and the importance of making health-related decisions based on divine guidance. Forcing or coercing individuals to receive vaccines against their beliefs undermines religious freedom, a fundamental right protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

Additionally, my personal experiences have further solidified my stance. My eldest has experienced severe side effects as you yourself can read upon yourself listed all these ingredients injected, in the inserts of every vaccine upon receiving them or someone close to me, experienced adverse effects from a vaccine, which led me to approach vaccines with caution. This experience made me realize the importance of preserving medical choice and bodily autonomy. The complexities surrounding medical decisions should remain between individuals, their families, and healthcare providers not mandated by the government.

While I understand the intent behind vaccine policies to protect public health, I firmly believe that such efforts should not infringe upon individual rights and religious liberties. There are alternative measures that can be taken to ensure public safety without compromising personal freedoms.

I respectfully urge you to consider the broader implications of HB 1113 on our diverse community, where respecting religious beliefs and individual rights is essential. Hawaiian strength lies in its cultural and spiritual diversity, and any legislation that threatens these freedoms should be carefully reconsidered.

Thank you for your time and attention to my testimony. I sincerely hope you will vote against HB 1113 and stand for the rights of all Hawaii residents to make informed and voluntary medical decisions.

Sincerely,

Justin Kauwalu

Owner, founder, coach

Community aspiring

Let me know if you'd like to adjust the personal experience section or add more specific points related to the bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:10:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Tautofi	Aloha 1st Athletics	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Coach David Tautofi

Educator | Coach | Proud Father | Family Advocate | Athletic Ambassador for the State of Hawaii

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

My name is Coach David Tautofi, and I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. As an educator, coach, proud father, family advocate, and Athletic Ambassador for the State of Hawaii, I am deeply concerned about the overreach of this bill and the contradictions it presents in our state's approach to bodily autonomy, personal rights, scientific integrity, and the financial impact on public education.

1. Contradicting the 'My Body, My Choice' Argument

Time and time again, we hear the argument "My body, my choice" used in legislation and political discourse—especially when it comes to abortion rights and transgender policies. The Democratic Party has been a strong advocate for individual autonomy over medical and personal decisions, yet HB1118 contradicts this very principle. If a woman has the right to choose an abortion because it is her body, then why should parents not have the right to make medical decisions for their children? Bodily autonomy cannot be selectively applied based on political convenience.

2. Selective Use of Science

Supporters of HB1118 claim they are "following the science" by mandating vaccines for school-aged children, yet this same commitment to science disappears when it comes to basic biological truths. The same policymakers who push for "science-based" vaccine mandates are the ones who

deny the biological reality of gender, refusing to acknowledge the definition of a woman in legislative debates. You cannot pick and choose when to apply science based on political preference. If science is the foundation for HB1118, then why is it ignored in other policies that challenge biological and medical realities?

3. Stripping Parental Rights and Personal Freedoms

HB1118 takes away the rights of parents to make critical medical decisions for their own children. Religious and personal belief exemptions have long been recognized as a fundamental right in this country, and this bill dangerously erodes that freedom. If the government can force vaccinations on children today, what medical mandates will come next? Where does it stop?

4. The Financial Impact on Public Schools

Beyond the ethical and constitutional issues, HB1118 will have serious financial consequences for Hawaii's public schools. Many parents who oppose vaccine mandates will choose to pull their children from the public school system, opting for homeschooling, private schools, or even moving out of state.

- Lower Enrollment = Less State and Federal Funding – Hawaii's public schools receive funding based on student enrollment numbers. If thousands of families withdraw their children, the state will lose millions of dollars in per-student funding, leading to budget cuts, teacher layoffs, and reduced resources for the remaining students.
- Widening Educational Inequality – Families with financial means will find alternatives, while low-income families who cannot afford private education may be forced to comply against their beliefs, creating a two-tiered education system based on who can afford choice.

All while risking the chances that education will be less accessible to lower income families.

5. Federal Funding Risks Due to Recent Executive Order

On February 14, 2025, President Donald Trump signed an executive order titled "Keeping Education Accessible and Ending COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in Schools". This order prohibits the use of discretionary federal funds to support educational institutions that require COVID-19 vaccinations for in-person attendance. It directs the Secretary of Education to issue guidelines to schools regarding their legal obligations concerning parental authority, religious freedom, disability accommodations, and equal protection under the law, as they relate to coercive COVID-19 school mandates. Within 90 days, a plan is to be provided to end such

mandates, including a list of federal grants and contracts to non-compliant institutions and a process to prevent federal funds from being provided to them.

HB1118's mandate on vaccinations could place Hawaii's public schools at risk of losing essential federal funding, as it directly conflicts with this executive order. The financial ramifications of such a loss would be devastating, further exacerbating the issues outlined above.

In conclusion, the people of Hawaii believe in bodily autonomy, parental rights, scientific integrity, and the sustainability of public education,. This is why HB1118 should not move forward. This bill will not only violate personal freedoms but also weaken our public education system, driving families away and costing the state millions in lost funding.

I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead focus on education, awareness, and respectful dialogue with families rather than imposing mandates that contradict the very values our state claims to uphold.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Coach David Tautofi

Educator | Coach | Proud Father | Family Advocate | Athletic Ambassador for the State of Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:47:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa A. Aiona	Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am stronly against HB1118... the poison in the covid shot killed my husband... My children and grandchildren are now without their dad/grandpa.... There is NO WAY that shot (never qualified to be a "vaccine") should be given to anyone. The idea of making it manatory for children to be able to attend public school.. is insane ~ People will leave the Island.... Please vote NO to this bill

Thank you

Melissa Aiona

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:56:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nana Nishimura	Nana's Early Childcare	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a family childcare provider. Some child does not get vaccinated but they can have a childcare support if they submitted the exemption form. I hope people can choose have a vaccine or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:44:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Kahiapo	Pono Records	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for receiving my testimony. I would like to express my extreme opposition to this bill, which is, as we all know, unconstitutional and violates the rights of every citizen of the United States of America.

It will be an extreme hardship on families that have true religious convictions to have to pull their children out of school. With something so invasive is putting ingredients into our children's bodies, there needs to be a choice.

Mahalo,

Laura Kahiapo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:21:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauilani Perdomo	Retore Aloha	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

We stand in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for immunization. As Hawaiians, we understand the deep kuleana (responsibility) of caring for our keiki (children) in a way that honors both our ‘ohana and our cultural beliefs. This bill disregards the fundamental right to uphold our spiritual and cultural convictions, which have guided our people for generations.

Hawaiian values emphasize pono (righteousness) and the ability to make choices that align with our faith and traditions. To strip away this right is to undermine the very essence of our autonomy and connection to our ancestors. We must protect the ability of families to decide what is best for their keiki without government overreach.

I urge you to uphold our constitutional and cultural freedoms by rejecting HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kauilani RETORE ALOHA

To: Judiciary Chair Representative David Tarnas, Vice Chair Representative Mahina Poepoe, and All Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiʻian Affairs Committee

From: Margaret Mejia, *Hawaiʻi Christian Coalition*

February 20, 2025

***Hawaiʻi Christian Coalition* STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1118, relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.**

This bill seeks to remove religious exemptions for school children who want to attend public schools.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. First of all, this bill is in direct violation to the United States Constitution, **and the Hawaiʻi State Constitution.** HB1118 discriminates against Parents who due to their religious beliefs do NOT choose to vaccinate their child(ren).

At the heart of the First Amendment lies the principle that each person should decide for himself or herself the ideas and beliefs deserving of expression, consideration, and adherence. Parents should NOT have to decide between public education for their child and their religious beliefs.

In the one case cited with Connecticut winning in the Supreme Court, there are multiple states that did NOT win in the Supreme Court. IF PASSED, this bill will NOT win in court.

*****Why is this Bill, HB1118 not being heard in the Education Committee, since this bill would in fact, directly affect Education in Hawaiʻi??? Is it because the Department of Education does NOT support this bill???**

- Passing this bill will cause many parents to pull their children out of school. These are quality parents who volunteer at schools and support the school administration and teachers. These are intelligent children with a bright future. It would be a great loss to Hawaiʻi's DOE
- Federal funding to public schools is based on the number of children attending these schools. Funding would drop at least 5%, if the numbers represented by others are accurate. I think the rate is much higher. 5% is a huge amount of DOE money to lose.

Representatives are supposed to represent the people. The testimony in Opposition to this measure is overwhelming and you should listen to the Voice of the people. I am aware that Governor Green is encouraging you to vote for this measure. However, long after Green is out of office, you will have to live with your conscience. Will you truly represent these people who have taken off of work to Rally on Thursday? Will you truly represent these people who have taken off work to OPPOSE this bill in person? And will

you truly represent these people who took the time out of their busy schedules to submit a testimony? Please OPPOSE this bill on behalf of parents in Hawai'i. **Vaccines are not obsolete and parents who want to give their children vaccines can still do so. However, there is a reason that there is a strong decline in vaccinations.** Parents are doing their research and deciding NOT to vaccinate their children, due to religious and personal reasons. Parents should have the right to choose.

According to ***Aloha Freedom Coalition's*** website, as of April 2016, the following legislators received donations from Pfizer, a pharmaceutical company:

Representative Nadine K Nakamura (D): Kauai Rep. & Speaker of the House

Representative Linda Ichiyama (D): Rep Salt Lake Area & Vice Speaker of the House

Representative Daynette (Dee) Morikawa (D): Rep & Majority Floor Leader

Representative Nicole Lowen (D)

Representative Della Au Bellatti (D)

I am not trying to single out the above representatives because I am sure there are more reps receiving money from pharmaceutical companies now since that was almost 9 years ago. So I urge you to represent the people and NOT pharmaceutical companies, like Pfizer.

Hawai'i Christian Coalition also **STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1118**, because of the following:

Lack of Data Regarding Herd Immunity & Life Expectancy

Some Representatives would have you believe that this bill is "for the greater good."

That is an opinion and not based on fact. **As a matter of fact, there is NO reliable**

DATA regarding herd immunity. There is NO DATA with a direct correlation between vaccines and life expectancy. As a matter of fact, it is the opposite.

Multiple studies show that Unvaccinated children get sick much less than vaccinated children.

When we were growing up, all 12 of my siblings and I had chickenpox and none of us died. We all got natural immunity to chickenpox. There are far more many people dying from adverse effects of vaccines and no one in the pharmaceutical companies are liable for these effects. Also, I have four (4) children.

Two of them were vaccinated and two of them were not vaccinated. My unvaccinated children did not get 1 ear infection their entire childhood. My unvaccinated children are super healthy and rarely get sick.

Most Moms who study Vaccines know more than Doctors. That is a correct statement. **Did you know that in medical school, doctors only receive 3 hours of vaccine instruction?** This instruction is telling them which vaccines to give children and in what dosage. There are now 77 vaccines on the childhood vaccine schedule

from birth to age 18. Moms study vaccines for hours on end because it has to do with the well being of their children. Mom does know best! Doctors get paid from pharmaceutical companies.

This bill undermines Informed Consent. Parents should be thoroughly informed about the consequences of vaccines, the ingredients in the vaccines, etc. and should be allowed to consent or not consent on vaccinating their child upon being informed. HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of parents to make personal medical decisions regarding their children. The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. Every parent should be informed that the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This is on the CDC website under VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice.

This bill undermines Parental Rights. Parents and not government should decide on what medication, including vaccines go into their child's body. It's ultimately the choice of the parent. HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of parents to make personal medical decisions regarding their children.

This bill undermines Medical Freedom. You have heard the saying, "My body, my choice." Parents have medical freedom as it pertains to themselves and their children. People can accept or reject what the doctor recommends they take. It's ultimately their body and their choice. Parents choose for their children. HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of parents to make personal medical decisions regarding their children. Each person's health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for personal healthcare choices.

Please vote NO on HB1118 and maintain our rights in the US Constitution and the Hawai'i State Constitution. Please remember that the people have a right to Informed Consent, Parental Rights, Medical Freedom, and they have a right to follow their Religious Beliefs without any interference from the government.

We are not Connecticut, we are Hawai'i. We are not California, we are Hawai'i. We are not New York, we are Hawai'i. Let's keep Freedom of Religion in Hawai'i and uphold Hawai'i's Constitution.

Mahalo!

Margaret Mejia, Vice President
Hawai'i Christian Coalition

**Written Testimony of Christian Science Committee on Publication for Hawaii
Concerning HB 1118 (RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION
REQUIREMENTS)**

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

As designated representatives of Christian Science, please accept this written testimony concerning HB 1118 relating to the religious exception from vaccination requirements. I first want to express appreciation on behalf of our church's members for the thoughtful and ongoing consideration you have given to Hawaii's vaccination policy, including the acknowledgment of students' religious accommodation from vaccination for the 2024-25 school year. Our members are following this issue with interest in the continuation of a religious accommodation in law, while also deeply caring about public health. We acknowledge that it can be challenging when the religious beliefs and practices of a minority may not be understood or embraced by the majority, or when these beliefs and practices must be balanced with other valued interests of society. Yet, we believe religious freedom in our society is highly important and can be accommodated without endangering public health.

Some religions, like Christian Science, have religious beliefs and practices that do not align with compulsory vaccination laws. While our church itself may not take a formal "for" or "against" policy stance on the vaccination issue because not every individual Christian Scientist approaches the issue in exactly the same way, we can speak to why a Christian Scientist generally appreciates the availability of religious accommodation from vaccination requirements and offer the following explanation for the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs' consideration.

A Christian Scientist's use of the religious exemption

Christian Science is a religious practice, a way of life, and a system of healing that draws upon an understanding of spiritual truths illustrated throughout the Bible and the teachings of Christ Jesus. Its teachings include how one can reliably look to God and spiritual means alone to meet life's needs, including health care needs, as well as the importance of being moral and law-abiding. It is important to note that health care decisions for Christian Scientists, including those relating to contagion and vaccination, are not dictated by the Christian Science church or its theology. Rather, such decisions are motivated by each individual's experience with their practice of Christian Science, and with a deep care for public health, obedience to health laws and regard for the safety of others. When it comes to contagion, this religious practice is both preventative and curative. And while we don't claim to be perfect in our practice, many Christian Scientists have found it to be a very practical and reliable method of addressing contagious disease.

Protection and healing from contagion

To understand why a Christian Scientist would want to claim a religious exemption, one need look no further than periodicals published by the Christian Science church dating back to its inception in the late 1800s through the present day, which include accounts of protection and healing through the practice of Christian Science, many of which involve issues of contagion and have been medically verified. A common thread through these healings is the willingness to work with health authorities and take precautions to ensure they are not endangering others

through their practice. The healing experiences of Hawaii citizens are well-represented in these publications, and provide just a representative glimpse of the many more unpublished accounts of prevention and healing that members have experienced in their lives.

For example, a woman from Princeville, Hawaii testified about a quick healing (in just a few hours) through Christian Science of her five-year-old daughter, who was exhibiting symptoms of chickenpox after all children in her school had been sent home with a notice that another child in the school had contracted the disease. She shared that her and her daughter's understanding of God's ever-present care has been the foundation for "many, many prayer-based healings over the years."

As another example, a mother testified how the overnight healing of her child from a severe case of measles through prayer alone convinced her husband, who was not a Christian Scientist, of the reliability of this method of care.

Another woman testified about a quick healing from a debilitating sore throat, fatigue, and weakness, which her school infirmary diagnosed as mononucleosis and strep throat. When the school infirmary cleared her to return to school after only a few days, rather than the weeks and possibly months that were predicted, the dean of students called her to the office and asked "How did you do that?"

As a final example, a man who was diagnosed as having minimal natural bodily resistance to certain types of harmful bacteria and resultant infections, testified of his progressive deterioration of health from youth. Upon contracting meningitis, he was placed under medical care and increasing doses of antibiotic treatment. But he soon developed allergic reactions to the drug treatment and his doctors, running out of medical answers, advised his parents to "prepare for the worst." It was at that lowest moment that a friend shared how they had been healed of a severe condition of asthma through prayer in Christian Science. Willing to try anything, the man turned to Christian Science himself and was soon permanently free from all symptoms of illness and weakness.

For those relying on Christian Science for healing and prevention, the protection, healing and regeneration that comes through the practice of Christian Science has been deeply meaningful and effective. It involves a whole-hearted communion with a loving God, reaching beyond faith, positive thinking, or mind over matter.

Are there ways to prevent misuse of the religious exemption?

Yes! While many who claim a religious exemption based on sincere religious beliefs are doing so legitimately, we recognize that there are those who use the religious exemption to avoid vaccination requirements for non-religious reasons. But we've seen narrowly-tailored ways to address those concerns without completely eliminating the religious exemption, including implementation of consistent and effective procedures to verify the sincerity of one's religious belief, and even restricting availability of the exemption when a particular health threat is declared. It may take more than is currently being done to address the concerns, but there are ways to do so without unnecessarily curtailing the exercise of religious beliefs.

In sum, we hope tailored solutions will be given serious consideration in lieu of simply terminating the religious exemption as proposed in HB 1118. We would be happy to talk with

you further to serve as a resource or answer any questions as the Committee considers the above-referenced legislation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Spencer
Christian Science Committee on Publication for Hawaii

Scott Shivers
Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication worldwide

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:40:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CASSANDRA WILLES	Faith in Action Church of God	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Cassandra Willes from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.



*American College of
Obstetricians and Gynecologists
District VIII, Hawai'i (Guam & American
Samoa) Section*

TO: Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

DATE: Friday, Feb 21, 2025

PLACE: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 325

FROM: Hawai'i Section, ACOG
Dr. Angel Willey, MD, FACOG, Chair
Dr. Tiffinie R. Mercado, MD, FACOG, Vice-Chair
Dr. Ricardo A. Molero Bravo, MD, FACOG, Legislative Chair

**Re: HB 1118 HD1 – Relating to NON-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements
Position: SUPPORT**

On behalf of the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists (ACOG) Hawai'i Section, we write in support of HB1118 HD1, which seeks to prohibit new non-medical exemptions for school immunization requirements. As a medical professional dedicated to the health and well-being of our community, I urge the Legislature to pass this bill to protect Hawaii's keiki from vaccine-preventable diseases.

The science is clear: high immunization rates are essential for maintaining herd immunity, which safeguards not only vaccinated individuals but also those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions. Immunization requirements for school entry have long been recognized as an effective public health measure to prevent outbreaks of diseases such as measles, pertussis, and other highly contagious infections. However, Hawaii has seen a concerning rise in non-medical exemptions—from 2.5% in the 2015-2016 school year to 5.3% in 2023-2024. In some schools, exemption rates exceed 10%, putting all students at increased risk of outbreaks.

This legislation is crucial for protecting our most vulnerable children, including those undergoing chemotherapy or with weakened immune systems. For the 2023-2024 school year, nearly 300 students in Hawaii had medical exemptions, meaning they rely entirely on herd immunity to attend school safely. Allowing new non-medical exemptions undermines this protective barrier and increases the risk of preventable disease outbreaks that can be severe or even fatal.

HB1118 HD1 strikes a balance by allowing previously approved religious exemptions to remain in place while ensuring that future exemptions are based solely on medical necessity. The State has a compelling interest in protecting public health, and minimizing non-medical exemptions aligns with this responsibility.

I respectfully urge this committee to pass HB1118 HD1 to uphold the health and safety of Hawaii's children. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critical issue.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:21:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Morgan	Faith In Action Hawaii	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Tara Morgan from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tara Morgan

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:26:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deisia Seyer	King's Chapel	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Deisia Seyer and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:30:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raquel Taguchi	Faith in Action Church	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Raquel Taguchi from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:10:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albert Lopez	The Beauty Way Of Tbe Four Directions Native American Church of Kaua'i	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing religious exemptions for immunization requirements infringes on fundamental rights of religious freedom and parental autonomy. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects individuals' rights to practice their faith without government interference, and for many, vaccination conflicts with deeply held religious beliefs. Eliminating these exemptions would force families to choose between adhering to their faith and accessing education or public services, creating an unjust barrier to participation in society. Furthermore, religious exemptions constitute a small percentage of overall exemptions, meaning their impact on public health is minimal compared to broader concerns like access to healthcare and vaccine efficacy. Instead of coercion, policies should focus on education and transparency to encourage voluntary immunization while respecting religious diversity and personal liberties.



February 20th, 2025

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

The members of Hawaii For Informed Consent **strongly oppose HB1118**: Removal of the religious exemption to school vaccine mandates.

Everyone who sits on this Judiciary committee should be well aware HB1118 is unconstitutional as well as discriminatory. Forcing families to choose between their deeply held religious convictions and their child's education is unethical and harmful.

HB1118 will not increase vaccination rates as the bill intends, rather it will decrease school enrollment and harm a religious minority, as well as harm schools. When a similar bill was passed in both CA and NY there was a mass exodus not only from the schools, but from those states. Some schools were even forced to shut down. Hawaii has little room to go lower on the educational totem pole, with our state ranking near the bottom in national education standards.

To mandate medical procedures without exception is to elevate science to a position of unquestionable authority—demanding blind faith rather than informed consent. Informed consent is the backbone of medical ethics. All medical interventions carry known and unknown risk. True informed consent is when a doctor discloses all potential risks, known benefits, as well as what to expect if one does nothing at all... and then the patient chooses to consent to treatment or not. ***Why is vaccination the only medical intervention not afforded informed consent? Why has coercion become the norm? This is especially egregious since all vaccine manufacturers were granted blanket immunity for injury liability*** in the 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA). If you pass this bill, will you accept liability if children are injured?

Furthermore the violations by HB1118 of “equal protection” in the 14th Amendment are glaring. Children on a medical exemption are somehow more important than children with a religious exemption? The bill allows for children on an IEP to remain in school “due to federal and state laws”, but it's ok to violate federal law in the case of religious beliefs? And lastly how is it that a Hepatitis B positive child can anonymously remain in class, but it would be ok to violate medical privacy of, and exclude from class a *healthy child* that has no Hepatitis B vaccination.

The bill's “**compelling state interest**” claims “**for your safety,**” a common excuse for usurping fundamental rights. The 95% goal vaccination rate is not a universal or absolute requirement—it's a theoretical model from the 1930s, used to push policy. Real-world immunity depends on more than just vaccination status, including natural immunity, vaccine effectiveness, and overall health of the population. Treating 95% as a hard rule ignores these complexities and misleads the public into thinking that vaccine coverage alone determines public health outcomes.

Hawaii has not yet exhausted less restrictive measures.

Consider trying:

- Organic school lunches without pesticides, additives, hormones, antibiotics and more;
- Better education and empowering children to create strong, resilient, healthy bodies and minds;
- Hybrid learning for the (296 children) immune compromised and/or those on a medical exemption, if infection becomes high on campus (even the flu or common cold could be deadly to a child with cancer);
- Regaining public trust in vaccines with proper safety studies and transparent, comprehensive informed consent;
- Better enforcement of “stay at home when sick” policies.

***There are already laws in place for the unvaccinated to stay home in the event of a serious outbreak.

HB1118 is a national outlier, pulling Hawaii backwards against the grain. We’ve recently seen West VA, MS, and even CA State and UC system colleges re-instate the religious exemption to vaccine mandates, while the Louisiana Surgeon General announced they will “no longer be pushing mass vaccination” and “government should admit the limitations of its role in people’s lives and pull back its tentacles from the practice of medicine.”

We urge you to oppose this authoritarian bill and create a working group focused instead on increasing the foundational health of our children, and restoring trust in the currently over-reaching public health agencies.

Mahalo for your time,

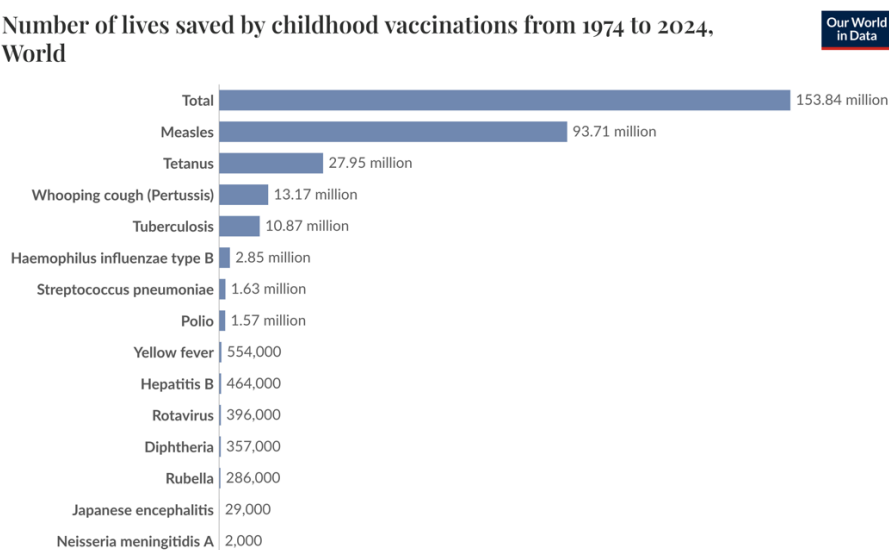
Dr. Kim Haine
on behalf of
HFIC

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Chapter, which represents over 200 pediatricians in Hawai'i, thanks you for allowing us to share why we believe HB 1118 would benefit the children and families of Hawai'i.

Despite a great deal of disinformation circulating on the internet about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, advances in vaccine science and distribution of vaccines around the world have saved millions of lives, including many right here in Hawai'i. Numerous well-designed and peer-reviewed studies have demonstrated that vaccines are safe and effective and that there is no causal connection between vaccines and autism. As the graphic below shows, vaccines are a public health triumph responsible for saving over 150 million children's lives across the globe in the past 50 years.

Number of lives saved by childhood vaccinations from 1974 to 2024, World



Data source: Shattock et al. (2024). Contribution of vaccination to improved survival and health: modelling 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization
OurWorldinData.org/vaccination | CC BY

Every pediatrician in our organization has witnessed the devastating shock and grief experienced by parents – loving parents who truly believed they were doing the best thing for their child by declining vaccines – when their child is hospitalized with, or dies from, a vaccine-preventable disease. One of us will never forget the previously healthy teenager, the only child of a single mother, who died of complications from the flu despite receiving excellent care in the Pediatric ICU. Others will remember the infant with whooping cough gasping for breath and turning blue, the miserable toddler with complications from measles, or the teenager who suffers daily seizures, cannot walk, and requires a feeding tube due to lifelong disability resulting from H. flu meningitis that he contracted when he was in preschool.

There are legitimate medical reasons that certain children cannot receive some or all of their immunizations according to schedule. These include receiving chemotherapy, having recently

received immune globulin as therapy for Kawasaki Disease, and many others. These children have a right to be protected, as much as possible, by herd immunity when they themselves cannot be vaccinated or do not have an immune system able to respond properly to the vaccine. However, with the alarming rise in non-medical exemptions that we have observed recently in Hawai'i, vaccine coverage no longer meets the threshold to provide herd immunity across the entire population.

There are certain areas in Hawai'i, particularly on neighbor islands, where vaccination coverage is critically low for crucial vaccines like MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella). The neighbor islands have significant numbers of people who live in rural areas far from the hospital, and any child who is moderately or seriously ill would require evacuation to Oahu. An outbreak of a highly contagious infectious disease could be devastating. Measles, in particular, is exceptionally contagious and transmitted by the airborne route, with infectious particles remaining present in the air for up to two hours after the infected patient is no longer present. Up to 90% of unvaccinated people exposed to measles will contract the disease, and hospitalization rates range from 20-30% (or higher). In the current West Texas outbreak, 22.4% of infected children have been hospitalized. In a high-resource setting, 1 out of every 300 children hospitalized will not survive. In a low-resource setting, or when a healthcare system is overwhelmed (as we fear could happen here in the case of a large outbreak), the mortality would likely be much higher.

As legislators, you have the power to help prevent devastating outbreaks of disease among our population. As pediatricians, we believe that all children have the right to a healthy life in an environment where they have the opportunity to thrive. Children who are too young to be vaccinated (for example, infant siblings of school-age children), as well as those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons, have the right to be protected from devastating diseases like measles and pertussis (whooping cough).

While we are most worried about the imminent threat posed by measles and pertussis, it is important to note that other vaccine-preventable diseases such as polio could make a comeback if we do not improve our immunization rates. It is essential to repeal the non-medical exemption to vaccination requirements for school entry in order to regain herd immunity against diseases whose true threat many of today's parents have never – precisely because vaccines are so effective – seen with their own eyes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We strongly urge you to support this legislation.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:40:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mapuana Tector	Nanakuli Maili Neighborhood Hwn Affairs	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

There many oppositions to a bill particularly HB1118. If a Governor of Hawai‘i may entertain the process of interrupting the Rights of a Citizen, U.S. of America of the Bill of Rights as to also pertaining to Common Law.

In other words, if HB1118 is a ploy to get other laws passed this is the beginning of the Govenor of Hawai‘i to challenge such a move as to my right as a constitution of the U.S. and or the State of Hawai‘i.

I am strongly opposing this HB1118 and want the Senators to know the laws before making a law by being the yes group, in the matter of playing to pay.

In closing, as the Nanakuli Maili Neighborhood Hawaiian Affairs Chair, I speak on behalf of those whom are unable to log into the legislature in opposition of HB1118.

Sincerely,

NMNB Hawaiian Affairs Chair



Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Submitted by: Austin Martin, Chairman, Libertarian Party of Hawaii

Date: February 20, 2025

To the Committee Members,

Aloha.

My name is Austin Martin, Chairman of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii. I'm a father, a neighbor, and a homesteader who cares about the families in our state who are getting bullied here today. I'm testifying today against HB1118, a bill that rips away religious exemptions for school vaccine mandates. On behalf of our party and the freedom-loving people of Hawaii, I'm calling this what it is: a blatant overreach that tramples our rights. I urge you to kill this bill.

The state has been pushing the big pharmaceutical industry's agenda to boost vaccination rates— while silencing, ignoring, marginalizing, and now openly persecuting legitimate scientific & philosophical dissent along with constitutionally protected religious objectors to the Big Pharmaceutical hijacking of our government. But if the vaccines were working as described, why would any of these people fear the unvaccinated? If they're as effective as we're told, those who've gotten them should be safe, period. Forcing everyone into compliance because a few opt out doesn't add up—it's fear, not science, driving this.

And as for "herd immunity"...?

The Hawaiians aren't a herd of cattle to be controlled. We're not for sale. We're individuals with rights, not livestock for the state to corral. Haven't we already learned this lesson?

HB1118 isn't just bad policy—it's illegal and immoral. Eliminating religious exemptions violates the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment and Hawaii's own Constitution, plain and simple. Freedom of religion isn't negotiable; it's a bedrock promise. This bill also guts the principle of informed consent—every person's right to say "no" to medical intervention without penalty. Forcing kids out of school over this breaches that fundamental ethic. And let's not forget federal law—Title VII protections against religious discrimination don't bend for state agendas. HB1118 flies in the face of all of it.

The current setup works: religious exemptions exist with documentation, balancing choice and public health. But this bill torches that for anyone new after 2025-2026. It's not a real crisis—it's a pretext. Our governor has already told us he is working for Big Pharma, and not for us. The real impact is on families like mine, pushed further out of society, and towards being treated as criminals. Families are forced to suffer persecution for their beliefs, leave Hawaii, or cave to coercion.

That's not the Aloha way; it's tyranny with a lei.

As Libertarians, we demand a government that respects liberty, not one that dictates our bodies and beliefs. The state claims a "compelling interest" to override us — but I say our rights are the compelling interest. HB1118 doesn't protect; it punishes. Scrap it. Let Hawaii stay a place where freedom and ohana still mean something.

Here is an unpleasant sales tactic dredged up from 20th century fascist regimes: force the people to buy your product by influencing their civil government to mandate purchase & punish non compliance. This is a road to genocide & democide, not utopia.

It is a slap in the face to all native Hawaiians, who deserve to choose for themselves, and not be forced into medical procedures against their will.

Mahalo,
Austin Martin
Chairman, Libertarian Party of Hawaii



The Libertarian Party of Hawaii staunchly opposes any and all measures that seek to revoke inherent religious freedom. Parents must have the right to make decisions about their children regardless of the opinions of the state. Infringing upon this fundamental right sets a dangerous precedent.

We boldly advocate for the individual freedom to make decisions following one's conscience and beliefs. We must continue to recognize that parents have a fundamental right to make informed decisions about medical choices for their children, especially when deeply held religious beliefs are a factor. Respecting the autonomy of individuals in matters of personal health is essential to standing on principles of liberty and self-determination.

If vaccines were as effective as claimed, there would be no need to force them. The significant decline in vaccinated students across the state stands as its own firm testimony of the wishes of parents and families in Hawaii. These families are among those who voted to place you in office.

Representatives should be ashamed to even suggest this sort of measure. It is unwise to test these inherent values. HB1118/SB1437 is authoritarian, anti-faith, anti-family, and outright anti-freedom. The legislature would do well to remember the atrocities against liberty that plagued the Hawaiian communities during Covid-19, and to put an end to perpetuating this practice of stripping away our inherent human rights.

We firmly stand against any legislation that seeks to strip individuals of their right to freely practice their religious convictions. We urge lawmakers to oppose this measure.

In Freedom,
Abbra Green, HI Libertarian Secretary
LPHlsecretary@gmail.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:52:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Therese Esguerra	Pure Wellness LLC	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We deserve the right to have religious exemption. I have worked with children who had adverse effects to vaccines and had leukemia. Tests that would have shown sensitivity to the vaccines could have prevented permanent injury.

Not everyone responds favorably to everything in vaccines. We deserve a choice and safety tests.

****Opposition Statement AGAINST HB 1118****

I, Rosemary A. Cuccia, a resident of Ewa Beach, Hawaii, and a concerned American citizen, oppose HB Bill 1118 because it violates our constitutional rights. This legislation aims to eliminate religious exemptions for children's vaccinations, infringing on our freedom of religion. Such a measure is unconstitutional and must be dismissed.

Local and State governments lack the authority to limit our religious expression, especially in relation to medical decisions. Parents or guardians should have the right to make informed choices for their children. HB 1118 undermines parental rights and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach.

As a volunteer for Project Nehemiah Hawaii and as a personal advocate for freedom of religion, I urge our representatives to immediately reject HB 1118 in order to protect our religious liberties and safeguard the people of Hawaii. *Electronically signed:*

Rev. Rosemary A. Cuccia

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:20:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmeline Macanas	Aloha Freedom Coalition/Hawaii For Informed Consent/Unjected/Hawaii Parents United	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118. The very thought of forced vaccinations and taking away religious exemptions to do so with the keiki of Hawaii is UNCONSTITUTIONAL. What happened to MY BODY, MY CHOICE or MY KEIKI, MY CHOICE? The government should not be given the option to decide what is best for our own bodily autonomy. This is government overreach and a path to tyranny. Suppose this bill passes, what would be next?...the government could tell us what to eat, drink, do, travelwhen, where, how, etc. Did the Governor of Hawaii forget that there is something called the First Amendment of the Constitution? Is the Governor of Hawaii FOR THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII? Does this BILL seem like a way to CONTROL or DICTATE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII?
I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:35:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gary cordery	Aloha Freedom Coalition	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

On Behalf of the 20k followers of AFC, I oppose this in the strongest measure.

1. Individual rights are enshrined in the constitution, Life, Liberty and pursuit of happiness, this bill violates each of these.
2. Hurd immunity is the last leg propping up the concept of immunity, not one vaccine has ever achieved "immunity" therefore creating an "Hurd" immunity is a fear campaign to promote some thing that does not now, nor ever existed.
3. This bill will result in costly law suits for the state, numerous families leaving Hawaii and a significant decline in the participation if public schools.
4. Finally, your natural immunity is far superior to injected designer chemicals, with no side effects. Why require the general population to participate in something that opposes natural design.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:39:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Traugher	Clementine's Closet	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill on behalf of my small business, Clementine's Closet LLC. Our parental rights should not be taken away in order to have our children in private school.
some of us follow the vaccine schedule differently and should be allowed the right as parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:09:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanel Wahinepio	KELII Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My son has lived with a vaccine injury for 15 years. He has Autism and requires 24-hour care since he was permanently injured by a vaccine at only 2 years old. Besides the vaccine's devastating effects on his life and on our family's lives, here are the reasons why the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee should oppose HB 1118:

Religious Freedom and Constitutional Rights: The First Amendment guarantees our right to freely practice our religion. Removing the religious exemption would violate this fundamental right, and the Judiciary Committee is responsible for protecting our constitutional freedoms.

Protecting Cultural Rights: Hawaii has a diverse and rich cultural heritage, including religious practices of Native Hawaiians and other communities. For many, vaccination mandates may conflict with deeply held religious beliefs. The Hawaiian Affairs aspect of the committee must safeguard cultural and religious diversity.

Individual Autonomy: The committee must consider the right of parents and individuals to make informed medical decisions based on their personal beliefs. Requiring vaccines without the option for religious exemptions would infringe on personal autonomy and could have unintended consequences for the trust between families and healthcare providers.

Legal Implications and Court Burden: This bill could lead to increased legal challenges and put a strain on our judicial system. If passed, it would result in costly lawsuits that divert resources from other critical issues, something the Judiciary Committee must be aware of.

Discrimination and Marginalization: The removal of religious exemptions would disproportionately affect religious minorities and cultural communities in Hawaii. The Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee must ensure that no one is discriminated against or marginalized based on their beliefs.

Please join me and many other parents in protecting our keiki's rights to be free from life-long injuries of certain vaccines.

Mahalo,

Chanel Wahinepio

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:52:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Clifford Rodrigues	Kumu Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha representatives of the people of Hawai'i,

my name is Benjamin C Rodrigues III, I strongly oppose HB1118, we as Hawaiians have gone through so much trauma inflicted upon our people, loss of language, loss of culture, and dispossession of our lands, and nationality. If you force our children to be vaccinated in order to obtain education, I believe this goes against our freedoms of choice, I believe that this bill is unconstitutionally, and has been a piece of legislation that has been made possible by special interest and corporate collusion and is a overstepping of our constitutional rights.

if you take this pathway to pass this bill my family and many other Hawaiian families will pull our children from school, and begin to organize ourselves and gather our collective power to push for the renationalization of our native Hawaiian communities, which is already a sentiment that is shared within a large part of our communities. If you force us to leave the current Department of education, I foresee this being a catalyst for greater change, a change that even you the representatives of our legislators cannot foresee or fathom, not only will the Republican Party and the current presidential administration pull federal funding from our schools, if you decide to force HB 1118 on our children and families, and further cause more harm to an already inflamed economy, i foresee that this struggle is going to continue to embolden Hawaiians towards self determination, I ask that you search your heart for the inner voice that comes from the most high almighty god, and ask yourself if you truly believe this is a good choice, backed by science and good will for the people.

I will personally and periodically see how this vote is conducted for HB1118 and make sure that we will campaign and show the faces and the people responsible for pushing this agenda on a free people, and make sure we rally our communities, families, and greater lahui in making sure that you are no longer have the kuleana of representing our people of Hawai'i.

"If any of you has a dispute with another, do you dare to take it before the ungodly for judgment instead of before the Lord's people?" (1 Corinthians 6:1

I truly believe the people will speak and that the lord our shepherd will have righteousness prevail.

we are watching your votes, and I hope and pray that you all can sleep well with the decisions being made for our people, and that god will make way in your households and in our greater community.

i ask that you say some prayers and have moments of silence within and listen for that inner voice.

mahalo nui,

Benji Ekolu Rodrigues

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:13:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:34:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienn K Yarbrough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I oppose this bill as it goes against my constitutional right to religious freedom. God created my children`s immune system perfect, they don`t need any medical intervention to make it better, they are never sick and if they are they would stay home.

If this bill is passed they won`t be able to attend school and I won`t be able to participate in the workforce.

Sincerely,

Adrienn Y

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:34:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mosk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill...

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:52:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello legislators,

I am submitting testimony in opposition to this bill removing religious exemptions from vaccine mandates for school children. This interferes with the parents first amendment right and their religious freedom. Parents have the right to make medical decisions on behalf of their children that is in the best interest of them. And the government does not have the right to mandate medical intervention without parental consent. Hawaii is a state that is apart of America which means you all are sworn to abide by and uphold the constitution. You need to

remember that.

February 19, 2025

To: Representative David Tarnas, Chair,
And Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1118 HD1 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL
EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

As a public health professional and a concerned citizen, I strongly support vaccination requirements for children attending public schools.

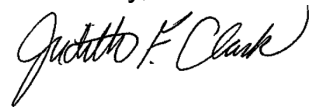
Vaccinations save lives, not only for the children who receive them, but also for other vulnerable individuals in our communities. Vaccines protect those who, due to allergies or other medical conditions, cannot receive vaccinations.

My great grandmother became deaf at the age of five from an illness that is preventable today. My grandmother had diphtheria as a child. She had lifelong lung damage and disability. I was a child in a time when measles, mumps, polio, and rubella vaccines did not yet exist. I did not enjoy my experiences with measles and mumps, and I had friends whose experiences with polio changed their lives forever.

Children deserve to grow up safe and healthy – and vaccinations help us achieve that goal.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Judith F. Clark". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Judith" being the most prominent.

Judith F. Clark, MPH4
48-218 Kamehameha Hwy.
Kaneohe, HI 96744
808-499-9966

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:07:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments: Aloha Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice-Chair Mahina Poepoe and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1, which seeks to eliminate new non-medical exemptions for school immunization requirements. This measure infringes on our constitutional rights, religious freedoms, and parental authority over medical decisions for our children. The ability to make personal and faith-based medical choices is a fundamental right protected under both the U.S. and Hawai‘i State Constitutions. Forcing medical procedures on individuals against their sincerely held beliefs contradicts these protections and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach. Furthermore, this bill disproportionately impacts communities with deeply rooted cultural and religious healing practices, including Native Hawaiians and other faith-based groups. Respect for diverse health choices must be preserved in a society that values freedom and informed consent. I urge you to reject HB1118 HD1 and uphold the rights of Hawai‘i’s families to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and best interests. Mahalo for your time and consideration. Kind regards, Teri Kia Savaiinaea District 45, Wai’anae resident

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:07:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This is government overreach and a violation of our rights.

I am a pharmacist, I am NOT "antivaxx", my daughter has received all her vaccinations, but I will never allow her to have vaccines with demonstrated or questionable safety and health issues, e.g., Gardasil, or vaccines that are really not needed for children, such as C19.

As a parent it is my job to research and vaccinate my child as I see appropriately, NOT the mandatw of this Legislative committee.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:09:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this very unconstitutional bill, religious beliefs are protected by the constitution of the United States of America, immunizations should always be the decision of the parents, and not the government over reaching it's boundries. No child should be given any immunization that is not needed, nor proven that doesn't work. Children are God's gift to the parents, and they should have the last and only say in this matter.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:14:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Vaccines should be optional. Many vaccines are developed using cells from murdered human babies, which is evil and grotesque and definitely not pono. Everyone should be against that! There are so many bad vaccine side effects as well. Shame on the authors of this bill for trying to force vaccines (that often don't work and/or cause more harm than good) on keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:18:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Peterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a part Native Hawaiian, born and raised here, I strongly oppose HB1118. Even though Hawai'i has been illegally occupied since our late queen was overthrown, we have been part of the United States of America and thus should have the same rights as any US Citizen. The Constitution of the United States protects our freedom of religion. "**Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion**, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

This bill will violate our religious freedoms as Americans. We should have the right to have our children exempt from immunizations if it goes against our religious beliefs. I say this as a mother who's two children are fully immunized. I have one child who wasn't affected by immunizations and another who had an autoimmune issue flare up out of dormancy after my daughter had the most recent set of immunizations given by her doctor. I have always trusted doctors, science and hospitals. While I believe that most immunizations are effective, they're not safe or right for everyone and a parent should have the right and ability to protect their child and seek religious exemption from immunizations if those immunizations go against a deeply held religious belief. Who are you or I or anyone to say whether or not a religiously held belief is legitimate or not? It is not our place to say so. Why are we so concerned with trying to force parents who are deeply religious and seeking exemptions to give their children immunizations that directly go against their faith?

Let's not take more rights away from our citizens. I've watched the state I love, the state that I have a blood connection to as a part Native Hawaiian change so much in the last 4 decades of my life. It's changing and not for the better. Let's focus our time and money on making Hawai'i more affordable for our keiki so that they don't all have to move away to have a better life, a life where they don't need to work two jobs, a life where they don't need to move to the mainland to maintain the rights the Constitution of the United States affords us.

There isn't some epidemic of children who are religious and unvaccinated out there making everyone else sick. That's just not happening. So why are we pushing the limits and trying to violate the rights of US citizens to force parents to vaccinate their children if doing so violates their religious belief? Are we also going to force people who are Jehovahs Witnesses to take blood transfusions in the hospital even though it directly contradicts their beliefs to do so? Where does the line get drawn? How many rights from our citizens will we strip before it becomes "enough"?

I never used a religious exemption for myself or my children but I know many people who truly believe as part of their faith, that immunizations are something they cannot do. We should respect their faith, their religion, and let them live as they want. They're not hurting anyone.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:29:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! It breaks my constitutional rights to religious freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:40:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado is in Strong Opposition to Bill HB1118 HD1

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:40:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kekahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because we shouldn't be mandated to take vaccines it should be an option and discussed between parents and their physician.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:45:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaio Cardoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not agree do not approve of this

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:45:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill goes directly against our constitutional rights to practice our religious beliefs. Passing this is to benefit pharma and not for the people that you all are supposed to represent. Vote no on this bill and support those who put you into office.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:51:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerri Yeakey	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118 as it takes away our religious freedom as citizens of the United States of America. It is a step in the wrong direction for medical freedom and the people of Hawaii. Attending school is not a right just for the vaccinated it is a right to all keiki in Hawaii. This bill is a disgusting just like Josh Green that introduced it. I am the mother of a vaccine injured child. I have not been silent. Parental choice, informed consent, and religious freedom are all neglected with this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:52:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie West	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 re: revocation of non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:56:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose not having exemptions for any individual (school-aged, college person, working person, or senior citizen) to not have religious exemption for vaccinations. I have seen many elderly as well as physically healthy people with many complications (including death) after taking the Covid vaccine for unknown reasons. Mt belief is that God created our bodies and to disrupt the natural immunity system is against my religious beliefs.

Unless the pharmaceutical companies and legislators, who approve these bills, are willing to take liability for the side affects of these vaccines, it should NOT pass.

We are your constituents who have a right to choose thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:59:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We, Seth and Autumn Parker, as the parents of 3 precious children, are asking you to OPPOSE House Bill 1118 and protect our rights under the US constitution to receive Religious Exemption from vaccination due to our genuine and sincere beliefs which are contrary to the practices which are herein required.

The US Supreme Court held in *Frazee V. Illinois Dept. of Security*, 489 US 829, that a religious belief is subject to protection even though no religious group espouses such beliefs or the fact that the religious group to which the individual professes to belong may not advocate or require such belief. This ruling is also reflected in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended Nov. 1, 1980; Part 1605.1- Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Religion.

The following are ways in which these violations manifest themselves in the vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The use of cells, cellular debris, protein, and DNA from willfully aborted human children found in Adenovirus, Polio, DTaP/Polio/HiB Combo, Hep A, Hep A/Hep B Combo, MMR, MMRV Pro Quad, Rabies, Varicella, and the Shingles vaccines violate the very basic commands found in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:15 which instructs us to not murder. The following ingredients were derived from no fewer than 107 human souls who were sacrificed for social reasons and then used in past and ongoing vaccine research: PER C6, HEK293, WI-38 (RA 27/3), WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-4, WI-5, WI-6, WI-7, WI-8, WI-9, WI-10, WI-11, WI-12, WI-13, WI-14, WI-15, WI-16, WI-17, WI-18, WI-19, WI-20, WI-21, WI-22, WI-23, WI-24, WI-25, WI-26, WI-27, WI-38, WI-44, and MCR-5 plus many other ingredients obtained from human children not required to be listed by FDA guidelines. Supporting vaccinations and vaccination developments is an endorsement of the sacrifice of those and the continuing sacrifice of other human souls.

Genesis 4:1, 17 and Jeremiah 1:5 demonstrate that the deceased children used in the aforementioned vaccinations were recognized by God as human souls from the point of conception in the same way that we, as parents, recognized our child as a human from the moment we were aware of his/her presence in his/her mother's wombs.

Genesis 1:27 - 28, 4:1, 2 Kings 17:17-18, Psalm 22:10-11, 106: 35, 37-38, 113:7-9, 127:3, 139:13-16, Amos 1:13, Matthew 18:1-4, and Matthew 19:13-15 are just a few verses that illustrate the aforementioned children as blessings from God that are valued and loved by him,

their Creator, in whose image they were created and that their killing is condemned and causes God's destructive anger to burn against their murderers and those complicit in those murders.

Exodus 20:13, Leviticus 18:21 & 20:2-5, Deuteronomy 5:13, 12:30-32, 18:10, 2 Kings 16:3, and Psalm 106:38 illustrate that all child sacrifice is condemned with no exception clauses allowing for the greater good or public exception clauses found anywhere in the sacred scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 10:31 remind us that we are to regard our bodies as temples of God's Holy Spirit and that we are to honor God, our Creator and possessor of our very bodies by not defiling them. Notwithstanding the presence of socially sacrificed human cells and debris in vaccinations, we firmly believe that the presence of neurotoxins, hazardous substances, attenuated viruses, animal cells, foreign DNA, albumin from human blood, carcinogens, and chemical wastes is in strict violation of our imperative to treat our bodies as holy temples of the very Spirit of God.

Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10-11, 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:23, Acts 15:20 and 29 informs us that blood represents the life force of human and animal species and that human blood was to be kept pure under all circumstances and free from contaminants such as animal cells, parts, and blood.

In addition, taken directly from the DOH website regarding reported cases of notifiable diseases in 2023 (the last year updated), there were **2** cases of measles, **3** cases of pertussis, **2** cases of HepA, **9** cases of chicken pox, and **1** case of meningococcal meningitis, with **0** cases of HebB, diphtheria, pertussis, mumps, and rubella **in the whole state**. Clearly there is **NOT** a public health crisis in Hawaii.

On another note, prior to the creation of the MMR vaccine there was 1 strand of measles documented in the US. Due to the vaccine causing disease mutation, we now have over 24 variants and even though its common knowledge posted on the CDC & WHO webpages, it states "No Vaccines can prevent illness 100% of the time". Looking deeper at the WHO website posted within the treatment section of measles it states "All children or adults with measles should receive two doses of vitamin A supplements, given 24 hours apart. This restores low vitamin A levels that occur even in well-nourished children. It can help prevent eye damage and blindness. Vitamin A supplements may also reduce the number of measles deaths." <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/measles>

Yet instead of following the WHO's treatment recommendations, the State would rather inject my children with aborted fetal cells, heavy metals, and poison. This bill is an absolute attack on parents, on Christians, and it absolutely should not be allowed to transpire in the United States of America.

We thank you that you will continue to respectfully adhere to our first amendment rights guaranteed as citizens of the United States of America by her great Constitution and reinforced on a state level by the fourteenth amendment without prejudice. Please we urge you to **OPPOSE** House Bill 1118 and any other bill targeted at stripping away our religious freedom and our God given right as parents to choose what gets injected into their perfect bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:00:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Gugliemelli	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject : SB1437 , HB1118

February 07, 2024

Representative Amato,

I am writing to follow up on the recent hearing concerning religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawai'i's educational system. Attached, you will find my testimony in opposition to any efforts to remove or restrict these exemptions.

I was deeply troubled by the remarks made today, particularly when you questioned the sincerity of those who choose to exercise their right to religious exemption. While I understand the concerns surrounding this issue, I believe there is a better way to verify and understand the deeply held convictions of individuals. Your comments seemed to undermine our First Amendment rights, which guarantee the free exercise of religion.

As for myself, I am always willing to share and will continue to express my personal convictions about why this bill matters to me. I have immense gratitude for the right to exercise a religious exemption in Hawai'i, and I believe that removing this right would be a violation of our constitutional freedoms.

In addition, I would like to ask some important questions that I feel were not adequately addressed:

- Will this bill truly lead to an increase in vaccinations, or will it simply result in more families choosing to homeschool and a decrease in public school enrollment?
- Does this bill apply to charter and private schools, or is it limited to the Hawai'i Department of Education (HDOE)?
- How will this bill impact the greater good of students and future generations?

As a homeschool mother of five children, I deeply value the importance of parental choice and religious freedom in the upbringing of my family. This year, our oldest child began attending public school for the first time, and we feel incredibly fortunate that we live in a state that honors both our constitutional and religious freedoms. One of the key freedoms afforded to us is the ability to exercise our religious beliefs, including in matters of health and vaccination. If religious exemptions are removed, it could result in the loss of this fundamental right for our daughter and others who wish to make personal health decisions guided by their faith.

It is important to note that my decision is not a hasty or uninformed one. Our family's stance on vaccination is the result of careful research, prayer, and personal conviction. I have been raised with the understanding that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, and as such, we are called to be stewards of our health in a manner consistent with our faith. Christian doctrine emphasizes the importance of individual conscience and the right to make decisions aligned with one's spiritual beliefs. By removing the option for a religious exemption, the state would impose a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards these deeply held convictions.

Furthermore, from a broader perspective, eliminating religious exemptions could have unintended consequences on public school enrollment. It is possible that many families, like ours, would reconsider participation in public education, leading to a decrease in school attendance rather than the desired increase in student enrollment. Such a move could undermine the diversity and freedom of choice that are essential to the public education system.

I urge you to carefully consider my testimony and the potential impact of removing religious exemptions, both from a legal and moral standpoint. I implore you to uphold the freedoms that allow families like mine to make health decisions in accordance with our faith. In doing so, you would support not only religious freedom but also the broader principles of individual liberty and parental rights that are enshrined in both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawai'i State Constitution.

I respectfully ask for more thoughtful consideration of the implications of this bill and hope that we can engage in further discussion about its potential consequences.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important matter. I look forward to your response.

Please see below my original testimony I submitted to oppose.

Respectfully,

Sophia Gugliemelli

Subject: SB1434, HB1118

February 1, 2025

To Whom It May Concern within the State of Hawai'i,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to respectfully express my belief in the importance of preserving religious exemptions for vaccination, based on my strong Christian faith and pro-life convictions. I believe that the practice of receiving vaccinations derived from aborted fetal cells is incompatible with my deeply held religious beliefs and commitment to the sanctity of life.

As a Christian, I hold the conviction that life begins at conception and that each individual is made in the image of God. The Scriptures affirm that God knows the plans He has for us even before our birth (Jeremiah 1:5). With this understanding, I approach matters of health and well-being. I believe that God, in His infinite wisdom, has designed and created our bodies with purpose, and I trust in His divine protection and provision for my health.

In alignment with this belief, I consider my body a temple of the Holy Spirit, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. As such, I am called to honor God with my body and to be cautious about introducing foreign substances that may conflict with my faith. Vaccines produced using aborted fetal cell lines present a moral dilemma for me, as it would involve indirectly participating in a process I believe to be inconsistent with the sanctity of life.

Furthermore, I believe that God is the ultimate healer, as referenced in Exodus 15:26, where He promises to be the healer of His people. While I acknowledge the benefits of medical science, I place my trust in God's sovereignty over my life and health. Romans 14:5-6 reminds us that each person must be fully convinced in their own mind about what is right in matters of conscience, and I am convinced that my faith compels me to reject vaccines produced from fetal cells, as it conflicts with my pro-life stance.

Additionally, I find encouragement in the call of Romans 12:2, which exhorts believers not to conform to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. I understand that decisions around vaccinations are highly debated, but I feel led to trust in God's guidance and the convictions of my conscience rather than societal or governmental pressures.

Therefore, I respectfully request that my religious convictions be honored through the provision of a religious exemption to vaccination. I am committed to loving my neighbors as myself, as instructed in Mark 12:31, and am always open to discussing my beliefs in a respectful manner. I believe that allowing for religious exemptions respects the diversity of thought and conscience, which is vital to the freedom of belief in a democratic society.

Furthermore, I believe that vaccine mandates violate our rights and freedoms as American citizens. Below are the key reasons why I feel that a vaccine mandate infringes upon our fundamental freedoms:

1. Right to Bodily Autonomy:

The Fifth Amendment protects individuals from government actions that would deprive them of life, liberty, or property without due process. A vaccine mandate could be seen as a violation of this right to bodily autonomy, as it forces individuals to undergo a medical procedure against their will. This undermines the principle that individuals should have control over their own bodies, including making decisions about their healthcare.

2. Religious Freedom:

The First Amendment guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. Many individuals oppose vaccination mandates due to deeply held religious beliefs. Mandating a vaccine could infringe on the right of individuals to follow their conscience and religious teachings, which may prohibit certain medical interventions.

3. Freedom of Choice:

The right to make personal decisions, especially those concerning one's health, is an essential part of the American ethos. Vaccine mandates undermine the concept of personal choice by removing the ability of individuals to weigh the risks and benefits of vaccination for themselves. This type of government interference challenges the belief that individuals should be free to make decisions about their lives without coercion.

4. Slippery Slope to Overreach:

Mandating vaccines could set a dangerous precedent for government overreach, allowing the government to impose further restrictions on personal freedoms in the future. This could pave the way for future mandates on other aspects of life, eroding the broader rights guaranteed to all Americans.

5. Informed Consent:

American healthcare is based on the principle of informed consent, where individuals are provided with all the necessary information to make an informed decision about their medical care. A vaccine mandate bypasses this principle by removing the element of personal decision-making. Individuals should be allowed to make their own informed choices, based on their understanding of the risks and benefits of vaccination.

In conclusion, while I acknowledge the importance of promoting public health, I firmly believe that vaccine mandates represent a serious infringement on personal freedoms and individual rights. It is crucial to preserve the American ideals of bodily autonomy, religious freedom, personal choice, and informed consent. These freedoms should be safeguarded from government interference, especially when it comes to making personal healthcare decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. May God bless you and grant you wisdom in all your decisions.

Respectfully,

Sophia Gugliemelli

91-1013 Kaikauhaa St.

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

sophiagugliemelli@gmail.com

[\(973\)-234-3610](tel:(973)234-3610)

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

My name is Celeste Powell, and I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB1118. As a mother and a healthcare provider with over 20 years of bedside experience, I take my role in protecting my children's health very seriously. This bill threatens my ability to make informed medical decisions for my family by forcing vaccinations that are either new to the market or, in my professional and parental judgment, unnecessary.

It is my responsibility—not the government's—to evaluate risks and benefits when it comes to my children's healthcare. If HB1118 is enacted, it will force parents like me into an impossible choice: comply with mandates that we do not believe are in our children's best interest or remove them from school, disrupting their education, socialization, and extracurricular activities. Not all parents have the ability to homeschool, meaning many children will face an unnecessary educational setback.

I am fortunate that I have the ability to homeschool my children if this bill passes, but I know many families are not in the same position. Even so, this decision would come at a great personal cost—my oldest child would miss out on his senior year, and my youngest would lose the opportunity to participate in sports. While my children have bravely agreed to make this sacrifice for their health, it is an unfair position that they should never have been placed in.

I urge you to consider the lasting impact this bill will have on families across our state. Medical decisions should remain in the hands of parents and healthcare professionals, not legislators. Please vote against HB1118 to protect parental rights, informed consent, and the well-being of our children.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Celeste Powell

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:03:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Mckay	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB1118 HD1 House Committee on Health & Education Hawaii State Legislature

Chairperson and Members of the Committee:

I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to **HB1118**, a bill that seeks to **prohibit new non-medical exemptions** for school-aged children's immunization requirements. While protecting public health is important, **this bill directly conflicts with a newly signed executive order by President Donald J. Trump**, which **prohibits federal funding for schools that mandate COVID-19 vaccinations**. If this bill is passed in its current form, **Hawaii's public education system risks losing critical federal funding** at a time when we cannot afford such financial losses.

Conflict with Federal Policy

On **February 14, 2025**, **President Trump signed an executive order** explicitly denying federal funding to any school—public or private—that mandates vaccinations. The bill's **removal of non-medical exemptions** implies that future mandates could be imposed without exemptions. If such mandates could cause Hawaii's **Department of Education, public schools, and higher education institutions to be ineligible for federal education funding** from agencies like the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Financial Consequences for Hawaii's Schools

Hawaii's public schools and universities **rely heavily on federal funding** for various programs, including special education, Title I funding for low-income students, and federal grants for infrastructure improvements. If HB1118 leads to a **vaccine mandate with no exemptions**, the state could lose millions of dollars in federal assistance, forcing schools to cut essential services. **We cannot afford to risk this funding, especially given Hawaii's already limited state education budget.**

Parental Rights and Religious Freedom

Beyond financial concerns, HB1118 also threatens **parental rights** by removing the ability of families to make informed medical decisions for their children. The bill completely **eliminates religious exemptions for new students**, despite the fact that religious freedom is a fundamental right protected under the **First Amendment** of the U.S. Constitution. If the federal government recognizes a parent's right to refuse vaccines for their child, **the state of Hawaii should not create laws that contradict federal policy** and invite legal challenges.

Medical Decision-Making Should Be Left to Families and Physicians

The bill argues that “herd immunity” is a reason to enforce stricter vaccination laws. However, risks factors of such items **COVID-19 has a low transmission risk among children**, and most schools across the country have already abandoned mandates for this vaccine. Forcing vaccination through legislation, without allowing for non-medical exemptions, removes the ability of **parents and licensed medical professionals to make the best health decisions for individual children**.

Potential Legal Challenges

If HB1118 passes and effectively enforces a vaccination mandate, the **Hawaii State Legislature will likely face lawsuits** on multiple fronts:

1. **Violation of President Trump’s Executive Order** – Federal funding restrictions would be challenged in court, leading to unnecessary legal battles.
2. **Violation of the First Amendment** – Religious freedom lawsuits could arise from parents denied exemptions.
3. **Violation of Federal Education Laws** – Federal protections for students under the **Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA)** and other provisions could conflict with state mandates.

Conclusion: Do Not Pass HB1118

In light of these concerns, I urge the committee to **vote NO on HB1118**. Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccinations, especially without consideration of federal policies, could have **devastating financial consequences for Hawaii’s education system** while infringing upon parental rights and religious freedoms. **Hawaii should not put itself in direct conflict with federal law, risk losing federal funding, and invite costly legal challenges.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I respectfully urge you to **oppose HB1118** in order to protect Hawaii’s children, schools, and fundamental freedoms.

Mahalo,

Tamara McKay

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:04:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

For our most vulnerable children, who may not be able to get vaccines due to a cancer diagnosis or something, we must do all we can to protect them by requiring vaccinations. Too many people do not have a memory of the dangers of childhood diseases like polio and measles, so they can't appreciate the risks. But science proves that vaccines are safe. Please pass this bill to protect our keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:07:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I know public testimony and comments apparently don't mean anything to these committees, but regardless I OPPOSE

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:08:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:09:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Harrison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As citizens of the United States this is not fair to ANYONE. Weather you agree or disagree with religious practices or beliefs on vaccination. Just completely unconstitutional

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:12:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

Paul Giles

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:13:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire	Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Subject: Urgent Opposition to H.B. 1118 – An Unconstitutional Assault on Freedom and a Pharmaceutical Farce

Aloha Dear Legislators in The State of Hawaii,

I am writing to vehemently oppose House Bill 1118, a draconian measure that seeks to strip Hawaii's families of their First Amendment right to religious freedom under the guise of public health. This bill, with its absurd effective date of July 1, 3000, is not only a logistical farce but a thinly veiled cover-up for medical fraud, pharmaceutical corruption, and government overreach. Below, I outline multiple reasons—backed by data and constitutional principles—why this legislation must be rejected outright.

1. Violation of First Amendment Rights

The U.S. Constitution guarantees freedom of religion under the First Amendment, a right upheld even in public health contexts unless the state proves a compelling interest met with the least restrictive means (*Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah*, 1993). H.B. 1118's blanket ban on new non-medical exemptions for school immunizations directly infringes on this liberty. In Hawaii, where religious exemptions rose from 2.5% in 2015-2016 to 5.3% in 2023-2024 (per the bill's own data), this reflects a growing exercise of conscience—not a crisis. Nationally, the CDC reported a 3% non-medical exemption rate for kindergartners in 2022-2023, yet no catastrophic outbreaks ensued where herd immunity held. The state's claim of necessity fails when 94.7% of students are still vaccinated—well above thresholds for diseases like polio (80-85%) or pertussis (92-94%). This isn't protection; it's coercion.

2. The Placebo Date of 3000 – A Legislative Sham

An effective date of July 1, 3000, is laughable and exposes this bill as a sham. No serious legislation delays implementation by 975 years unless it's a placeholder to mask intent or dodge scrutiny. Is this a typo meant for 2025, slipped through to avoid immediate backlash? Or a deliberate ploy to bury accountability? Either way, it undermines trust and hints at a cover-up—perhaps to shield pharmaceutical interests raking in billions while lawmakers dither.

3. No Evidence of a Public Health Crisis

The bill leans on "herd immunity" rhetoric, citing a 95% vaccination target. Yet, Hawaii's 94.7%

immunization rate (2023-2024) is near this threshold, and only 296 students (out of ~180,000 in public/private schools) had medical exemptions—a mere 0.16%. Measles cases, a poster child for vaccine mandates, totaled just 2,007 nationwide in 2019 (CDC data) during a “major outbreak”—hardly an epidemic in a population of 330 million. In Hawaii, zero measles deaths have been reported since 2000. Where’s the crisis justifying this rights grab? The real threat seems to be dissent, not disease.

4. A Cover for Pharmaceutical Payouts and Corruption

This bill reeks of Big Pharma influence. The global vaccine market hit \$56 billion in 2022 (Statista) and is projected to exceed \$100 billion by 2030—profits fueled by mandates like this. In 2021, Pfizer alone paid \$2.3 billion to settle fraud claims (U.S. DOJ), yet lawmakers push their products without question. Hawaii’s health officials cite “decades of evidence” from federal agencies, but the revolving door between the CDC, FDA, and pharma giants—like ex-CDC Director Julie Gerberding joining Merck—casts doubt on impartiality. Are we protecting kids or corporate bottom lines?

5. Medical Fraud and Vaccine Risks Ignored

The bill assumes vaccines are infallible, but VAERS (Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System) logged 1.5 million adverse events from 1990-2023, including 36,000 deaths—underreported by an estimated 10-100x per Harvard studies. In 2021-2022, myocarditis risks in young males post-mRNA vaccines spiked to 1 in 3,000 (NEJM, 2022), yet H.B. 1118 offers no opt-out for concerned parents. This isn’t safety; it’s forced experimentation cloaked as altruism. The 5.3% exemption rate reflects rational skepticism, not ignorance—why punish it?

6. Alternatives Exist – Why the Heavy Hand?

If the goal is public health, less restrictive options abound: targeted education, voluntary clinics, or quarantine measures during outbreaks (as used pre-COVID). New York’s 2019 measles response—excluding unvaccinated kids from school during outbreaks—worked without banning exemptions statewide. Hawaii could follow suit, respecting rights while managing risks. Instead, H.B. 1118 opts for authoritarianism, alienating families and fueling distrust.

7. Social Fallout and Economic Costs

Forcing compliance risks driving families to homeschooling or out of state. Hawaii’s public school enrollment dropped 3.5% from 2019-2023 (HDOE data), and this could accelerate it, slashing funding tied to attendance (~\$15,000 per pupil). Private schools, often religious, may sue, clogging courts with First Amendment cases. The bill’s grandfather clause—allowing 2024-2025 exemptions—admits its own inconsistency: if current exempt kids pose no threat, why ban future ones?

Call to Action

H.B. 1118 is an unconstitutional overreach, a pharmaceutical cash grab, and a fraud on Hawaii’s people. I urge you to reject it and investigate the real motives—follow the money, not the fearmongering. Protect our keiki by preserving freedom, not mandating conformity. Scrap this bill and its 3000-year farce before it poisons our state’s soul.

Sincerely,
Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billioanire

Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:18:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB1118

VERY STRONGLY OPPOSE!!!

This bill heavily infringes upon individual religious rights and freedoms having to do with our own bodies and those of our children's bodies and health.

If individuals and parents, after having a FULL informed consent of the product, decide they do not want immunizations given for whatever reason, religious included, then that should be their decision. Govt should NOT dictate a medical decision for them!

There is mounting evidence that numerous vaxes and medical interventions have caused immense harm or death to children and has been heavily suppressed from people learning about it. The information is out there if you choose to find it! There is more to the true science of vaccines than you all may be aware. It is easy to be persuaded by big pharma when it helps their bank account and those benefiting from it.

The vaccine schedule has ballooned over the years, pushed along by big pharmaceutical companies and their bottom line. It is not what it was when current legislators were young.

Pharmaceutical companies were previously given liability protection. Are Gov. Green and any of our Hawaii govt. members ready to take on personal liability for any child that is harmed in any way after being pressured into getting vaccines they or their parents may not want. I'm guessing NOT! This harm may show up years down the road, due to the products in the vaccines. I understand that Dr.'s are given VERY little vaccine education in medical school, so obviously there is a lot more to learn about them, especially from parents of the thousands of injured or deceased children. If the vaccines supposedly work, then all who choose to get them should be protected and the small percentage of unvaccinated kids should not affect them. Some of the components or ingredients of vaccines heavily go against some religious convictions and it is very wrong for you to ignore this.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE PARENT'S OR PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO OPT OUT OF ANY OF THEIR CHILDREN'S or THEIR OWN VACCINES TO ATTEND SCHOOL ETC.

Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:18:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan Ventura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I vehemently oppose this bill. Religious and medical freedoms must be protected under the first amendment of the United States Constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:19:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leianah Kahahawai	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 I suffered from a vaccine injury when I was a very young girl age 6 and still am constantly working on my health till this day. We cannot one size fits all - mandate vaccines. It is wrong. There are many roads to health and God gave us an immune system and herbs to strengthen our bodies. It is wrong to push any thing down our children's throats. And it is get HARMFUL. I vote no on this dangerous bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:22:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill. WE, as parents, should have the right to decide what goes into our child's body, not Josh Green or any politician. Just like how there's an argument for "herd immunity" - there's also an argument for vaccine injuries and the unknown, long-term side effects of these drugs. I respectfully ask the politicians to oppose this bill.

Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:23:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in complete opposition to HB1118. This is a discrimination against religious freedom. I have filed a formal complaint with the White House Office of Faith, and addressed Mrs. Paula White, who is the Advisor of this office. The purpose of this office is to prevent discrimination against Christians, in which this bill appears to do. I have also reached out to NEW Secretary of Health and Human Services, Robert Kennedy Jr, and urgently requested he intervene in this matter.

Every lawmaker who supports this bill does not only put every child's health in danger, but they are basically giving parents an ultimatum to choose education or their child's health. Personally, my child's health is my main concern and I know thousands of other parents who choose their child's health over the education institution. Our children will lose out on education for the simple fact that there were lawmakers who'd rather put their needs over the needs of the very people who put them into office. What does this bill benefit the lawmakers? This is supposed to be purely for the health and safety of our children.

There have been numerous studies that support claims that vaccines (up and down the list) cause ADHD, ADD, Autism, Cancer, blood clots, and Guillain-barre syndrome, just to name a few. As a believer, we have a right to stand in the faith of our God, rather than the faith in vaccines being our healer.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:26:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Nunez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee members,

I strongly oppose the proposed bill to remove religious exemptions for vaccines in schools. This legislation directly infringes on religious freedom and parental rights, both of which are fundamental to our democracy. Families should not be forced to choose between their deeply held beliefs and access to education. Religious liberty is a cornerstone of our nation, and no government should have the power to override it in matters of personal and medical decision-making.

Please vote against this bill and uphold our right to religious freedom.

Sincerely,
Holly Nunez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:26:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tina ah puck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

An older sibling had a medical reaction to a certain vaccine. Now the younger sibling is of age to receive the same shot, and the parents would rather not risk it. The younger sibling doesn't qualify for a medical exemption until they are actually physically harmed by a shot.

Religious exemptions have always been an option for families like this, families who need the option to choose which medical treatments their kids receive. It happens more often than we think. As parents, we know our children best and we need to have the freedom to listen to our instincts and make decisions that we feel are safe for our keiki.

In the case of outbreaks or pandemics, unvaccinated children are already asked to stay home from school. They are not putting anyone at risk, and they don't want to.

Families should be allowed the option to make the decisions they think are best and safest for their children.

Please don't allow this freedom to be taken away.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:27:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition to this bill to take away religious freedom. There is nothing more sacred to me than the god given sovereignty over my own body. That extends to parental responsibilities to our children. Our bodies are sacred.

Education is something we all pay for as tax payers and rely on as parents. It is not ok to deny any child's attendance at school because of their religious beliefs or the beliefs of their parents. If people with religious objections to vaccines are denied a public education they would be forced to home school or go without school. This is not a realistic alternative for most families. Nothing, including health concerns, can justify denying someone a public education based on their religion.

sinclerely, Don King

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:27:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This will never hold up. This is unconstitutional. You're wasting our money.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:28:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Irvine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Governor Green,

This is my written testimony regarding HB1118.

PLEASE KNOW THAT I EMPHATICALLY AGAINST AND OPPOSE HB1118! My heart is broken that you, of all people, with all due respect Sir, that would even consider such an ANTI-AMERICAN BILL! Let alone where this Bill is today that we, the citizens of Hawaii, would have to do all we can to STOP THIS ATROCITY!

Our Nation just went through 4 years of Anti-American Administration who violated Our Constitutional Rights, especially our First Amendment Right, our Religious Rights! And if we, those of faith, went against this past Administration's narrative, we were subjected to verbal abuse, being non essential, fired, not heard and so on. Even the President called us garbage!

Forcing us to wear masks and taking jabs, taking swab tests etc. And as you have done, violated the Hippocratic Oath and the Nuremberg Code! At a stroke of your pen, you cleverly undid what our Founding Fathers and Mothers fought for and those who were subjected to Hitler and the Nazi's gross and horrific atrocities! These were WRITTEN so IT WOULD NOT HAPPEN AGAIN! And tragically it did via fear tactics etc!

Sir, you aren't just dealing with us who are of faith when you think you are going to REVOKE OUR RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION RIGHTS, you will be dealing with God Himself! You boastfully say when it comes to Women's abortion rights:

My Body, My Choice! Which is evil in itself and even anti-science because you know very well as being a medical doctor yourself that the preborn baby's body is completely different from the Mothers!

Yet when comes to injections of all sorts you are FORCING these jabs on us! Every person's body is different. What works for one person could be lethal to someone else!

Who has bewitched you? Who have you soul'd out to? Please know that I mean no disrespect!

I'm blessed to have 2 young adult children who have their doctorate and masters degree in various science fields. And my sin even questions the validity of these because our bodies aren't

meant to have all of these. The Lord graciously built inside our bodies a natural defense to most sicknesses, even the man made ones of the likes of Fauci!

Please Sir, I humbly ask that you will reconsider on Forcing this into law! You are supposed to protect and defend our Nation and our State's people but instead you are tearing us down by taking away our basic human rights! It seems that your Party is a Party of death and destruction and not of life and life abundantly!

You folks even want to play God by allowing children to change their God given genders! By allowing our keiki to be exposed by these perverted transgender men and other abhorrent books in our public school system. Allowing DEI to take priority over hardworking and merit. Inciting hatred and racial divisions etc!

And now you want to add salt to the wound by taking away my freedom, our freedom of choice! Why? Again, by no means am I trying to be disrespectful but you, Sir, are NOT GOD! I am a God fearing Christian woman who has endured much in life, including health issues! I have learned over the years what's best for my body and what isn't and have been guided by wonderful and qualified doctors!

Can you honestly look in my eyes and tell me that after almost 250 years of our Nation's First Amendment Rights which has worked and that sets us apart from every other Nation, that you are going to strip me of this? Please research history with reliable sources about the slow but eventual demise of great empires and nations worldwide because of such decisions as yours. Ask the victims of socialism, communism, those living in terroristic countries! Many have warned our Nation but there is this elite group of domestic terrorists who want nothing better than to destroy our Country thinking they will be exempt from the consequences of their forced laws!

In closing, please hear my heart because this just doesn't affect us now but more so for our children and our future children! Thank you for hearing me. I'm not able to speak in person because I just had a major surgery done and still recovering.

I do pray that Jesus will guide you into all His TRUTH and that you will have the courage to obey what He says no matter what anyone says in your circle. Our Land is Perpetuated in God's Righteousness! Doing the right thing has never been popular and comes with a great cost. But the eternal benefits outweigh any temporary present ones.

Sincerely, Jamie Irvine of Makaha, Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:28:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleanaonalani Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Meleanaonālani Adams. I am a mother and a teacher. I oppose this bill that will be taking away our religious rights. That is like taking away our constitutional rights. As a mother first, I will not be scared into going against our religious beliefs and giving my child and future children these vaccines. I will resign and remove my son from school and then homeschool him. I know I am not the only teacher/parent who will do this which means, less teachers to help in schools when Hawai'i is already in a teacher shortage. Many families will remove their keiki from school which means less students and less funding for the schools. Targeting and stripping away religious rights will do more harm to our already failing education system.

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:29:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ryanne Verbeckmoes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Before supporting this bill, I urge everyone to consider a crucial question: Who will be held accountable for any potential adverse reactions or side effects my children may experience due to mandatory vaccinations?

This issue is not about being for or against vaccines It is about choice. It is about values values that prioritize the well-being, safety, and autonomy of our children.

Our rights, our freedoms, and our ability to make personal medical decisions for our families are at stake. This bill does not simply introduce a mandate; it removes our fundamental right to choose. That is unacceptable.

I strongly ask you to oppose this bill and allow us the ability to choose what is best when it comes to our Keiki!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:30:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the committee,

I am in strong opposition to this measure. if it passes, this would compromise people's choices. additionally, I am for the medical institutions and all they provide. however, i am in favor of giving people choices. thank you for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:31:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I VEHEMENTLY OPPOSE THIS HORRIBLE PIECE OF LEGISLATION. Why are you hellbent on forcing children to be guinea pigs for pharmaceutical manufacturers, and trying to VIOLATE people's HUMAN RIGHTS to practice their religions AND CULTURES to do it? Even Keith Hayashi knows passing this bill is a bad idea. Might want to listen to THE PEOPLE other than yourselves for once...

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:34:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bart Burford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NOT ONLY ID THIS UNCONSTITUTIONAL, IT IS ALSO ANTI HUMAN RIGHTS AND
MAY EVEN FALL UNDER NUTRMBERG TRIAL STIPULATIONS - IF THATS NOT
ALREADY ENOUGH REASONS TO OPPOSE THIS BILL, THEN I DON'T KNOW WHAT
IS - NO!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:38:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raylette Dacosin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. You are taking away our first amendment rights! It is our choice whether to vaccinate or not. You are going against God!!! Please oppose bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:40:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional. With all the evidence of adverse reactions to vaccines I don't see how you all can pass such a bill. It also negates all parental rights. You are not listening to the people who you work for and voted you into office. There are more testimonies against this bill than for, yet you persist in moving it forward.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:40:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cameo Fong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this effort to not accept religious or other exemptions for vaccines. It is unconstitutional to say our religious beliefs do not matter when injecting foreign items into or onto our bodies. Our bodies are our temples and we have the right to protect it from toxins, fetal cell products and anything else that goes against our spiritual and moral beliefs. Additinally, this is AMERICA- mandating a vaccine and not allowing for choice is unconstitutional as well.

In additional to spiritual and moral opposition, I am citing biblical reasons to support religious opposition to mandated vaccine injections below:

Mark 5:34, 1Corinthians 6:19-20, 1Corinthians 3:16-17, Psalms 139:14, Leviticus 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:23, Job 14:4, Psalms 41:3, Psalms 118:8, Matthew 9:12, Exodus 23:25, and likely others sections.

Using school enrollment as leverage and as an excuse to force these vaccines is immoral, harmful, and unconstitutional. Parents need to decide what is best for their children, not the government. This administration is out of control with their stripping of human rights, constitutional rights, and the rights of parents to protect their children from harm.

PLEASE DO NOT remove these exemptions. We the people OPPOSE!!!

Thank you for your service to the community. Please remember you agreed to serve the community, not serve political or big pharma agendas.

Cameo Fong

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:41:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mayan Montanari-Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms, disregards parental rights, and undermines informed consent - cornerstones of a free and democratic society.

Religious exemptions exist to protect individuals whose sincerely held beliefs do not align with certain medical interventions. Removing this right forces families to choose between their deeply held convictions and their children's education or participation in society. This sets a dangerous precedent, allowing the government to override personal religious beliefs in favor of a one-size-fits-all mandate.

Furthermore, medical decisions, including vaccinations, should be made by families in consultation with their healthcare providers not dictated by government mandates. Parents are best equipped to assess the risks and benefits for their children, taking into account their medical history, personal beliefs, and unique circumstances.

Hawaii has long been a place of cultural and religious diversity, where individual rights are respected. HB1118 threatens this tradition by imposing a mandate that disregards religious liberty. I urge you to oppose this bill and preserve the right of all Hawaii residents to make medical decisions in accordance with their faith and conscience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mayan Montanari-Perez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:41:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Toyofuku	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To: Chair Tarnus and Members of the House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Cheryl Toyofuku, Pearl City

Re: Strong Opposition to HB1118 relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

JHA Committee Hearing: Scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2025 at 3:00 pm

As a mother, grandmother, retired RN and health advocate, I strongly OPPOSE HB1118. Non-medical exemptions to vaccines include philosophical, conscientious, religious or personal beliefs. These exemptions should be protected as a human and informed consent right in order to make voluntary vaccine decision making.

HB1118 would be a grievous violation of one's sincere religious or personal belief in opposing toxic vaccination if this exemption to vaccines is removed now or in the future. The constitutional right to have and exercise personal religious beliefs is an expectation that should be respected and protected. Laws should not be passed that obstruct this most fundamental of freedoms.

More authority given to our state's Department of Health is seriously being questioned by the people of Hawaii. History reveals DOH's vaccine promotion funded by big pharma and government funding with the flawed science of herd immunity. The disturbing mantra of "vaccines are safe and effective" continue to be promoted to the multitudes who are now researching and have awakened. The Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS) of numerous vaccine injuries, along with Vaccine Death Reports have increased substantially. The increasing CDC Childhood Immunization Schedule with 79 doses of various toxic vaccine ingredients continue to cause our children to have more chronic health conditions than ever before.

Health care options of healthier nutrients, exercise, better agricultural practices and less toxic substances into our bodies should be promoted instead to build up our natural immunity to diseases. Our healthcare choice should remain with parents and their healthcare provider, not

with DOH or government. As our public servant and lawmaker, please do your diligent research before making an unwise decision to pass this bill out of your Committee.

Please oppose and do not pass HB1118 out of the JHA Committee.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:50:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Karsin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator's,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the removal of religious exemptions, as it directly infringes upon my First Amendment right to freedom of religion. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution clearly states:

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances."

The Free Exercise Clause explicitly protects individuals from government actions that prohibit the practice of their religion. By eliminating religious exemptions, the state is effectively restricting the free exercise of religion and forcing individuals to act against their deeply held beliefs.

My faith has been a guiding force for my family, shaping our values and way of life. To strip away this right is not just a legal violation—it is a deeply personal attack on our faith and identity. We teach our children to express themselves through education, the arts, sports, and most importantly, through our religious beliefs. Denying religious exemptions disregards these fundamental freedoms and threatens to divide us as a society, rather than uniting us in mutual respect and understanding.

I urge you to uphold the constitutional protections that safeguard religious liberty and to reject any attempt to eliminate religious exemptions. Let us stand together in defense of our rights, for when we are united, we thrive; when we are divided, we all lose.

Sincerely,
Karsin.

Vanessa
(Caring Mom to 3 beautiful daughters)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:51:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:51:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Bui	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I firmly believe that religious exemptions are essential for protecting the rights and freedoms of individuals of all faiths. By granting religious exemptions, we can foster a culture of respect

I urge you to recognize the importance of religious exemptions and to uphold the rights of individuals to practice their faith freely.

Mahalo.

Sincerely,
Rachel Bui

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:53:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Taryn, and I strongly oppose HB1118.

This bill would eliminate religious exemptions for student vaccinations, undermining parental rights and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. Parents have the right to protect their children and make decisions about their health, including whether or not to vaccinate. Removing this choice infringes on our fundamental rights.

Hawaii has long respected the right of families to make medical decisions based on personal and religious beliefs. Removing these exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and access to education. While public health is important, policies must also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:56:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wyatt T Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not support the passing of this bill. Removing the option for religious accommodations for any and all subjects is a direct violation of our First Constitutional right.

The first amendment of the US consitution protects our freedom of religion through the establishment clause and the free exercise clause.

You passing this bill will result in the violation of our Right. this is unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:57:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
krystle ilar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It Is NOT the government's right ti take away my religious freedoms!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 12:57:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalia R. Kaneta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State House of Representatives,

I hope you are all well and I thank you for the opportunity to testify in OPPOSITION to the proposed HB1118. My name is Kalia “Bear” Kaneta and I am a senior at Maui High School. Additionally, I become eligible to vote upon turning 18 in May of this year. Regardless of whether I voted for any of you in the past (which I legally was incapable of doing), you are my designated representatives in our American democracy; therefore, it is to you who I write this letter concerning the restriction of a fundamental right of all humans.

It has come to my attention that the Hawai'i State Legislature is floating two companion bills, HB 1118 and SB 1437, that would discontinue religious (or the Orwellian “non-medical”) exemptions to vaccination in public schools. Indeed, just last week HB 1118 was passed by the House Committee on Health. While I do appreciate Section 2b of HB 1118, which maintains religious exemptions for those already approved, legally - and perhaps more importantly, morally - there should be no “ban” on religious practice at all.

I love our country’s Constitution and history; to satiate that reverence I took AP U.S. History online this year. No doubt, as Americans and as educated individuals, you, too, consider our Constitution beloved and absolute. Therefore I wish to remind you of the following legal precedents in our country:

The Constitution, Amendment 1: Congress shall make no law... prohibiting the free exercise [of religion] thereof...

Referred to as freedom of religion.

The Constitution, Article VI, Clause 2: This Consitution... shall be the supreme Law of the Land...

Referred to as the Supremacy Clause.

Virginia and Kentucky Resolution and South Carolina's 1832 Ordinance of Nullification.

State Compact Theory/Nullification Theory have been proven void due to several Supreme Court decisions such as *McCulloch v. Maryland*, where the decision was made under Supreme Court Justice John Marshall that the Federal Government supersedes the State's authority.

Additionally, despite modernity and postmodernity values, the globe also recognizes the importance of protecting religion and tradition:

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, Article 18: Everyone has the right to freedom of thought, conscience and religion; this right includes freedom to change his religion or belief, and freedom, either alone or in community with others and in public or private, to manifest his religion or belief in teaching, practice, worship and observance.

It is important to note that it is acceptable to manifest religion through observance and to do so publicly or privately; thus, if an individual of any religion selects to observe said religion by declining vaccination on genuine religious grounds, they have the right to do so, even in public settings.

However, Representative Terez Amato has responded to my concerns by pointing out *Prince vs. Massachusetts*, 1944, as evidence that the proposed bills are technically Constitutional.

I am sure we are all also aware of the precedent set by *Jacobson vs. Massachusetts*, 1905, with the 5-dollar fine incurred. Perhaps that may be utilized if the immoral sentiments behind this bill prevail.

Finally, Ma'ams and Sirs, I represent a younger generation reared in a time of great national division. I represent the "Posterity" mentioned in the preamble of our great Constitution. I am no doctor - neither are many of you - but we all are humble beneficiaries of that great Constitution. We are all humble protectors of that great Constitution.

It is my belief that our national consciousness is rapidly approaching an awakening, led by dissatisfaction with previous political agendas and marked by a resolute desire to embrace tradition. To artificially continue those past political zeitgeists - especially without an imminent public health crisis - through the oppression of certain aspects of religious practice sheds a terrible shadow upon one's motives.

I am grateful for the time taken to read this long letter. I plead with you to please consider the implications of HB 1118 and SB 1437 and to advocate in opposition to their passing; that is, if you believe a 17-year-old girl's words carry any weight in our great American experiment in democracy.

Attentively,

Kalia "Bear" Kaneta

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:00:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
manndi kawasaki	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! It is unconstitutional against people's religious freedoms. There are many written studies available to the public about side effect and harm on vaccines. Vaccines are not a one size fits all. This is clearly 100% not lawfull and something like this should not even be a topic on the floor for someone else to decide what is best for our own kids.

I myself had a bad reaction to the Covid vaccine. DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:02:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kazu Kishimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Completely disagree, this is stepping over our American rights to choose. Our bodies and our choose especially for our children and over stepping any religious exemption as well. This is what America was founded under.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:03:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle powers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

As a mother, I would like to make the decision that is best for my children. If vaccines are forced on them with no other option I will be not be registering my kids in the DOE.

I vote no on the removing religious exemptions from Hawaii.

Thank you

Danielle Powers

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:03:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I, as a father, born, raised, and living in Hawaii, ***CANNOT, IN GOOD CONSCIENCE, SUPPORT HB1118.***

It should be up to the parents/guardians of the children who could be affected by this bill, who should have 100% say in the decision regarding whether or not his/her children should be vaccinated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:03:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsey Seto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing Mandatory Vaccinations for Children

Dear Committee/Board Members,

I appreciate the opportunity to write this today as a concerned parent and advocate for medical freedom. I am here to strongly oppose mandatory vaccinations for our keiki.

As parents, we have a fundamental right to make medical decisions for our children based on informed consent. This principle is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, ensuring that families can weigh the benefits and risks of any medical procedure. While vaccines have been promoted as a public health measure, they are not without risks. The decision to vaccinate should be left to parents in consultation with trusted healthcare providers, NOT mandated by the government.

Every keiki is unique, and medical decisions should never be one-size-fits-all. Some keiki have adverse reactions to vaccines, and others have underlying health conditions that make vaccination risky. Mandates do not account for these individual circumstances and can lead to unintended harm. Furthermore, vaccine manufacturers are shielded from liability, leaving families to bear the consequences alone if their keiki experiences an injury.

Parental rights and medical freedom are essential to a free society. Mandating vaccines strips parents of the ability to make choices that align with their child's best interests. Instead of coercion, we should focus on education, transparency, and ensuring that parents have access to comprehensive information to make informed decisions.

I urge this committee to respect parental rights and reject any legislation that imposes mandatory vaccinations on our children. Let us uphold the principles of medical choice and bodily autonomy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chelsey-Lynn Seto

Kaehugirl@aol.com

Aloha JHA House Committee,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my strong opposition to Hawaii House Bill 1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements.

While I understand the intent behind this bill is to increase vaccination coverage, I believe it infringes on several fundamental rights and freedoms. Here are my key concerns:

1. **Personal Freedom and Autonomy:** The bill undermines the right of individuals to make personal health decisions. The right to make personal health decisions is a cornerstone of our society. Government overreach in this area can set a dangerous precedent, infringing on personal liberties. We must protect the individual's right to choose what is best for their health and well-being.
2. **Religious and Philosophical Beliefs:** Many individuals have deeply held religious or philosophical beliefs that guide their decisions about vaccinations. Forcing them to act against their conscience is a violation of religious freedom.
3. **Parental Rights:** Parents are best positioned to make health decisions for their children. Removing non-medical exemptions undermines parental rights and the ability to make informed choices based on individual circumstances and beliefs.
4. **Potential for Discrimination:** The bill could disproportionately affect certain communities, particularly those with specific religious or philosophical beliefs, leading to feelings of discrimination and marginalization.
5. **Trust in Public Health:** Mandating vaccinations without allowing for exemptions could erode public trust in health authorities. Building trust through education and transparent communication is a more effective approach to increasing vaccination rates.
6. **Medical Autonomy:** Medical decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, considering individual health conditions and risks. A blanket policy might not account for unique medical situations that don't qualify for a medical exemption but still warrant caution.
7. **Historical Precedents:** There are historical instances where mandated medical interventions led to public backlash and loss of trust in health systems. We should learn from these examples and avoid repeating past mistakes.

Community Impact Example: In our community, there has been a significant increase in the number of families using religious exemptions to opt out of the state's vaccination mandate. For instance, last year, **4% of students in public and private schools** in Hawaii had religious exemptions, up from 2% before the COVID-19 pandemic. *This dramatic increase highlights the deeply held beliefs of many families and the potential negative impact of removing these exemptions.*

Given these concerns, I strongly encourage you to reevaluate Hawaii House Bill 1118 and to safeguard the rights and freedoms of all individuals. I appreciate your attention to this critical issue as it means a great deal to me and many others in our community.

Sincerely,
Kahealani Paulo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:04:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am opposed to HB1118 and I am very surprised that the Dept. of Health would be able to usurp parental rights especially when it comes down to religious convictions.

Parents have the highest interest for their children and know them best,

Mahalo!

Lora Burbage

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:04:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello,

I do not support HB 1118. It is our God given and constitutional rights as parents to choose if we give our children anything. This bill goes against our free will to choose what our children are subjected to medically. I do not support. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:05:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Figuereo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I DO NOT support HB 1118. I am a the mother of my child and a U.S.A born citizen, i reserve the right to make any medical decision regarding my child. Taking away the religious exemption and forcing me to vaccinate my child is a violation of my rights as a citizen and parent. HB 1118 forces parents to vaccinate their child(ren) but does not take any responsibility for any injuries related to vaccinations. Like everything else, vaccinations are not perfect, there is always a risk for a side effect! Allow parents to make their own decisions!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:05:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I greatly oppose this bill and goes against our constitutional rights as people of America. We have bodily autonomy and have a right as people and citizens of America to choose what enters into our bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:06:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealohi Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this ridiculous bill. Stop taking away our freedoms and let us live our lives as parents. Fricken donkey of a Governor!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:07:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cristyn Alderman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a total injustice of mine and my children's 1st amendment religious freedom! There is already a policy in place with Religious exemption in the event of an outbreak happened.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:07:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Parent of a Child attending Public School I oppose this Bill cause I feel it is unfair and unconstitutional for the State to Determine if My Child has to get Mandatory Vaccinations and it goes Against my Personal and Religious Beliefs as a Parent and a Citizen of the United States!
I Duane Lum Oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:07:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

100%oppose this bill

this is totally against our constitution rights and this bill needs to be killed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:08:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailanna Lagmay-josiah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is ailanna and I oppose bill HB1118. It is against hawaii constitution Art 1 Sec. 2 which if you read it says "All persons are free by nature and are equal in there inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness."

We should NOT A have people telling us what we should need this subject should be left between the parents and family physicians NO ONE ELSE.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:09:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hayley Ford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to formally and respectfully in OPPOSITION OF Bill HB1118. It is against our US Constitution, as well as our religious rights as a US Citizen. Our family of four, base this opposition upon our religious beliefs of following and our devotion to God, Jesus Christ His Son, and read the KJV Bible as a road book, guiding not only my life, but my soul and my family's. I hold sincere and genuine beliefs that forbid me from accepting vaccinations that is continuously discussed throughout the Bible. Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, government must not discriminate against on the basis of sincerely held religious beliefs. Religious discrimination involves treating a student unfavorably because of his or her religious beliefs. As you know, the law protects not only people who belong to traditional, organized religions, such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, but also others who have sincerely held religious beliefs.

The Book of Genesis states that God created man in His image. It is my belief that God knew what He was doing and the body of many needs no 'fixing' by mankind. I see vaccines as 'fixing' I cannot improve on G-d's creation. Numerous religious scriptures tell us we need to trust in God and His creation. "Honor the Lord with your bodies." 1 Corinthians (6:20) "No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. Luke (16:13) Exodus 15:26 states: "If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His Commandments and keep all His statutes, I will none of the diseases on you which I brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you." "God created us in his own image." [Genesis 1:27] "So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God." (1 Corinthians, 2:5) "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. That God is in you. That he is our healer." Corinthians 6:19 In Matthew 9:12, Jesus said: "Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do." Jesus again repeated the same in Mark 2:17. "When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician..." Based upon the above scripture I shared; ALL vaccinations opposes my personal interpretation religious belief(s) that you hold sacred. I believe that if I was to participate in taking any shot or administration of any shots to my children would prevent me from worshipping my God/Creator. COVID-19 vaccines are also the first mRNA (Pfizer/Moderna) or adenoviral vector (J & J) vaccines. These vaccines do not operate in the same way as "traditional" vaccines. Specifically, instead of using a fragment of dead virus and an adjuvant to help induce an immune response, these CV-19 vaccine products are genetic coding instructions that purport to instruct your body to produce a spike protein that is not natural to your own human genetic system. While some scientists/authorities claim that this does

not alter a human's genetic structure and/or that the "vaccine" stays localized to the vaccination area (shoulder) and does not spread to the rest of the human body, other scientists and authorities disagree, and there is evidence to support their views. In any event, it is not fully known what these novel technologies are actually doing to our human DNA. The possibility of genetically altering the human body, the body created by God, our Creator in His image, is a HUGE reason why we are not in opposition of HB1118.

Additionally, vaccines have been found to use a culture from aborted fetal tissue. I believe that using vaccines produced from aborted fetuses shows a profound disrespect for the remains of these children's souls. Using vaccines that exploit these deaths for profit violates the teachings of the Church. I believe that vaccination supports abortion and consequently violates conscience. Conscience is a strong force in my religion of Christianity. I see a clear difference between helping a body in crisis and addressing a healthy body with medical help or intervention. If my body were in crisis, I would consider all the options and discuss what to do with my trusted physician/healer. I would also consult with the Bible, pray to their God for help and guidance, consult with clergy and rely on the healing power of God to aid me. Whatever God sends my way, I will seek His help for solutions and guidance. And my decisions will adhere to my personal belief in God. I do not turn my back on all 'modern' medicine and its practices and philosophies. There is a significant difference between a body in crisis needing help and a body that is healthy accepting a medical procedure. I believe God would accept the former, He would not accept the latter. And since GOD gifted me COVID in January of 2021 (see attachment sent), I have been blessed with the anti-bodies, proving my immunity works! I am certain of this; God has communicated to me that to address my flawless, healthy, God-given body with the procedure of vaccination would be a sin against my conscience. The vaccination process is completely contradictory to my bond with God. All of the above is a very brief explanation of my sincerely held personal religious beliefs without indulging more personal and private details which is sacred to myself and God. I hope the information shared is sufficient. Again, these thoughts are my unique message and interpretation I have received from my God through prayer, mediation, reading the Bible and being a faithful, dedicated follower of Christ. God guides me, answers my prayers and has given my road map to living the best life I can by being obedient to His Word found in the Bible. I don't ask that you, or anyone else, agree with these thoughts and personal translations. However, under the law, I respectfully request that they be honored as truthful and legally permissible. Based on what I have shared, I ask you to uphold the FREEDOM of choice which the US Constitution clearly upholds. Passing HB1118 is in direct violation of our constitutional rights. Do NOT pass HB1118 .

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:09:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Yawata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We as people should be able to make decisions for ourselves and families on medical decisions.
Not a law or law maker.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:10:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yuki Hamada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't agree with taking my children to take mandatory vaccines, I wish to have my rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:10:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Julia and I respectfully testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for students vaccinations, limiting parental choice as well as long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a parent of 4, there have been occasions where I have chosen to delay my childs vaccine schedule for various reasons. This bill would no longer allow me as a parent, to make choices for my own children. The choice should be between the parent, physician and child. My physicians role is to educate me based on current evidence based practice. It is then my decision as a parent to take that information and make an informed decision for my child.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While I wholeheartedly agree that public health is important, policies need to respect and provide individuals with the right to choose and have diverse perspectives.

Mahalo,

Julia

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:11:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsie K Ebanez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

100 % oppose this bill!! It's agaisnt our constitutional rights. We as human beings are and always will be in CHARGE of our own bodies and It's our decisions to make!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:14:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Okumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. As a mother and a God-fearing woman, I must oppose this bill. Our children are the greatest gifts in our lives here on earth and it is our divine responsibility to nurture and raise them with guidance from Jesus Christ. He provides everything we need through nature, as we are made in His image. Though I am not against science, I believe that injecting chemicals, human/animal DNA/cells, and metals into our children defies our faith. As Christians, we understand that others do not share our beliefs and do not discriminate against those who will vaccinate to feel protected. Yet, our children are in danger of being seen as a threat and rejected by the school system for their religious background. Religious Exemptions are our right as Christians and citizens of the United States of America. Our children's education should not be leveraged by choices made by the government. The government is not God. Please DO NOT pass this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. God bless you all! ~ Lindsey

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:14:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mina Pedro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with this bill. The only person(s) making medical decisions for my child(s) should be myself, my partner or they're doctor. Period.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:17:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosanne Pulotu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away our freedom to choose whether or not I want my child to be vaccinated or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:18:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amber Vantze	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to [Bill Number] – Mandated Vaccination for Children

To: JHA

From: Amber Vantze, LMHC

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB1118

Aloha all,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to mandate vaccinations for children in Hawai‘i. While I support informed medical decision-making and public health initiatives, I believe this bill infringes upon parental rights, medical freedom, and informed consent.

Hawai‘i families deserve the right to make medical decisions that align with their values, beliefs, and individual health considerations. Mandating vaccines removes the ability of parents to engage in a thoughtful discussion with their child’s healthcare provider and make informed choices based on their child’s unique medical history and needs. Medical decisions should not be dictated by the government but should remain a collaborative decision between families and trusted medical professionals.

Furthermore, medical exemptions are often difficult to obtain, leaving children with prior adverse reactions, autoimmune conditions, or other medical vulnerabilities without appropriate protection. Additionally, many families have sincerely held religious or philosophical beliefs that should be respected in a diverse and inclusive society.

As a respected Licensed Mental Health Counselor (HI MHC-931) in the state, passing this bill will not only be detrimental to the health and safety of children, but in my opinion, will put them at greater risk of long-lasting trauma due to lack of choice and

bodily autonomy. In my professional experience, a sense of agency over one’s body is critical for a child’s psychological well-being and development. When medical decisions are imposed without the opportunity for informed consent, children may experience distress, fear, and a deep sense of powerlessness. This loss of control can be particularly harmful for children with a history of trauma, medical anxiety, or neurodivergence, exacerbating stress responses and increasing distrust in medical professionals and authority figures.

Additionally, coercive medical interventions can undermine a child's ability to develop a healthy relationship with their own body, potentially leading to long-term emotional and psychological consequences.

Instead of mandates, policies should prioritize education, open dialogue, and parental involvement to support informed decision-making in a way that honors both public health and individual rights.

I urge you to oppose this bill and protect the right of Hawai'i families to make personal medical decisions for their children.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Amber Vantze, LMHC

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:18:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elzarijah-Malia Aipoalani-Tuaoli-To'oto'o	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Elzarijah-Malia Aipoalani-Tuaoli-To'oto'o do not approve for this bill B1118 to happen. It was mandatory for me to receive vaccines to work at my previous job that I no longer work with Waianae Coast Comprehensive Health Center. I received the Pfizer shot and was later tested positive for Covid. I had no sense of smell, taste, and I was badly sick. I do not agree with this going forward.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:18:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Sorensen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to HB8111- Protect Medical Freedom and Parental Rights

As a grandmother of 8, I am writing to protect our freedom and right to choose. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB8111, which seeks to mandate vaccinations for schoolchildren while eliminating religious exemptions. This bill is a direct violation of our 1st Right amendment.

Medical decisions, including vaccination, should not be dictated by the government. Every child is unique, and medical interventions should never follow a one-size-fits-all approach. Mandating vaccines without exemptions disregards individual health concerns and personal religious beliefs.

Additionally, informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice. Forcing medical procedures without the ability to decline on religious grounds sets a dangerous precedent. If HB8111 is passed, *what other medical decisions might be taken out our hands in the future?*

Rather than stripping families of their rights, I urge you to support policies that respect religious freedom, medical choice, and parental authority in healthcare decisions. Please rethink your stance on HB8111 and stand for the medical and religious freedoms of Hawaii's families.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I appreciate your dedication to serving our community and look forward to your response.

Sincerely,

Michele Sorensen

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:19:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Nicely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:21:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ginai maka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. I am a mother and protecting my children will always be my priority. Vaccines are the highest risk of death, sickness, diseases. I will not let anyone have control on our rights as parents. May God Bless your hearts and open your eyes to see that this is not right!!
BURN THE BILL! GIVE OUR RIGHTS BACK!! SAVE OUR CHILDREN!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:22:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Lahti	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose this bill!! Please vote NO!! The government has no right to tell parents what to inject into their children!! That is a medical right for parents or guardians only! Our bodies, our choice! This bill is a violation of parents and children's medical right to choose! I am not anti vaccine, my children were vaccinated and I still believe in parents medical right to choose!! VOTE NO!
Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:22:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Auli'i Black	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill. The decision regarding my children's healthcare should not be dictated by schools or the government—it is a private matter between me and their doctor.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:22:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother and OBGYN, I strongly support this bill. Low vaccination rates have led to the resurgence of infectious diseases that were previously virtually eliminated. Vaccine refusal endangers the community as a whole. Please support this bill for the health and safety of our keiki.

Sincerely,
Sara C Harris, MD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:23:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalie Lenta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Rosalie Lenta, a resident of Hawaii since birth. I attended public school from pre-k- grade 12 here in the Hawaii public school system.

I oppose HB1118 because I believe it will negatively impact the keiki of Hawaii. Children do not choose if they want to be vaccinated or not, that is a choice that is up to parents. The children who's parents choose not to vaccinate will be negatively impacted by not having the option to go to public schools. No matter what people believe about vaccines, it's their own right to choose for themselves and their child. I oppose this bill because I believe children should have the right to education and the right to attend public school no matter what their parents decide in regards to immunizations.

Please consider all of the children who will be negatively impacted by being unfairly banned and excluded from the public school system if this bill becomes law.

I urge representatives to OPPOSE HB1118 and please listen to the needs of the families of all Hawaii residents. Protect our rights and our children.

Mahalo Nui - Rosalie Mahina Pearl Lenta

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:23:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Mick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"My right to swing my fist ends where your nose begins." That sums up this issue. This is not about forcing someone to violate their religious beliefs. It's about them putting aside their religious beliefs in order to protect the health of EVERYONE'S children. And if they absolutely cannot do so, they have the option of home schooling.

Religion and government don't mix, so please untangle them by passing this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:24:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Teriirere	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose to this bill...

My child, my choice...

*The following testimony was **written by Beau King, a 24 years old autistic, non-speaker by pointing to letters on a board** and scribed by his practitioner. If you want to know more about his primary method of communication, please [click here](#) and [click here](#).*

February 19, 2025

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian affairs

RE:HB 1118

Aloha Chair David Tarnas and fellow Judiciary and Hawaiian affairs Committee Members, I oppose this bill. I am vaccine injured and now have autism. Vaccines should always be a choice and never forced on anyone. You have no idea what it is like to be vaccine injured and how difficult my life is. Vaccines are not perfect and can have serious side effects. Because they are not tested like regular drugs we don't really know how safe they are. I want no child to go through what I go through.

Mahalo,
Beau King

postscript by Beau's mother Julianne King

"Beau was documented vaccine injured at age 3 by Dr. Richard Kelley, metabolic geneticist at Johns Hopkins' Kennedy Krieger Institute, in Baltimore, Maryland. Beau was one of the plaintiffs in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program [autism omnibus](#) in which over 5000 families were lumped together as a class action case. Recently, a motion has been filed alleging that the Department Of Justice lawyers committed fraud. That fraud led to thousands of families of vaccine-injured children being denied the right to compensation and the right to have their cases heard, according to the motion."

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:26:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac blanchard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass bill hb1118 to remove religious exemptions from vaccines. Body autonomy right? Talk the talk and walk the walk if you think abortion fine.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:26:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 for several reasons. As a mother of a grown child with autism, I have personally witnessed the profound impact that vaccines can have on a child's development. My child's life has been irreversibly altered due to childhood vaccinations.

If you are unaware, the 72 vaccinations on the current children's schedule have not been thoroughly tested. Therefore, why should this legislative body mandate untested vaccinations for children, especially when many parents have legitimate scientific and religious objections?

Furthermore, it has been discovered that some vaccines contain fetal tissue derived from aborted fetuses. I urge this panel to thoroughly research the information I presented and consider sources beyond your state-funded resources. I also challenge Governor Green to debate doctors and scientists who oppose the mandated vaccinations for children if he is truly committed to implementing this legislation. If this raises questions about his financial interests in these vaccinations, I suggest auditing his donations and their connections to Big Pharma.

If this legislation passes, mothers like me will hold you accountable for any harm that may come to our children as a result of being forced to receive these vaccinations. If you create a law that affects our children's health, the responsibility will rest with you, and we will pursue legal action to seek justice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:27:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Birrer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am writing to submit testimony in opposition of this bill 118HB. This is violation of our constitutional and human rights. Parents should not be forced to vaccinate their children for them to be able to attend public school with vaccines that have gone through minimal testing and have numerous side effects. We as parents should be able to decide what is best for our children's health.

There needs to be further research done into big pharmaceutical companies and corporations money trail and who they are giving money to as incentives to force vaccinations on people. I am not opposed to vaccinations in general but am opposed to taking people's rights away and forcing them to inject their bodies with ingredients their body might reject or might be against their personal religion and beliefs.

This is a government overreach and we the people are standing up for our rights! It is the government, senators, politicians' jobs to listen to the people and do what is best for the people.

This will have a lasting impact on the DOE and the students if parents are forced to take their children out of public schools to avoid forced vaccinations. The citizens pay taxes for education that is a right that should not be taken away. The DOE needs to focus on improving their facilities that are in bad shape and questionable if some are healthy environments and taking care of the teachers not forcing children to get vaccinated.

Please do the right thing and consider our freedom to make decisions based on what is best for our individual children and their bodies. This is not something that works for everyone. Please vote no on this bill.

I appreciate your time and consideration in this matter.

Sincerely

Jamie B.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:28:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill due to it being unconstitutional. This bill also goes against my religious beliefs. This isn't how I live anymore. Growing up I was completely vaccinated and then diagnosed with autoimmune deficiency disorder. Vaccinated with everything my whole entire life and because sicker and sicker. Two things. There are heavy metals in these vaccines that have made me sick. There are also eggs in a lot of vaccines, and I am also highly allergic to. My rheumatologist now writes me letters of vaccinations I can not get due to allergies alone. To force this on my child is to risk his allergies and immune system. I do not wish anyone to live a life in pain like mine with 26 surgeries under my belt due to allergies alone of the issues these vaccines have caused me personally. I strongly oppose to this not just because of my religious beliefs, but also the welfare of my child and others.

mahalo nui, Bonnie Lee

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:30:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Guzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother, I, along with the father of my children, should be only two people who make medical decisions for my children. The state, people who are not familiar with my children, should not have a hand in my medical decision making.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:30:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Duane Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed on bill HB1118

and it should be our decision and our family doctor to make any decisions on a vaccine or any vaccines

I'm submitting this testimony to clearly state my position in OPPOSITION to HB1118. First of all, to force children to take vaccinations without parental approval is infringing on parental rights. Now, to take it a step further and try to get rid of religious exemption from these vaccinations is completely disregarding the First Amendment, Freedom of Religion. This amendment should be upheld, but this bill is evidently here to dismantle the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment. We have every right to choose to practice our religion freely, without government interference. Passing this bill would be unconstitutional and dictatorial. I'm speaking from a household of Christian belief, and as a family we have stood by our beliefs, even when it comes to making decisions for our bodies. It's been years since we've taken any medicine or vaccines, especially after learning that fetal cell lines were used in the development and production of many of these things. Biblically, there are many scriptures that affirm our belief that life begins at conception (Psalm 51:5-6), thus it would be morally wrong for us to take part in the very things that go against that. This is one of the many reasons why religious exemption matters to the people, and we can only pray and hope that the voices of the people will be heard.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:31:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Feleciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This is goes against my first amendment right and my religious beliefs to force vaccinations. It is within our first amendment rights to practice our beliefs. This bill is infringing upon our rights to further someone else's agenda and ego. There is no judge to say who can practice what religious practices or if they are "real" or not. What's next will you tally how many times someone goes to church in person, how vocal they are about there religious beliefs, how they dress or act ...how will you be able to justify based off of someone's opinion if these individuals/families are real in there religious beliefs? This bill is UNCONSTITUTIONAL plain and simple.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:31:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Trantham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am totally against this! It should be our right as their parents to choose what we inject into our children. You guys tried to screw us with requiring a Covid shot in order to work now you want us to require vaccines so that my child can get an education! You guys make zero sense at all mad at trump cutting out the doe but you wanna require our children to get vaccines! Make that make sense i am totally against this and will not allow my child to get vaccines!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:31:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in today regarding HB 1118. This bill concerns me for a number of reasons. First and foremost is my right of choice! This bill affects my Constitutional rights. This bill also affects the rights of the child being forced into getting vaccinated! As most of us know vaccines and medications often are accompanied with side effects. As a recipient of the Covid Vaccine I understand the risk of problems and life changing issues caused by this particular vaccine. Ever since doing the Covid Booster I have had respiratory issues! I also am dealing with heart problems due to this vaccine! Within three days of doing the Booster Vaccine I was hospitalized for Congestive Heart Failure. In hindsight I wish I never took the vaccine! Since the diagnosis of Congestive Heart Failure I have been taking Diarrhetics to help remove fluid from my lungs. I have also been placed on a regimen of no less than six other medications that cause hvarious problems due to different side effects! Mind you I am an adult who has built up immunity to many viruses! A baby who doesn't have a strong immune system will be placed in a very vulnerable position that has been proven to possibly cause death and other life altering complications. Parents should be allowed to make educated decisions regarding their children's welfare and safety! Government should not be dictating what medication children should be forced into taking! Another concern I have is the cost of these vaccines! Who pays for this? Who is benefiting from the funding? As we all know Covid was created and did not exist previously! So this shows that the government allows individuals to poison their citizens and are willing to pay for a medication/vaccine using taxpayer money? The people creating these diseases should be jailed and forced to cover the cost to create a vaccine that these criminals are responsible to pay for!!! It is my hope that our legislators vote according to how their community feels will best represent the communities interest and not their own. I also hope that accountability will be implemented in these bills as in the event children are harmed or worse! These legislators should face consequences for their decisions as every single community member faces! The Governor who is heading this bill should be responsible for the issues that occur because of the implementation of this bill! Death constitutes murder! Illness and other adverse effects also need to be dealt with with suitable punishment!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:31:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to **HB1118**, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements. While I appreciate Rep. Terez Amato's response clarifying that the bill does not include the COVID-19 vaccine, I remain deeply concerned about its broader implications for **bodily autonomy, religious freedom, and parental rights**.

I. HB1118 Violates Constitutional Protections

The First Amendment guarantees the **free exercise of religion**, but HB1118 disregards this right by eliminating religious exemptions. While case law such as *Prince v. Massachusetts (1944)* has recognized limits on religious freedom in cases of "**compelling government interest**," the Supreme Court has also emphasized that **such restrictions must be the least restrictive means available**.

- The **compelling interest test** requires that government actions restricting religious rights must be **narrowly tailored** to achieve their goal.
- Herd immunity **does not require the removal of all religious exemptions**, as many states maintain high immunization rates while still allowing parental choice.

Furthermore, **bodily autonomy is a recognized constitutional right**. In *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health (1990)*, the Supreme Court upheld the right to refuse medical treatment as a fundamental liberty. HB1118 undermines this precedent by **forcing medical procedures on children without parental consent**.

II. HB1118 Violates the Principle of Informed Consent

Medical ethics and legal precedent uphold the necessity of **informed consent**—a principle that mandates that no medical intervention should be administered without voluntary agreement. This principle is foundational in U.S. law:

- *Schloendorff v. Society of New York Hospital (1914)* established that individuals have the right to **decide what happens to their bodies**.
- The **Nuremberg Code** and **Belmont Report** reaffirm that **forced medical procedures** violate ethical and legal standards.

If passed, HB1118 would force parents to choose between complying with **government-mandated medical procedures** or **denying their children access to education**, effectively penalizing them for exercising their rights.

III. There Are Less Restrictive Alternatives

If the goal of HB1118 is to **protect public health**, there are **less intrusive** and more effective alternatives:

1. **Educational campaigns** that encourage voluntary vaccination rather than coercion.
2. **Medical accommodations** for immunocompromised students that do not require banning others from school.
3. **Opt-in immunization programs** with parental involvement rather than forced mandates.

Many states successfully **balance public health with individual freedoms** without resorting to eliminating religious and personal exemptions. Hawai'i should **follow that example rather than setting a dangerous precedent**.

Conclusion: HB1118 Sets a Harmful Precedent

HB1118 **oversteps government authority** by **infringing** on bodily autonomy, religious liberty, and parental rights. If the government can mandate vaccinations by removing exemptions, **what prevents it from mandating other medical procedures in the future?**

I urge this committee to **oppose HB1118** and uphold the principles of **freedom, parental rights, and medical ethics**.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that this testimony be entered into the official record.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:32:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurence K. Puailihau Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent, I am opposed to HB 1118. I am not against vaccines, I am pro-vaccine, but I believe every parent should have the decision on what their child can & cannot have.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:32:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHARITY K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I DO NOT AGREE TO THIS BILL. I OPPOSE. THIS SHOULD BE THE PARENTS OF THE CHILDREN(S) DECISION NOT ANY LAW MAKERS DECISION. YOU DID NOT GIVE BIRTH TO OUR CHILDREN NOR DO YOU TAKE CARE OF OUR CHILDREN SO WHO GIVES YOU ANY SAY. I DISAGREE DISAGREE DISAGREE. IF YOU ARE A PARENT AND YOU WANT TO PROTECT YOUR CHILDREN(S) THEN YOU WOULD NOT LET THIS LAW PASS.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:35:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge the legislators to oppose this bill. I speak on behalf of myself and my family being a Mom of two children currently in public schools, as well as a 12th year School Counselor at a public school. I believe the decisions for when and what type of vaccinations should be for the parents and family physicians to decide. I oppose this a bill that dictates immunization requirements for our families in our islands. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:35:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Kekuewa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!!

This bill violates the 1st amendment plus I'm the parent of my child not the government!

Listen to the people and remember you work for us!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:36:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to voice my concern over the potential removal of the religious exemption for vaccines. Not only is it unconstitutional, but it is also discriminatory. We have the freedom of religion, and we have the freedom of choice when it comes to medical decisions. We must retain the right to choose. Where there is risk - and there is a plethora of documented risks associated with vaccinations - there must be choice.

Measles is a relatively benign disease, and usually resolves itself without complications. There are no active measles cases in Hawaii at the moment, and our overall immunization rates are very high, among the highest in the nation. The average death from measles in the entire United States is ONE death annually. Removing a constitutional right to religious freedom seems a disproportionate response.

Our overall vaccination rates are very high in the state of Hawaii. Most schools that have lower rates in a recent report are small private schools, or the numbers are skewed because even opting out of the flu vaccine means that the child is counted among the exempt. We do not need to remove the exemption in order to maintain the health of our children; they are remarkably well already.

Mahalo,

Cheryl Reilly

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:36:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Ganzagan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. This is a blatant violation of our constitutional right to freedom of religion and bodily autonomy as well as as a threat to the health, safety and education of my children.

Thank you

Megan Ganzagan

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:39:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Montero	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Hello, and thank you for allowing me to testify today. My name is Jessica Montero, and I am here to voice my strong opposition to this bill and to urge you to do the same.

This bill represents a direct and unjustified violation of our religious freedoms as protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution. The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, and compelling parents to choose between their deeply held religious beliefs and their child's right to an education is an unacceptable government overreach. The ability to make medical decisions for one's child based on religious convictions should remain protected.

Furthermore, there is no current outbreak or public health emergency that would necessitate the repeal of religious exemptions. The existing system already includes safeguards to protect at-risk populations. Parents who sign the religious exemption form acknowledge that in the event of an outbreak, their unvaccinated child may be required to stay home temporarily. This approach has successfully balanced public health concerns with individual rights for years without issue. If there were a genuine, immediate threat, the Department of Health already has mechanisms in place to respond appropriately.

Additionally, this bill raises concerns about government overreach and inconsistency in bodily autonomy policies. Many lawmakers support the principle of "my body, my choice" regarding reproductive rights, yet this legislation would force parents to inject their children with substances that violate their religious beliefs or be denied access to education. This contradiction is deeply troubling and should concern anyone who values individual freedoms.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose this bill. It is unnecessary, unjust, and infringes on the fundamental rights of Hawaii's families. Instead of stripping away religious exemptions, we should focus on policies that respect parental rights while maintaining reasonable public health protections.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:39:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
louise fa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support vaccines. But do not force them on anyone. We do not want this bill to pass. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:40:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is completely unconstitutional and should never have been composed. No child should ever have to be forced or mandated to take vaccinations in order to receive a free education in the United States of America. For those and support, please be ashamed of yourself and do not support this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:40:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. I believe it is not in my school aged child's best interest to be forced to take whatever vaccinations that the government decides necessary. This is my child, not the government's child. I agree with the usual proven vaccinations like measles, chicken pox, tuberculosis etc., but I do not want my child to be forced to take any experimental COVID vaccinations. This is unconstitutional and morally wrong.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:42:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leata Riviera-Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I am against this bill and I'm a parent of 7 and I'm against this bill. It's not right for this bill to be passed. You have no right against and my children and I don't agree to your mandatory vaccines to my children. My sister passed away from the vaccine shots on her second dose and I'm not going to sit here and watch my children's future be tainted by these tyrannical agenda by this governor. We need to stop this bill. I don't consent anyone over my family and children.

Mahalo,

Leata

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:42:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittini Dinong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to HB 1118**, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii as a condition for enrollment in school, daycare, or higher education.

I would like to echo what a fellow constituent has stated in a previous testimony as I share the same sentiment:

"No product that has DEATH as a possible side-effect should be indirectly being mandated. Where there is risk there should be choice! Passing this bill will not encourage families who don't vaccinate to comply. Instead they will homeschool or leave the state, an option I will have to consider if this bill passes.

This bill aims to achieve "herd immunity" and protect immunocompromised students, but fails to acknowledge that most vaccines do NOT prevent infection or transmission. And in case you *believe* it does protect, why are you afraid of the unvaccinated? How are they a threat?

There are numerous pertussis outbreaks in schools with 100% vaccinated populations. The vaccinated can be asymptomatic carriers and make them MORE dangerous to the immunocompromised than those that are not vaccinated who would show symptoms. And live-virus vaccines can shed, and thus spread the vaccine-derived version of the disease.

Our current exemptions laws already have provisions for the unvaccinated to stay home during an outbreak. Furthermore, what about all the adults, like teacher, staff, and (grand)parents who have NOT received all those shots students are required to get? I actually had all of the typical childhood diseases and *still* have immunity. But those who received for example an MMR shot as a child, need another one as an adult, because their efficacy wanes. Most adults don't know this and they are then unprotected."

Despite overwhelming public testimony in opposition of this bill, how has it continued to move forward? Is public testimony ever truly considered?

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:43:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
leigh drake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I believe it should be the parents decision what vaccines they give their children. There are many side effects and complications that sometimes arise with vaccines. It's not the state, or county , or federal's decision.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:44:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Ferreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in strong opposition of this bill, No state or Government should ever mandate a vaccination, revaccination, and/or an immunization of children whose parent or guardian objects, for religious and or ANY other reason, especially after the Covid-19 mRNA "Vaccine" has proven itself to be ineffective in preventing transmission, and the long term effects of the Covid-19 mRNA "Vaccine" have not yet been studied but illness seems to be prevalent such as myocarditis and sudden cardiac death. Not to mention HB1118 is in direct conflict with our First Amendment right and should have never been proposed!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:44:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela calligan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:44:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari T.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this unconstitutional bill HB1118. Should it move forward, I will do my best to garner community support to protest against it. I believe in our government to do the right thing and protect the rights of it's citizens laid out in our constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:45:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine D Lobendahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This violate Constitutional rights and liberties! Shut this down! You people and Josh Green have NO BUSINESS and NO RIGHT imposing this draconian measure on We The People. We will Primary you folks!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:47:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My ohana and I are strongly against this bill as it breaks our consitutional right to have religious exemptions. It it unnecessary and will affect many families who rely on public school to maintain their job. Many families can not afford to send their child to private school or to homeschool them which results in a need for public school education. Public school education should be accessible to all regardless of vaccination status. Religious exemption should remain intact for all.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:47:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Channey Tang-Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Similar to the phrase people say, "my body, my choice" This is America and we pride ourselves on the fact that we live in a nation that respects religious freedom. The U.S. constitution's First Amendment safeguards that liberty from government interference. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:48:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Nakanishi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 as an individual citizen. This violates constitutional rights to freedom of religion. This is not about vaccinations, but a bill disguised to undermine our constitutional rights and, instead, feeds on fear under the guise of "public safety."

I firmly oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:48:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Clements	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Many vaccinations go against my personal beliefs as they contain aborted human cells. My beliefs will not change. My kids will simply not be going to school if this bill passes. And in an era where Trump will let everyone decide where their education dollars go, I believe many families will hold tight to their beliefs rather than vaccinate their kids to stay in government schools.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:49:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Coleman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Shame on this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:49:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Napua Kaneshiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a USA citizen and a human being have the right to choose what is best for myself and my children, not the government! What is wrong with you people forcing vaccines on people when there is overwhelming evidence that it does work!!! Josh Green and the rest of the Democratic Party knowingly killed and injured adults and children with the COVID vaccine, just for money. It's disgusting and it needs to stop. Freedom of CHOICE!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:49:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiley Taufatofua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely OPPOSE to bill HB1118

we should have FREEDOM OF CHOICE in vaccinations for ourselves and our children. They are trying to take all of our rights away and i DO NOT agree with any of it. Do better Hawaii government!!!!!!!!!! Fight FOR your people and the future generations of HAWAII!!!! HEWA GOVERNOR GREEN! Our children will not be attending public or any school if they are mandated to take any type of vaccine. It is our right to have a CHOICE.

Mahalo Nui Loa

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:50:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Alcos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements for school-aged children in Hawaii. As a mother and teacher in the Department of Education (DOE), I am deeply concerned about the far-reaching implications this bill will have on students, families, and their ability to access free public education.

Parental Rights & Medical Freedom

Medical decisions should remain within the domain of individual families and their trusted healthcare providers. Parents know their children best and should have the autonomy to make informed choices regarding vaccinations without undue government interference. HB 1118 strips away this fundamental right and places a government mandate over personalized medical decision-making.

Bodily Autonomy & Informed Consent

Forcing a medical intervention on children without an option for exemption is a direct violation of bodily autonomy. Every medical procedure carries inherent risks, and families deserve the right to evaluate these risks and make choices based on their values, beliefs, and medical history. Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, and HB 1118 disregards this principle by removing the ability to opt out.

Violation of Religious Freedoms

The removal of religious exemptions directly infringes on First Amendment protections. Many faith traditions emphasize the sanctity of the human body and oppose certain medical interventions. By eliminating this exemption, the bill places families in the untenable position of choosing between their sincerely held religious beliefs and compliance with a government mandate.

Excluding Students from Public Education

As a DOE employee, I see firsthand how this bill will create barriers to education. Many families rely on public schools for their children's learning, socialization, and access to essential services. By prohibiting non-medical exemptions, HB 1118 effectively denies these students their right to a free public education. Families who do not comply will be left with limited, often unaffordable, alternatives such as homeschooling or private education. This disproportionately affects lower-income families, further exacerbating educational inequities in our state.

Risk of Adverse Reactions & the One-Size-Fits-All Fallacy

While vaccines are widely considered safe, no medical intervention is without risk. The federal government has recognized this by establishing the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), which has paid out billions in compensation for vaccine injuries. Each child's immune system is unique, and medical decisions should not follow a rigid, one-size-fits-all policy.

Furthermore, the argument for herd immunity fails to account for waning immunity in vaccinated individuals and the documented outbreaks of diseases like measles and pertussis in highly vaccinated populations. Immunity is not guaranteed, and HB 1118 assumes a level of protection that is not always achievable.

Slippery Slope Towards Further Government Overreach

By setting a precedent for eliminating personal choice in medical decisions, HB 1118 opens the door for future government mandates on other medical treatments. If exemptions for vaccines can be eliminated today, what other medical procedures might be mandated tomorrow without parental consent? Sex change operations?

Conclusion

HB 1118 is an overreach that disregards parental rights, religious freedoms, bodily autonomy, and access to public education. The government should not be in the business of making blanket medical decisions for all children, especially when exemptions have historically provided a balanced approach to public health.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and instead support policies that respect medical freedom, parental rights, and the diverse needs of Hawaii's families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Alyssa Alcos

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:50:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keawe Gilman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We have recently gone through a COVID pandemic that pushed vaccinations that have now been found to be detrimental to our health. Many of our rights were inhibited at that time and our communities continue to suffer the results of these vaccinations.

We should NOT, therefore, require our most vulnerable population, our children, to adhere to mandated substances to be placed in their bodies in order to attend school. This should be a private decision between families, their faith, and their physicians. The childhood vaccine list grows longer over time and our children are not healthier. But pharmaceutical companies are thriving. We should be very careful to mandate putting ANYTHING in our bodies, especially our children. To withdraw the opportunity for school attendance because of exercising a god-given choice of placing substances in our body or not is extremely cruel to our children.

Please do not support a bill that is detrimental to our children and their bodies. If, in the future, we find (just like COVID) that the vaccinations were harmful to our bodies, the repercussions to the State of Hawaii will be severe if you push for this mandate.

Also, if it is found that pharmaceutical companies are behind this bill and supporting you in any way, the trust in our government will further erode. Please vote NO for this bill.

Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:50:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this Bill as it goes against the constitutional rights we have as U.S. citizens, the very freedom we have to choose and exercise our religious beliefs. Our religious freedom must continue to be protected and exercised with respect and integrity. We must not forget that every human was created pure, perfect and whole, and not sick. The Governor took an oath, with his hand on the Bible, to uphold and serve The People with righteousness and integrity. Anything outside of his obligation can be seen as pure selfishness, personal gain, and deceitful practice. Therefore, I strongly OPPOSE this bill!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:50:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LIKOLEHUA TANGARO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The decision of whether or not to vaccinate is the most important decision that I will make as a parent, and the decision should be done by a parent as a choice and I believe that the right to make decisions about vaccinations or any medical intervention should be our freedom, not to be dictated by the government that mandates our medical policy.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:51:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Newton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Below you will find an additional testimony of mine for opposing the elimination of medical exemptions. I am a mother of five and believe as a parent we should have the right to choose for our bodies as well as our children's. Not only is it discriminatory to eliminate the religious exemption but it would cause a significant decrease in the amount of students who are attending public schools. By eliminating the religious exemption it would not increase the amount of students who are vaccinated and it would not create herd immunity as you would think. We have already seen a decrease in the amount of students attending schools due to the additional vaccines that are required for middle and high school. There was a dramatic increase during the pandemic when the covid vaccine was required for kids to play high school sports.

Our family has had the right to previously choose what we believe is best for our family. In doing so, we have become a part of the department of education and sent our children to school. By getting rid of the religious exemption, it goes against our rights as well as our beliefs and puts our children in danger. We believe in having a say in our own medical health. We believe in informed consent as well as having the right to choose. This will discriminate against my children and we will have no other choice but to take them out of school as well as the many other families who are in the same position.

I am urging you to please reconsider eliminating the religious exemptions and let us as parents decide what we believe is best for our families and children.

Tourists traveling to the island and immigrants are all allowed to have religious exemptions so why wouldn't we have the same right as state residents?

Mahalo for your time

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:51:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Ornellas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very strong opposition

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:55:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Penner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First of all, I know my voice doesn't matter if it goes against mainstream, democrat policies. History has proven this time and again. But I feel it's still important to submit testimony and notify you, my representative of my position on this matter.

I testified with over 700 other people in opposition to HAR 11-157 in 2018 and saw the rule changed despite only 12 testimonies in support. You will do what you want as our betters - I am under no illusion otherwise.

Just know that when you make rules forcing people to choose ALL vaccines or NO vaccines (like Hawaii religious exemptions currently do) you will radicalize the people that were only opposed to one or two.

When you remove people's voices by changing a rule to bypass the legislature every time you want to add a vaccine to the schedule (2018 with HAR 11-157) you radicalize those of us who thought you were our representatives, who thought if we spent enough time explaining our concerns you could see the issue without bias.

When you ban people from traveling or entering certain public spaces when they refuse to be vaccinated with an experimental product that does not create sterilizing immunity - they begin to question why you are making the decisions you do.

When you decide that only one *type* of "immunity" is acceptable and recovering from an illness or showing a titer test no longer qualifies as sufficient, it starts to feel like you're basing your decisions on factors that are more ideological than scientific.

Your decision to pass this bill would not change a single mind in regard to vaccines, it would only isolate and radicalize a growing number of your constituents who are tired of being coerced, gaslit, and ultimately steamrolled.

It will only force more parents to opt out of public education.

It will undoubtedly add immense pressure to doctors from desperate parents (mostly the poorest) seeking medical exemptions because their feelings on basic bodily autonomy / conscience / religious objection no longer matters - but cannot afford alternative education.

This will of course lead to the persecution of doctors who are too "loose" with the amount of medical exemptions they give out (always wanting to follow in California's footsteps unfortunately).

It will only feed the growing discontent of the many of us who felt abandoned long ago to look at all of the other (even otherwise potentially valuable to us) work you do with suspicion.

That will be the cost.

Don't be ignorant of this reality.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:55:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean J deMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

this bill is unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:58:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Ponce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. The responsible of a child always belongs in hand of the parents and no one else. No government or school will be making any decision of any one's child especially of their medical health.

A lot of vaccination uses parts for aborted fetus (human offspring) in their development. Abortion is clearly against my religions. In accordance with God's words (The Holy Bible), 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, commands Christians to honor God by caring for our bodies responsibly, for it is a temple of the Holy Spirit. Receiving any vaccine will violate God's command to honor Him with our bodies because of the involvement of fetal stem cell in any vaccination development. Scriptures from The Holy Bible, teaches the value of preborn life which is created in God's imagine from the moment of fertilization. As in Psalms 139:13-16 and Jeremiah 1:5, a developing fetus in the womb was created by God and is life that deserves to be protected.

Therefore being FORCE to inject any vaccination against my will or my child's will would violate my family's deeply held beliefs about, first, honoring God in caring for our bodies, and second, advocating for the protection of preborn life as it is commanded in Proverbs 31:8-9, Jeremiah 22:3, and James 1:27. Eliminating religious exemption is clearly a violate of my First Amendment of the United States Constitution which protects my right to practice my religion without government interference.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:59:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melelatu Toli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an individual citizen I oppose HB1118 due to the simple fact that it violates human rights. As a firm believer in God I know that He has the final say and that whatever is done in the darkness will come to light. I pray for the people of Hawaii and the generations to come.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:00:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Maruoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:01:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Penner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of school aged children, I do not consent to this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:01:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ulli James	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118 as it would undermine freedom of religion and freedom of choice in general.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:04:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailie Souriolle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Given what we have recently found with lies provided to the American people when it comes to the origin of COVID it is fair for us to assume that we have also been lied to about the vaccines. This is very fragile times and Americans are trying to do what is best for their families. With these types of bills on the table you are taking away our freedom as well as our trust in your leadership. I oppose this bill as an American mother trying to do the best she can for her child!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:04:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Metzger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha from Kauai,

As a born and raised resident of Hawaii I OPPOSE BILL HB1118 and I do not consent to the removing of religious exemptions for school children.

Please vote against this bill being passed.

Mahalo,

Lila Metzger

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:04:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Chambers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mom of 4 children. I do not support the removal of religious exemptions from all the schools. What right do you have to force a parent to vaccinate their children in order to attend school? Years ago my oldest son had 1 hpv shot in about 7th grade. He had a weird reaction. He ended up having neurological issues since. He had to have brain and whole body mri's done. He was poked all over just so they can try to figure out what was going on. It was affecting his balance and he was in pain. I stopped all vaccines since for all my kids. They are all healthy and active and rarely get sick. If you have children and have a heart, you'll understand that forcing this on the parents is morally wrong.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:05:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am Jaudana, a parent of four and am deeply concerned about Bill HB 1118, which proposes to eliminate religious exemptions from vaccinations for school attendance.

While I understand that your push for vaccinations may be to protect public health, I strongly believe that this bill infringes upon the fundamental right to freedom of religion. The proposed legislation would force individuals to choose between their deeply held religious convictions and their ability to access education.

Moreover, this bill undermines the principles of religious freedom and tolerance that our country was founded upon. It is crucial that we respect and protect the rights of individuals with sincerely held religious beliefs, even if they differ from the majority.

Instead of eliminating religious exemptions, I propose that the committee consider alternative solutions that balance public health concerns with religious freedom. For instance, schools could implement additional safety measures, such as more frequent health checks or enhanced hygiene protocols, or maybe even better food options in the cafeteria that will strengthen their immune systems, to minimize the risk of disease and transmission.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and protect the fundamental right to religious freedom. It is essential that we preserve the ability of individuals to make informed decisions about their health and well-being, guided by their deeply held religious convictions.

Jaudana Lauhingo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:05:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Laney Mitre	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations in the state of Hawaii. This bill directly violates my deeply held religious beliefs and infringes upon my constitutional rights as a U.S. citizen.

As a parent, I have chosen to exercise my religious freedom to exempt my children from vaccines that conflict with my faith. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, and HB1118 threatens to erode this fundamental right. The government should not have the authority to dictate or override personal religious convictions, especially when it comes to medical decisions for our children.

Furthermore, removing religious exemptions creates a dangerous precedent. It forces parents to choose between violating their beliefs or facing discrimination, exclusion, and potential barriers to education. Religious rights are not privileges—they are constitutional protections that should not be stripped away based on shifting political or public health agendas.

Many families, including mine, rely on these exemptions to ensure our children's education and well-being align with our spiritual values. If HB1118 passes, it will not only impact my children but also countless others in our state who hold similar convictions. Religious freedom should not be sacrificed for the sake of government mandates.

I urge you to vote NO on HB1118 and protect the religious rights of all Hawaii residents. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Christina Laney Mitre

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:05:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
courtney o'kief	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a nurse and a mom and I strongly oppose HB1118. The health decisions that I make for my keiki are between myself and my family physician, not the state of Hawaii. I have used religious exemptions for my keiki in order to attend school and those exemptions are my legal rights. Please don't strip these rights away from us. I ask you listen to the voices of the community and vote no to this bill

Mahalo for your time,

Courtney OKief

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:06:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Finley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not in support of this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:07:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Franks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear senators,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing as a long-time resident of Maui, with deep roots in this community—my children are 6th generation Hawai‘i residents. Our island home and the well-being of our families are of paramount importance to me, which is why I must express my **strong opposition to HB 1118**.

I understand that the legislative process involves carefully considering all perspectives, and I appreciate your service to the people of Hawai‘i. However, I want to ensure you understand that **many voters are already aware of this bill**. As displayed in the growing body of testimonials from concerned citizens, those who oppose this bill represent a **vast majority**, and I assure you that our voices will be considered when it comes time to vote in the next election cycle. We are watching closely, and we will take these matters into account when casting our votes.

As a parent, I am particularly worried about the future of my children’s education in Hawai‘i. If this bill passes, my children will be among those who are unable to graduate, simply due to the provisions it includes. This is especially concerning given the already high rates of high school dropouts in Hawai‘i. According to the Hawaii Department of Education, our state’s graduation rate has been steadily improving, but we still face significant challenges. **This bill would become a stumbling block for students, preventing them from crossing the finish line**. We should be focused on helping students graduate, not making it harder for them to succeed.

Additionally, Governor Green’s handling of the COVID-19 pandemic has, unfortunately, contributed to a **lack of trust in our leadership**, particularly as it pertains to issues surrounding health and safety. His approach was not without controversy, and it has only heightened the concerns of many Hawai‘i residents. We are aware of the injuries that vaccines cause while not being able to hold liable big mainland corporations. This is a disservice to our keiki and ‘ohanas! Forcing families to vaccinate while mainland corporations profit.

We are citizens of America, a country that values freedom and individual rights, especially when it comes to **decisions about our bodies**. This bill, if passed, would infringe upon those freedoms, undermining the very foundation of our rights as Americans.

I urge you to consider the voices of your constituents in this matter. **Please do not support HB 1118**, as it is not in the best interest of our community, our children, or our future. I hope you

will reflect on the overwhelming opposition to this bill and stand with the people of Hawai'i who seek to preserve our rights and freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response and hope that you will act in the best interests of the people you represent.

Sincerely,

Megan Franks

kebler4444@aol.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:08:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kala'i Bustos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional and completely ridiculous. No government should be able to force anyone to have to take medication in order to receive an education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:08:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Kaneta	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

My Name is Nicholas Kaneta I'm born and raised in Oahu a husband and Father of three wonderful kids. I'm so tired of watching my home and my island be submitted to these insane unconstitutional mandates. Piece by piece our freedoms are being taken away from us as locals, tax paying citizens and as parents. This is not the Hawaii I grew up in. It sickens me that I cannot give my children the same freedoms and happiness I had as child growing up. My family and I follow a somewhat strict hollistic lifestyle. My kids were naturally birthed and my youngest was home birthed. We believe in natural healing and try to sustain as much of natural household as we can from our toothpaste to my wife washing her hair with apple cider vinegar. You'll never find a bottle of tyonal or ibuprofen in my house. The point is we have raised our family like this forever we live it everyday. We were persecuted, called names and ridiculed for our beliefs. I even lost my Job working as a chef working for a non profit cooking for quarenteen hotels and homeless shelters during the pandemic all for or not getting vaccinated. In the end we perservered and stuck to our beliefs and we stuck together all to have this bill HB1118 come at us now. Im so tired of this. I have tried to raise my kids to respect others beliefs even if it's not the same as yours. But with these ever changing times it's hard for them to understand why it's seems to be ok other can do it to them but they cannot do it to others. We all have the right to believe in what is right for us but to pressure and force others to follow in your own convictions is not right. I'm tired of this!! They can come at me, call me names, ostracize and even fire me!! But do not go after my kids! This must stop! Mahalo thank you for listening.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:15:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jermaine Rabago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. You should not be the one to decide if my child take the vaccine or not.

It should be the parents to decide what vaccines our children will take. This is not your child and you dont have the right to tell us what vaccines to take. Our body, our choice!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:15:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zac Nosugref	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:15:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Green-Matutino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Joshua Kamuela Green-Matutino, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a Christian I believe myself and my family need to keep our bodies as pure as we possibly can for our lord and savior Jesus Christ, there are many other healthier ways to fight off disease, colds etc. and we prefer to take a more natural route and use what the lord has created for us on this planet.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:17:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marianne Hubbell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is our 1st amendment religious freedom! There is currently no reason/emergency to put in place these unconstitutional measures! As with COVID there are measures in place should an outbreak of an illness occur!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:18:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Carlson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a previous advocate vaccine supporter, before Covid 19, I have alway educated patients and family members on the importance. Education is key and knowing what is in these vaccines are important. I have seen patients who were at their healthiest or family members get sick so fast after receiving vaccine recently. I have looked into recent vaccines and their ingredients recently and why would we put these chemical in humans. Education is key and mandating or demanding immunizations is not pono. I reject this bill on behalf of my ohana, friends, and patients.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:18:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurence Limasa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:20:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Tsang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB118 HD1. As US citizens, it is our right to decide for us individually and our keikis for immunizations not the government.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:23:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charity Ballesteros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent, I oppose to this bill because it is the parents decision not the government. If the child has a bad reaction to immunization or it causes irreversible damage to the child, the child and family will be the ones to suffer the consequences. The lives of our children need to be protected at all cost. These vaccinations are not 100% proven to protect our childrens health if anything it can cause harm. I strongly oppose to this mandate.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:23:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Tagura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. Please do not remove parents first ammendment free will ability to choose what is injected into their infants and children . Please reconsider what seems to be an already decided decision based on 95 percent herd immunity where evidence exists to the contrary of actual lower percentages (for some being as low as 50-70%) in addition to the small increase in religious exemptions used (screenshots included) as well as the truth that children make up a small amount of the states total population .

Many of these injections contain metals such as aluminum that cross the blood brain barrier and also are made with aborted fetal tissue that violates the conscience of many. There are other ways to stay healthy and am praying this isn't about power or position or finances as science now shows after decades of data the wide range of side effects caused to all/ many of us all even now by these vaccines and also shows unvaccinated healthier longer over time . Please be convicted , stirred and filled with enough courage to vote no as the majority of states have.

Thank you .

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:25:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy Paguirigan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I would like to oppose on this bill due to many reason. One reason being that my child shouldn't have to be vaccinated if it wasn't necessary. The government shouldn't control the decisions I want to make for my child.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:25:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kele-jo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kele-Jo growing up i thought you always had to get your flu shot & whatever shots. Wasn't until high school i started to learn about my body and what goes on or in it. When I stopped getting any type of vaccine. Since having my daughter 5 years ago. Even more I am against getting any type of vaccine. They don't protect me also you have to get it again the following year. To boost your immune system, why not teach people or keiki what foods we shall eat to boost our immunity. Let the parents have a choice if they want to or don't want to. You shall have no say over our keiki & ourselves.

Also if this goes through do you know how much keiki will be pulled out of schools. I am totally again this. Let people choose.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:28:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Montero	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you, Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members, for the opportunity to speak today. My name is CJ Montero. I am 15 years old and a high school student at Hawaii Technology Academy. I am here because this bill directly threatens my ability to continue my education in a way that aligns with my deeply held religious beliefs.

As a Christian, my family and I rely on the religious exemption to uphold our bona fide beliefs. If this exemption is taken away, I would be forced to choose between my faith and my education. That is not a choice any student should have to make. If this bill passes, I will have no option but to withdraw from school and be homeschooled, losing the opportunity to complete my junior and senior years in a traditional setting. I would miss out on prom, graduation, and the invaluable experiences of learning alongside my peers. But as important as those things are, my faith comes first.

I urge you to oppose this bill. No student should have to sacrifice their religious freedom in order to receive an education. Our rights to both religious liberty and public education should not be in conflict. Please do what is right—vote NO on this bill.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:29:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rustin Funakoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:32:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Hiyane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure / bill. This is the right of an individual and or family guardian or parent. Not the overreaching government telling me what to do with my child.

those in support clearly do not care

sabout our keiki and care more about their own career and pockets. That said should you vote to pass this measure you will never have my vote and the lives and medical adverse affects are on your hands.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:33:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Pearl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to Hawai‘i Bill HB1118 – Protection of Religious Exemptions for Vaccines

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Hawai‘i Bill HB1118, which proposes the removal of religious exemptions for vaccines. The right to practice one’s religion freely, as enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, is a fundamental and constitutionally protected right. The bill’s removal of religious exemptions infringes upon this deeply held belief and creates a dangerous precedent in the erosion of individual freedoms.

Religious exemptions are critical not only for preserving personal liberty but also for safeguarding the pluralistic nature of our society. Allowing individuals the choice to opt out of vaccination requirements based on religious beliefs helps to ensure that people can live in accordance with their conscience and faith without government overreach. These exemptions have long been upheld as vital to protecting freedom of belief and the right to make decisions about one’s own body in accordance with religious convictions.

Moreover, forcing individuals to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs by mandating vaccinations can result in harmful discrimination and division within our communities. Respect for religious freedom is integral to maintaining trust in public health policies and fostering cooperation, rather than coercion, when addressing health challenges.

In addition to being a matter of constitutional principle, religious exemptions are also an important check on government power. They ensure that the state cannot mandate medical interventions that contradict personal or religious values. The removal of such exemptions would set a troubling precedent for future policies that may further infringe on the rights of individuals to freely express their religious beliefs.

I urge you to reconsider the harmful implications of HB1118 and to maintain the protection of religious exemptions for vaccinations. Doing so would ensure the preservation of both religious freedom and personal autonomy while promoting a society that respects the diverse beliefs of its people.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:33:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla roberts	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Absolutely no. This eliminates my constitution of rights. Also god given rights to a religious exemption to vaccine. MY kids MY RIGHTS.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:33:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Taylor saragosa, do not support this bill please I beg of you for the sake of our keiki!! If you all truly care about the keiki and their education you will not make this mandatory! My children are thriving in school right now they love it and have so many friends... I can't imagine breaking their hearts because they no longer can go in person school because of you all! So again with all due respect please do not make this mandatory! I DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:35:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Neves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1118. The proposed bill in Hawaii that mandates parents to vaccinate their children is a concerning overreach of governmental authority and an infringement on parental rights. This legislation, if passed, would strip parents of their fundamental right to make informed medical decisions for their children, a right that is essential to family autonomy and the well-being of minors.

Firstly, the decision to vaccinate should reside with the parents, who are best positioned to understand the unique health needs and circumstances of their children. By imposing a blanket mandate, the state disregards individual medical histories, potential allergies, and other contraindications that may make certain vaccines unsuitable for some children. This one-size-fits-all approach fails to account for the nuanced and personalized nature of healthcare.

Secondly, this bill undermines the trust between parents and the medical community. Forcing vaccinations can lead to increased skepticism and resistance among parents who feel their concerns and preferences are being ignored. Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, and this bill erodes that principle by coercing compliance rather than fostering understanding and voluntary agreement.

Furthermore, the bill sets a dangerous precedent for governmental intrusion into private family matters. If the state can mandate medical procedures, it opens the door to further encroachments on personal freedoms and parental rights. This slippery slope could lead to additional mandates that further erode individual liberties and personal choice.

In conclusion, while public health is undeniably important, it must be balanced with respect for individual rights and parental authority. The proposed bill to force vaccinations on children is a misguided and heavy-handed approach that undermines parental rights and personal freedoms. It is crucial that the government respects the autonomy of families and allows parents to make informed medical decisions in the best interest of their children. We urge the legislature to reject this bill and uphold the rights of parents to make these critical decisions.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:38:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha.

As a father of five, I find this situation deeply concerning. My children were required to receive the COVID-19 vaccine to participate in sports in 2021. Now, in 2025, it's no longer a requirement for any sport. This inconsistency raises serious questions about the decision-making process and potential conflicts of interest. This bill should be dropped and not even brought up again.

Mandating this could lead to many parents withdrawing their children from school. I urge you to proceed with caution and reconsider this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:39:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaecynn Romero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill needs to be stopped. It violates our constitutional rights for freedom of religion as well as our children's rights to free education.

I would hope that it would be noted that the families who would be most affected by this are local born families. Many of which already have seen their own family members be driven out of their homeland due to the housing issues and extreme costs of living as it is. Many already work multiple jobs to stay afloat and do not have the luxury of pulling their children from school to homeschool when their rights are violated.

So pilau to propose something that can affect the people of this land in such a way or further drive them out.

Please consider voting AGAINST this bill for the Keiki and the families that belong to this aina.

Mahalo,

Jaecynn Romero

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:39:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronny De Reis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:40:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to eliminate new non-medical exemptions for school immunization requirements. While public health is important, this bill directly conflicts with a newly signed executive order by President Donald J. Trump, which prohibits federal funding for schools that mandate COVID-19 vaccinations. If HB1118 is passed as written, Hawai‘i’s public education system could lose vital federal funding—something we simply cannot afford.

Conflict with Federal Policy

On February 14, 2025, President Trump issued an executive order that blocks federal funding for any school—public or private—that enforces vaccine mandates. By removing non-medical exemptions, HB1118 could pave the way for future mandates without exemptions, potentially putting Hawai‘i’s Department of Education, public schools, and higher education institutions at risk of losing critical funding from agencies like the U.S. Department of Education and the Department of Health and Human Services.

Financial Consequences for Hawai‘i’s Schools

Hawai‘i’s public schools and universities rely heavily on federal funding to support essential programs, including special education services, Title I assistance for low-income students, and infrastructure improvements. If HB1118 leads to a vaccine mandate with no exemptions, the state could lose millions in federal aid, forcing budget cuts that would negatively impact students and educators alike. With Hawai‘i’s education system already facing financial challenges, we cannot afford to put this funding at risk.

Protecting Parental Rights and Religious Freedom

Beyond financial concerns, HB1118 infringes on parental rights by removing families’ ability to make informed medical decisions for their children. The bill completely eliminates religious exemptions for new students, despite religious freedom being a fundamental right protected

under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. If the federal government recognizes a parent's right to decline vaccinations for their child, the state should not create laws that contradict this and invite legal challenges.

Medical Decisions Should Be Left to Families and Doctors

Proponents of HB1118 argue that stricter vaccination laws are necessary for herd immunity. However, COVID-19 has a low transmission rate among children, and most schools across the country have already lifted vaccine mandates. Forcing medical decisions through legislation, without allowing non-medical exemptions, strips parents and medical professionals of the ability to determine what is best for each child's unique health needs.

Legal Risks of Passing HB1118

If this bill is enacted, Hawai'i could face lawsuits on multiple grounds:

- **Violation of Federal Executive Order** – Schools enforcing mandates may be deemed ineligible for federal funding, leading to costly legal battles.
- **Violation of First Amendment Rights** – Denying religious exemptions could result in lawsuits over religious freedom protections.
- **Violation of Federal Education Laws** – Federal protections, such as those under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA), could be at odds with state mandates.

Conclusion: Vote NO on HB1118

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to reject HB1118. Removing non-medical exemptions—without regard for federal policy—risks devastating financial consequences for Hawai'i's education system while undermining parental rights and religious freedoms. We must not put our state in conflict with federal law, jeopardize school funding, or open the door to costly legal battles.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please oppose HB1118 to protect Hawai'i's students, schools, and fundamental rights.

Sincerely,

Wayne Asam

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:42:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katryana Hanley-Knutson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. With the new administration it is importnat that we have high levels of vaccination to avoid things like the measles outbreaks we are seeing in Texas at the moment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:43:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyneski Quintel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill should not be passed, and this choice should be made solely between the family and the physician. This should not be required for children to obtain vaccines in order to enter school. Please do all you can to oppose this bill in order to keep our free choice of vaccines to Our rights that we have as a citizen. Otherwise I see a lot of people going homeschooling and that's just as fine as well.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:43:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Coral Shaw	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to mandate vaccinations for children to attend public school in Hawaii. This bill infringes on the fundamental rights of parents to make informed decisions about their children's health and violates bodily autonomy. The government has no place dictating personal medical choices, especially when there is no conclusive evidence proving that unvaccinated students pose a risk to vaccinated peers. This is not about public health—it is about control.

Throughout history, Native Hawaiians have faced manipulation and control by outside forces. This bill continues that legacy by imposing blanket medical mandates without considering individual health needs, beliefs, or freedoms. We must not allow history to repeat itself.

Key concerns include:

- **Violation of Bodily Autonomy:** Every individual has the right to make personal medical decisions. Parents must have the freedom to decide what is best for their children without government interference.
- **Lack of Evidence:** There is no substantial proof that unvaccinated children endanger vaccinated peers. Public health policies should be based on science, not fear or coercion.
- **Health Risks and Accountability:** Vaccine side effects vary for each child. Who will be held accountable for adverse reactions? Medical decisions must remain personal and informed, not mandated.
- **Unhealthy Trends Despite High Vaccination Rates:** The United States has the highest number of mandatory vaccines for children and yet suffers from some of the highest rates of autoimmune diseases, chronic illnesses, and developmental disorders worldwide. Where is the proof that more vaccines equal healthier children?

I urge lawmakers and the public to look beyond the narrative promoted by pharmaceutical companies and mainstream media. I encourage you to watch Candace Owens' investigative series, "A Shot in the Dark," which examines every mandatory vaccine throughout a child's life.

This series raises critical questions about the necessity, safety, and long-term effects of these vaccines, revealing the fear-based tactics used to promote them.

The medical industry has been fear-mongering for years, pushing vaccines without providing transparent evidence of their necessity or safety. It is time to question these narratives and prioritize informed consent and parental choice.

I stand firmly against HB1118 and urge you to protect our freedom to choose what is best for our children.

Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Coral Shaw

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:45:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Keo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Keala Keo and I am a concerned resident of Ko'olaupia and a mother of 6 children.

I urge you vote no for HB1118. I am testifying today to tell you that all six of my children are different and that's the way it should be. All 6 of my children also happen to have allergies that we have to be aware of when and where we eat, where we swim and what plants we are near. 3 are allergic to tomatoes, 1 to jellyfish stings and 1 to mango and banana sap. They are each different individuals in how they act, respond, communicate and also how their body responds to their specific allergy. I cannot feed them all the same thing. I cannot give them all the same medication. I cannot speak to them using the same language and in the same way because they are different ages, different understanding levels and emotionally different people. Mandating that vaccinations be required to all DOE children should be illegal and unethical for these same reasons due to lack of choice and the fact that each child and their needs will always be different due to many changing factors.

There are many reason why children should not be mandated to have the same vaccination schedule or to have a medical procedure be mandated to attend school. Some children need to space out their vaccinations due to the toxicity levels involved. One thing that connects my 6 children is their response to vaccinations. My children personally received 104-106 fevers after vaccinations. They were sick with pneumonia like symptoms for months after a vaccination. Requiring that children receive vaccinations means that you are 100% sure that there will be no negative side effects due to human error or vaccination recalls or ingredients that a person is going to respond negatively to. Because you cannot guarantee no harm due to this decision, there should be no mandate. A mothers intuition must not be ignored.

The only way you can vote that will do no harm is by voting no. It must be the personal choice of each individual to accept a vaccination or not. Whether or not you believe in the science of vaccinations, taking away someone's medical choice should not be something that holds a child back from attending a DOE school.

Thank you for your time. Your consideration of my thoughts on these matters mean so much to me and my family. Aloha

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:45:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it penalizes our ability to choose what is being administered to our keiki. I am not speaking to the efficacy of vaccines, but rather the right to public education without discrimination of an individual's religious beliefs and practices. We, as parents, want to do what we believe is best for our children, and I believe one of the primary roles of our government is to ensure that we all have the right and ability to make those decisions, without the fear of penalty and/or punishment. Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:46:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. High immunization rates are critical.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:49:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Serena Taylor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother to three children who have religious beliefs against vaccinations, I think it's unconstitutional to refuse our right to be exempt from vaccinations for our children.

My children are highly intelligent and rarely ever get sick. We don't eat processed food, we are outdoors taking care of our aina, and are good law abiding citizens. To not allow my children to attend schools here based on not being vaccinated is not right.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:50:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faye N	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly and totally oppose this bill. Each person / family should be able to make their own decision about this. Do not pass this bill.

Destiney Tolentino
Honolulu, HI
tolentinodestiney@gmail.com
February 17, 2025

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature

Subject: Opposition to House Bill 1118 – Defending Religious Freedom, Parental Rights, and Bodily Autonomy

Aloha Legislators,

Imagine being forced to choose between your child's education and your deeply held religious beliefs. Imagine watching your child experience an adverse reaction to a mandated medical procedure you never consented to—one that you tried to prevent, but the government said you had no right to refuse. Now, imagine that child is not a stranger's, but your own. If House Bill 1118 passes, this will not just be the reality for other families; it will be the reality for yours as well.

Religious Freedom is Not the State's to Give or Take

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to religious freedom. Yet, HB 1118 proposes to trample on this sacred right by denying families the ability to exercise their faith in medical decisions. For many Native Hawaiians and other religious communities, rejecting foreign substances in the body is not merely a preference—it is a spiritual conviction rooted in ancestral wisdom. To violate this is not only unconstitutional, it is a direct attack on cultural preservation and self-determination. The state does not own our faith, nor does it have the ethical authority to dictate how we practice it.

Parental Rights: If the Government Can Override This, What Will Be Next?

There is no moral justification for the state to assume it knows better than a child's parents. A parent's duty is to protect, nurture, and make decisions in the best interest of their children. HB 1118 strips away that fundamental right, replacing it with government control over personal health choices. If the state believes it can override parental authority on this issue, what will be next? Will the government dictate what other medical procedures our children must receive? Will parents have any rights left in determining what is best for their own child's health, education, and future?

If the government can force a child to be vaccinated against a parent's will today, what stops it from mandating other procedures tomorrow? If the government can decide what goes into your child's body today, what stops it from deciding how your child should be raised, educated, or disciplined in the future?

Bodily Autonomy: Our Children Do Not Belong to the State

At the heart of every ethical society is the principle of bodily autonomy—the inherent right of individuals to control what happens to their own bodies. If the government can force medical procedures upon children against their parents' wishes, where does it end? When has a government ever taken power from the people and then given it back? The reality is, once a precedent like this is set, it only expands.

Hawaiians, of all people, understand the pain of losing autonomy over their bodies, their land, and their traditions. We have seen what happens when outside forces strip us of our right to self-determination. This bill is yet another overreach that disregards the voices of the people, our ancestral wisdom, and the fundamental right to make personal and medical decisions for our own families.

Vaccine Safety Concerns: The Government Will Be Responsible for Every Injury

Every medical intervention carries risk, and vaccines are no exception. According to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), as of December 1, 2024, there have been 10,473 claims alleging injuries or deaths due to COVID-19 vaccines. (hrsa.gov) Additionally, a study reanalyzing Pfizer and Moderna's original trials found a higher rate of serious adverse events than previously reported. (news.com.au)

These numbers represent real people. Real children. And if the state forces a parent's hand, then the state must take full responsibility for every reaction, injury, and death that results. Will the government be willing to compensate families when their children suffer? Who will answer for the consequences? Legislators must ask themselves if they are truly prepared to carry the weight of those outcomes.

Look at What Happened in Other States—Hawaii Will Be No Different

We have already seen the damage caused by eliminating religious exemptions in other states. In New York, after removing religious exemptions, thousands of children were denied access to education, forcing families to either leave the state or homeschool against their wishes. (nysenate.gov)

In California, after removing personal and religious exemptions, vaccination mandates only expanded further, forcing additional shots on children, regardless of parental objections. (calmatters.org)

What starts as a single mandate never ends there. It grows. It expands. And before long, parents have no say in their children's medical decisions at all. If you vote in favor of HB 1118, you are not just voting for this one mandate—you are opening the door for an unchecked government to have full reign over Hawaii's children.

A Moral and Ethical Crossroads—The Fate of Our Children is in Your Hands

To vote in favor of HB 1118 is to declare that the government's will supersedes the beliefs of the people it serves. It is to decide that the state, not the parent, is the rightful guardian of Hawaii's children. It is to ignore the fundamental ethical principle that no person should be forced to undergo a medical procedure against their will.

And here's the truth: If the government can take away our rights today, they will take away more tomorrow. If you vote for this bill, you are not just deciding for strangers—you are deciding for your own children, your own grandchildren, your own families. Will you trust the state with their future?

The Path of Pono: The Only Ethical Choice is to Protect Religious Exemptions

Hawai'i is guided by the principle of **pono**—to do what is right, just, and in harmony with the people. This bill does not reflect pono. It reflects force, coercion, and a government that disregards the will of its people. To respect **pono** is to respect parents' rights, bodily autonomy, and religious freedom.

The ethical and constitutional choice is clear: **vote against HB 1118.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I urge you to stand for what is right—for our children, our future, and our freedom.

Sincerely,

Destiney Tolentino

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:54:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My body, my choice. Parents and Guardians are the only ones that should have say on their children vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:54:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirin Meherally	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children in Hawaii. While public health is important, this bill raises serious concerns about religious freedom and parental rights, both of which must be protected.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees every individual the right to practice their religion freely. By removing religious exemptions for vaccines, HB 1118 forces families to choose between their deeply held beliefs and their children access to education. No family should have to sacrifice their faith to comply with government mandates.

Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children. HB 1118 strips them of this choice and imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate, disregarding personal, ethical, and philosophical considerations. Medical decisions should remain between families and healthcare providers, not dictated by the government.

Public health initiatives must be balanced with respect for individual rights. Forcing medical procedures upon those with deeply held religious beliefs is an overreach of government authority. I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and protect the rights of Hawaii families to make informed, personal medical decisions for their children.

Sincerely,

Shirin Meherally

2/19/25

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:54:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenessa Knight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is unamerican to take away our right to choose what we do with our children.

iv had 3 friends vaccinate their kids and get vaccination injuries. One of them within 24 hrs went none verbal and will never be able to talk again.. vaccinations are not safe. They are not tested and if a parents doesn't want to give their kid 72 shots they shouldn't be forced. This is out rageous. For everyone worried about their kids and if they belive so strongly in the vaccine then they should belive their kid should be fine being around people who are not vaccinated.

please don't take our choice

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:55:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have a right to believe what I believe. The first amendment gives me that right. Who are you to quash that? If this bill passes my 4 children, all born in Hawaii, would be affected. We would have to leave the state. Hawaii is already losing it's population. Our kids are not a threat to immunocompromised kids. Repeals of religious exemptions in other states have led to greater problems. Kids will be pulled from schools. My kids have a right to their education and their beliefs. I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:57:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steffine Wright	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am here to stand against Bill HB 1118

Ladies and gentlemen,

I stand before you today in strong opposition to this bill, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school immunization requirements. As a mother of 5 it frightens me to think about how this could negatively effect my children.

This proposal does not simply concern public health, it strikes at the very heart of religious freedom, parental rights, and individual liberty, principles that our nation was built upon. For generations, religious exemptions have existed to protect families like mine, based on their beliefs, choosing to forgo or delay certain medical interventions. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freely exercise our religion without government interference. Removing this exemption forces families to make an impossible choice, comply with a law that violates their faith or forfeit their children's equal right to an education. This bill unfairly targets religious families, treating them as a public health threat rather than as responsible parents making informed health choices for their children best interest. It disregards the personal and spiritual convictions that guide their healthcare decisions. There is no overwhelming evidence that removing religious exemptions significantly improves public health. In fact States that have kept these exemptions have not faced widespread outbreaks or health crises.

Additionally, this bill creates a dangerous precedent. If the government can override this one religious issue, what will stop future legislation from further taking away religious liberties? Where do we draw the line?

Instead of taking away religious exemptions, we should respect diverse perspectives.

I urge you, to uphold the principles of religious freedom and parental choice. Vote against this bill, and stand with the families who simply seek to exercise their faith without fear of government intrusion.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:58:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Puahala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE HB1118.

The vaccinations can not be a requirement for a keiki to enter school, especially if they got injured from it.

Vaccinations are not medically safe for keiki to take in order to enter school. Vaccines contain aluminum, mercury, fetal aborted cells and and not safe at all for human consumption. The ingredients in vaccines are toxic and cause side effects and adverse reactions.

If the government makes vaccinations a requirement to enter school then the government should be responsible if a individual gets a side effects or adverse reaction.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 2:58:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
brooke jacobson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1118 regarding the forced immunizations in Hawaii schools. As both a parent and a Licensed Clinical Social Worker here in Hawaii, I have a deep concern about this bill. My children are currently enrolled in Hawaii public schools as well as Kamehameha Schools, and we have utilized religious exemptions in accordance with our beliefs.

We are not willing to follow the current CDC immunization schedule for both spiritual and medical reasons. While we recognize the importance of vaccines for public health, there are certain vaccines that conflict with our beliefs. However, we are open to administering vaccines that do not violate our faith, especially should any preventable diseases resurface in the United States or Hawaii. In those cases, we would be willing to carefully weigh the risks and benefits, as we understand the importance of protecting not only our own children but others as well.

It is critical that parents retain the right to provide informed consent regarding immunizations and that we maintain the freedom to choose the best time for each vaccine, based on the needs of our child. I believe that forced immunizations infringe upon our rights and create unnecessary divisions within the community.

This bill, in my view, presents dangerous implications that could adversely affect families, including mine, who have concerns based on religious beliefs, medical reasons, and personal circumstances. We must respect the autonomy and rights of parents to make the best decisions for the health and well-being of their children.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation, and I ask that you take into account the concerns of those who believe in the importance of informed consent, individual freedom, and parental rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:00:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jesse white	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this house bill as it is a perfect example of government overreach and a violation of my constitutional rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:00:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Morreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We the people should have the right to choose, not be mandated by government to put something into our bodies if we don't want to. My body my decision & choice, my child my decision. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:01:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl V. Amussen III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not pass this. This is taking our rights away for choosing what we want with our kids choice. And the governor and other people who vote on this should not have a choice to tell us what to do with our kids body. Not right to strip religious exemption from us. DO NOT PASS hb1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:01:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Smith-Koa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, on behalf of my ohana I Ikaika Smith-Koa OPPOSE HB1118. It is unconstitutional, and is against my rights to religion. It also violates the rights as a parent to freely choose to vaccinate/mask our children in OUR public school system. Be aware that when DOGE comes to Hawai'i, we'll see where in the constitution it states that religious exemption or RELIGION is disregarded as a RIGHT of an AMERICAN LIVING HUMAN BEING.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:01:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maile Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:03:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fha96744@gmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a native hawaiian and citizen of the United States oppose SB 1118 and know from experience my children took a vaccine and got hives all over their body and especially on their chest close to their heart. We rushed them to hospital and they gave medication to stop hives from vaccine taken. For this, I oppose SB 1118! No one should be forced to take something foreign in order to go to school to get their education!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:05:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Vaitai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of this bill!! It is wrong for the state to force our children to take the Covid-19 vaccination! I do not agree with this bill at all. Please rethink your decision for this bill. It is not Pono for our children to suffer because of what you want them to take. Think what's best for the kids of Hawaii because this is not it!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:05:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dannica Orsatelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! This is taking away our rights as parents! You guys have done enough damage for our keiki already in the DOE system!

Why should this be required in schools but not even required in jobs?

Please NO TO BILL HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:06:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Braeshon Rapozo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my right to decide what is put into my children's bodies. As their mother, I know what is in their best interest. As their mother, I have chosen a pediatrician who does what is best & healthiest for my children. I refuse to poison my children with shots that are directly linked to autism and other disabilities. Numerous shots which contain heavy metals that fog our brains and cause problems. I will not allow it.

I know numerous people who have experienced tragic life altering complications after taking the Covid vaccines. From blood clotting, heart issues, changes in diets, uncontrollable skin rashes, mood changes & even DEATH!!! The same people who put their faith in this shot are now coming to terms with the effect it has left on their lives because they have no other explanation. My family member died only 1.5 hrs after taking the disgusting shot! The shot she believed would protect her life & those around her!! Instead, it claimed her life and she took her last breath in her daughters arms.

YOU WILL NOT HAVE MY CHILDREN!!!!!!!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:06:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Dandrea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in opposition of HB1118. I am a born and raised Maui resident and have two young children of my own. Passing this bill greatly affects our family and so many others that I know.

It should always be up to the family and parents whether they feel it's in their child's best interest to be vaccinated. Taking away this right and this option for families could be detrimental to the well being many families, children and communities. We all deserve the right to chose and if others are vaccinated it should not matter if our child is not. If there are other rules we need to follow I can understand that but to stop our children from attending school because of this is uncalled for.

Please do not take this right away from us. There is no reason why we should not be able to have a choice for our children and their health. Please consider how many lives you will be affecting if you pass this bill.

mahalo for the consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:07:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaila Kahalewai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118, mandating our keiki to take all required vaccinations to enter Hawaii schools. First of all, there is significant scientific evidence that shows the adverse effects vaccines may have on our keiki. Second, who gives anyone the right to tell us as parents what we can and cannot do with our keiki. We as mothers sacrificed our body and health to bring this keiki into this world, let alone financially take care of them, ain't no government official is going to tell us what to do with them. The last I checked, we are the tax paying citizens that provide a paycheck for government officials and also for public schools to operate, which allows us to have all the rights to make informative decisions on what our keiki's needs are. You want to create bills and laws with our tax paying dollars, make sure it will benefit our childrens well being and education, not poison them!! Since when did Hawaii become a "THUG" State, trying to induce control on people and force them to do things not in their belief? You politicians that waste our tax paying money for bullshit bills like this, need to "GET OUT" of office. You bunch of sell out "GANG BANGING THUGS"!! We already have the worst education in the nation and you want to mandate vaccinations which will cause more of our keiki to not register for schools that our tax money pay for?? MAKE THIS MAKE SENSE!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:07:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Chai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118

I ask that you do not delay before this bill passes. If not , there could be an uncertainty for persons of culture in Hawaii who believe for religious freedoms. Hawaii has lost so much already, will this be taken from us too?

I urge you again. Please help the people of Hawaii not to fall into the hands of the oppression that takes away all exemptions that are non-medical which would include religious exemptions. I strongly oppose this bill and I want my right as a citizen to choose what it right for my life and the life of my children. Keep Hawaii Aloha.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:08:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Fuata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe it should be up to the parents/guardians on whether or not to vaccinate their children, NOT the government. Putting a mandate on what goes inside children's bodies is insinuating that the government knows best, and I'm sorry but none of you even know my children to make that determination on their behalf. To mandate this bill would suggest that Hep B is a viable vaccination to give a child within 24 hours of them being born, and for those who don't know, Hep B is transmitted through blood, semen, and vaginal fluids. WHY WOULD A NEWBORN NEED THAT?! My children have only ever been to their pediatrician for their wellness visits and absolutely love their doctor because she's not sticking them with needles every time they see her. If it's not broken, don't fix it. This bill is trying to make a problem that isn't happening, please try to fix the actual problems we have in this state, LIKE CHILDREN HAVING TO PAY FOR TRANSPORTATION TO GET TO SCHOOL, BUSES SHOULD BE FREE. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:09:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

To whom it may concern,

I do not agree with mandatory vaccinations for kids going to school.

my reason being is that I have 3 kids. All 3 are unvaccinated, and have no virus shots

they have not gotten any shots whatsoever.

they have been in the 100 percentile until 2 years old, completely healthy, we use lots of home remedies if they ever get sick.

my 2 oldest are twins, and have not been to the hospital once, they will be 3 at the ending of the year.

is this bad parenting? No it's not, we learn in grade school the body creates antibodies naturally, after getting sick, NATURALLY

making a vaccine mandatory doesn't just go against religion, it goes against COMMON SENSE.

Is this what Freedom is?

this should be Optional, not MANDATORY

ALOHA 🤝

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:09:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Marchese	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. As a citizen of the United States of America, I believe this bill eliminates our constitutional rights as parents to religious exemption. We should have the choice to not vaccinate our children due to our religious beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:09:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill, this bill is clearly unconstitutional and is an attack on the first amendment. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:09:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaiah Fonoti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118. I believe the decision to vaccinate should be between parent and child, not forced upon by the government. I believe this bill strips parents of their rights.

February 19, 2025

Aloha Kakou,

As a native born `oiwi of this land, I strongly oppose HB1118 as it removes religious exemptions for student vaccinations thus, forcing families to choose between their religious beliefs/tenants and education. This affects both private and public schools, which we pay large amounts of taxes for. Why should families be forced to choose between their faith and educating their children? Who is incentivized to push this through?

I see this bill as an unethical and immoral move under the guise of public health, as it violates bodily autonomy, personal sovereignty and health rights that are God given and protected by our constitution. This is a grave violation of long-standing personal freedom and should be noted as such. This is also an opening of a door that won't be closed. The eradication of our personal freedoms and God given rights must not be pushed through, and we have all seen that there has been much opposition throughout the process of this bill starting in the Senate.

Hawai`i is one the MOST vaccinated states in the country and we had some of the least amount of deaths throughout Covid; this makes no sense...unless there are incentives are that are attached.

Again, I am in opposition of stripping the people of Hawai`i and our future generations of religious exemptions for all the reasons stated above. Please vote for the people of Hawai`i and vote "NO" to HB1118.

Mahalo nui,

Anela Gueco

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:13:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Nalia and I OPPOSE to HB1118. This is not right to FORCE vaccination upon our children who attend school. I am a mother of 3 kids who are still in school. After what we went through during covid and how we are seeing numerous negative side effects from just the covid shot, that alone should allow for questions to arise on any vaccines to be injected into our children's bodies. It is our RIGHT as parents and also the right to our children's bodies to choose what they would allow into their bodies. As parents, it is our responsibility to protect and decide what is good and not good for them.

We The People, We the Parents and guardians of our keikis in Hawaii are all saying NO to this HB1118.

I pray and hope you hear us. You talk about dictatorship, Green is being a dictator for pushing this and forcing it upon the children. He is NOT for the peoples best instrest.

Do Not pass HB1118....

Mahalo nui loa

Nalia L. (Kauai island)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:13:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

NO, let the parents/child decide to vaccinate or Not.we have human rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:14:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maverick Quartero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Afternoon,

I am opposed to HB1118. Parents alone are responsible for the health and well being of their own child. Parents are legally responsible for the care of their children, and can be prosecuted for negligence. The government should not be able to supersede a parent's decision on medical care when they do not bear the consequences of that decision. Parents will be the one's to care for their children in the event of a negative reaction to a immunization, not the government. Religious exemption is a Constitutional Right and I feel HB1118 is in direct violation of the 1st Ammendment.

Thank You,

Maverick E. Quartero

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:15:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Unconstitutional bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:16:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christy Asato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 as an individual citizen. This violates constitutional rights to freedom of religion. This is not about vaccinations, but a bill disguised to undermine our constitutional rights and, instead, feeds on fear under the guise of "public safety."

I strongly oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:16:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Papapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:16:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stasey Butler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I heavily OPPOSE this bill because no one will love, care, or take care of my children the way I can and am able too. Forcing someone to inject something into their bodies for the sake of "school" is inhumane. Forcing parents to have their children vaccinated is a right you take away from parents but it is THEIR right; not anyone else's. As a Mother who is currently dealing with my 7th grader who is at risk for expulsion for not being up to date on her shots, this is absurd.(My kid will be expelled in March according to the school... 2 months before the school year ends 😞.) I'd gladly homeschool than be forced to do something I don't agree with. God bless us all!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:16:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalton Lave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents should have the rights to decide if their child need those shots.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:16:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Misunas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Hiw dare the governor and government force children to take injections from companies that have liability for potential side effects

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:17:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly oppose

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:17:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa tapuala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Vanessa Tapuala and I testify an opposition to HB1118.

This Bill would remove religious exemptions For student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I myself have 4 children and choose not to vaccinate. Upon learning what are in immunizations, it goes against my religious beliefs. MRC-5 and WI-38 are both derived from aborted fetuses. Because I believe in God and his word I want to abide in such principles and biblical commands. Our bodies are a temple for the Holy Spirit and we are protect what the Lord has given us.

1 Corinthians 3:16-17: “Don’t you know that you are God’s sanctuary and that the Spirit of God lives in you? If anyone ruins God’s sanctuary, God will ruin him; for God’s sanctuary is holy, and that is what you are.”

John 14:15

“If you love me, you will keep my commandments.”

Hawai‘i has long recognized The right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing the religious exemption could force families to Choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:17:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana M Pangaribuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposing this bill HB1118.

I believe that any medical decision for my body and the body of my children, who are not yet aware of their own medical conditions at young age, should only be done by the consent of the parents.

No one should be forced to be vaccinated just as much as no one can force anyone to take any antibiotics/tylenol/aspirin/etc.

The Government is not taking any action for the lives of people dying due to forceful vaccine, so why should I rely on the government to take care of my child? My children are my responsibility and this is a God given responsibility to me, not to the government officials to take care. The government may suggest but in the eyes of the Almighty God, myself as a parent still responsible for my children's best well being.

once again. In total opposition to HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:17:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheana Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Sheana Alapai, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a mother, this is very concerning to me. I understand that public safety is very important to us all but it is as equally important as individual rights as well. I could understand if the vaccinations did 100% prevent people from getting an illness as well as spreading it, but that has yet to be proven true. In fact, according to data, there is nothing that proves that vaccines have prevented an illness from occurring in general. If it were proven to be true, I believe people like myself, would not have an issue with this bill being passed. But it seems like the intent to mandate has a driven intention to control which strips us all; simply our freedom of choice.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:17:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Oppose HB 1118 to make vaccines mandatory for school without any exceptions. I oppose making vaccines mandatory in any shape or form. When it comes to our kids as a parent It should be my choice not the government. I'm curious what vaccines do they want to be mandated so badly? We should be worrying about other ways to keep children healthy. Ex: Health and nutrition class. This will cause a lot of families to homeschool their children. I work for the Department of Education. I will home school my kids. Thank you for your time and I really hope you take this in to consideration. No Mandatory Vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:18:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaikēanuenue Kamakaala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:20:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Science has been completely, abandoned, pharmaceutical companies designed drugs only treat symptoms. They do not cure that is a business model by one pharmaceutical company. a business model that allows you to give a drug to a person for life.

The next level of drug advertising is to create the disease through vaccinations. When you don't have any more symptoms, you don't have any more clientele.

big Pharma has the best marketing department in the world you simply pay to report that the study showed positive results, they are buying science. Over 125,000 people die from prescription drugs every year, you would think That you would spend more on research to try to offset the death toll. But they do not care just keep marketing market market market that's why there are so many drug commercials, over 80% of commercials are drug commercials. This is a company whose goal is to make money and I will not put my children at risk for profit. healthy people do not make pharmaceutical companies that create drugs and vaccines money, sick people do.

and there are studies by doctors and physicians who say that unvaccinated children are the healthiest among their vaccinated and partly vaccinated, peers. These are independent, doctors and physicians who are not bought and paid for by pharmaceutical companies they have openly stated that they are incentivize to give vaccinations to their patients whether they have a adverse reaction or not. I consider that a crime against humanity.

my main reason is that you guys have offered no solution for vaccine injured children or accountability, If they are injured? why is that? It is a recipe for tyrannical government whose goal is to control their population possibly if not most likely because they are in the pockets of big Pharma.

This is unconstitutional and it violation of our God-given rights!

I will not coparent with the government if you force us we will be forced to homeschool our children.

if that doesn't work, I would gladly move off this tyrannical state.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:20:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sunshine Kahapea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not agree with having my religious freedoms taken away from me. I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:22:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Addington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill mandating vaccines for our children! If it means homeschooling my children, then that is what I will have to do. This is unconstitutional and if this bill does end up passing I hope all the parents that oppose it band together to pull our children from the school. PROTECT OUR KEIKI!!!!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:22:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Lemonds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this house bill 1118. The state has no right to mandate what vaccines or medical procedures its constituents take or don't take. This is extreme overreach by the government to be involved in the decisions parents or individuals take regarding medical care for their children. It is not the responsibility of the government to be medically responsible for anyone. Parents or guardians of Hawaii's children must choose their medical care. The government doesn't own its people or need to make a one size fits all medical decision. It's absolutely abhorrent to even consider this an option. The government does not get to decide what goes in my body or my child's body! Period!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:23:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118.

I do not religiously exempt my children from vaccines but taking away that is not right. What happened to "our bodies, our choice"? Only applies to pregnant women? Doing this is taking away education to those who hold their religious beliefs closely. Shame on all of those who are backing this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:24:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Fung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Alyssa. I am wife, mother of three, entrepreneur and I've built my life around serving others. The most important role I have is being a daughter of God! As a Born Again Christian, I have accepted Jesus Christ as my Lord and Savior. I believe that the scripture in the Bible is the infallible word of God. His word is my guide and instruction in this life. Jesus died on the cross so that I could live a life that is free from bondage and oppression. In Him, I am a new creation. It was for freedom that Christ set ALL people free.

This precious gift of free will allows me to make decisions for myself and my family that are in line with HIS instruction. It is an inalienable right granted to us by our creator, so that we may endure ALL things (including illness) through our faith in Him. I have decided to follow Jesus. Through the apostle Paul, His instruction is clear:

"I beseech you therefore, brethren, by the mercies of God, that you present your bodies a living sacrifice, holy, acceptable to God, which is your reasonable service. And do not be conformed to this world but be transformed by the renewing of your mind, that you may prove what is that good and acceptable and perfect will of God."
(Romans 12:1-2)

I cannot betray my conscience and I cannot betray my God by putting something in my body that may not be Holy and acceptable to the Lord. This is not the will of my Savior. I take care of my health and the body that the Lord gave me. The scripture states that I am also fearfully and wonderfully made and that my provision comes solely from the Lord. Therefore I put my trust in Him and will be obedient to his written word.

I will not take any experimental drugs, this includes all vaccines and I will not expose my children to any type of mandate either. The Bible teaches us that in the end-times, a certain "mark" will be imposed upon the people of the world. This marker, once received, allows you to participate in society at large but comes at the highest cost. Those who refuse the mark of the beast will face severe discrimination and pressure from the world (Revelations 13:16-17). We've

lived through this very prophecy first hand during Covid but I did not waiver to the pressures of our government and the world during the mandates. I boldly followed what God asked of me and did not have my family vaccinated. I thank God for the decrement he gave me during this time because so many children and friends I personally know have suffered disabling side effects after receiving the Covid vaccines. I also made the decision to withdraw my children from school so they would not be forced to wear masks losing their ability to breathe fresh air without restrictions and loose their God given identity by covering their face daily. Most importantly we didn't suffer the spiritual effects of turning away from God's word and held on to the promises he proclaimed over us.

I'm writing to ask for your **OPPOSITION to Bill HB1118** that would strip away our rights to religious exemptions. To see that you, nor any government possesses any qualifications to pass judgement on the legitimacy of my faith or anyones religious beliefs. I, along with so many across the state of Hawaii will always support those who stand up for medical and religious freedom. As a mother, we never forget who has stood by us in protecting our keiki. Please do not cave to the pressure of your constituents and ask yourself what is the benefit for removing religious exemptions? We must be the protectors and voices for the innocent and the most vulnerable. The rights of parents to make medical decisions for their children must be protected. We cannot stand by, like so many did during Covid, and allow dictatorship over medical freedom at the cost of fear, greed and power.

Mahalo,

Alyssa Fung

"Let the morning bring me word of your unfailing love, for I have put my trust in you. Show me the way I should go, for to you I entrust my life." - Psalm 143:8

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:25:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Henry Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a native Hawaiian and a father of 6 and I am against this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:25:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breisha Wagner Tadio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with HB 1118! You folks are slowing ripping our rights away and it's not right. My kids are unvaccinated and perfectly fine!!! Please DO NOT PASS HB1118! Let us parents decide what we should give our children.

TESTIMONY TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAII AFFAIRS
ON HOUSE BILL NO. 1118
RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

February 19, 2025

Aloha Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs, my name is Jazelle Aolahiko, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a parent of multiple school-aged children, this affects my responsibility as a parent to protect my kids from the many adverse reactions from vaccines. Education is as important as public health, but passing this bill is expecting us to unfairly prioritize the community over our own children.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:26:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Latisha Nakata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. Forcing individuals to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs in order to access education is a direct infringement on this right. Removing religious exemptions would compel families to choose between their religious convictions and their child's right to an education—a choice no one should have to make in a free society.

Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children. The Supreme Court has long recognized that parents, not the government, are best suited to determine what is in their child's best interest, including medical interventions. Eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations opens the door for further government encroachment on religious and personal freedoms.

According to a recent article published on January 9, 2025 on the State of Hawai'i Department of Health (<https://health.hawaii.gov/news/newsroom/more-hawai%CA%BBi-students-not-up-to-date-on-immunizations/>) as it stands, "Hawai'i allows two forms of vaccination exemptions for school children: medical and religious. According to the Hawai'i Department of Health (DOH), religious exemptions accounted for 4.1% of students in the 2023-24 school year, up from 2.1% in 2019-20. While this reflects a slight upward trend, it remains a small portion of the total student population. In contrast, medical exemptions remain extremely low, increasing only from 0.07% in 2019-20 to 0.16% in 2023-24 but continue to remain low overall."

The vast majority of Hawai'i families still choose to vaccinate their children. This data indicates that religious exemptions make up a small percentage of overall vaccine opt-outs and do not pose a significant public health threat. So why the need to remove religious exemptions all together?

Eliminating religious exemptions disproportionately impacts specific religious communities who hold sincere objections to vaccinations. For example, as a Christian, I have deeply held beliefs regarding medical interventions believing. Forcing compliance under threat of educational exclusion is a form of discrimination against religious minorities, marginalizing those who wish to uphold their faith while still participating in public life.

The right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of American democracy and should not be sacrificed under the guise of public health policy. There are ways to promote high vaccination rates while still respecting religious liberties. Removing religious exemptions is not only unnecessary but also unconstitutional, unethical, and discriminatory. Instead, together, we must

find balanced solutions that protect both public health and individual rights, ensuring that religious freedom remains safeguarded for future generations.

Newsroom. (2025, January 9). *More Hawai'i students not up to date on immunizations*. MORE HAWAI'I STUDENTS NOT UP TO DATE ON IMMUNIZATIONS.

<https://health.hawaii.gov/news/newsroom/more-hawai%CA%BBi-students-not-up-to-date-on-immunizations/>

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:27:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Lum	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

As an educated citizen, who spent years in Hawaii's public school system as both a student and an educator I am appalled that our leaders would even let a measure like this get this far.

I cannot believe in a "free" America, a completely average, extremely liberal minded, just so happens to be into a healthy lifestyle person such as myself - has to stand up in a government building to beg for the right to choose.

Safety research has not been mandated of pharma companies in America, resulting in absolute negligence of care and consistent vaccine injury amongst those receiving vaccines in our country. Why don't we regulate the companies making the drugs before we mandate the folks to consume these mystery medicines that have zero liability.

Second, the money train directly ties pharma lobbyists as the keys influencing FDA and government decisions - individuals working once for the FDA offered lucrative positions at private companies, suddenly being offered grants and government funds.

All of the medicines these parents cluelessly pour into their innocent children's bloodstreams .. with zero safety testing ever conducted ...

how dare you say we must consume these vile concoctions made from innocent animals and fetal cells that never underwent testing for safety. This is no longer for the greater good- it has become a capitalist wet dream that you continue to rub down.

Please give my child an opportunity to receive an equal, public education that my taxes are paying for a without forcing him to participate in the governments massive science experiment.

I oppose HB1118 and sincerely hope you see why you should as well. Why don't you ban guns in Hawaii before you force shots.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:29:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I stand before you today to express my deep concerns about the proposal to make vaccinations mandatory for all individuals. While I respect the importance of public health and understand the intention behind vaccination programs, I believe that enforcing such mandates compromises personal freedoms and individual rights.

First and foremost, the decision to receive a vaccine should be a personal choice, informed by individual circumstances and health considerations. Each person's medical history, immune system, and potential allergic reactions are unique. Forcing individuals to vaccinate against their will disregards their autonomy and right to make informed decisions about their own bodies.

Moreover, we live in a society that values informed consent, and mandatory vaccinations challenge this fundamental principle. People must have the right to research, question, and weigh the risks and benefits of any medical intervention. It is essential that individuals are given the opportunity to make decisions based on their beliefs, concerns, and medical advice tailored to their own situation.

There is also the concern about the lack of long-term data on some vaccines. While vaccines have historically proven effective in preventing the spread of certain diseases, the potential risks associated with new vaccines, especially when mandated, require careful consideration. No medical intervention is entirely without risk, and individuals should be able to evaluate the pros and cons for themselves rather than be forced to comply with a blanket policy.

In addition, mandatory vaccination policies disproportionately affect certain groups of people, including those with medical or religious exemptions. Forcing vaccinations on individuals who, for personal, medical, or religious reasons, cannot or choose not to participate in these programs creates an unjust situation. We must respect the diversity of opinions and life choices within our society.

Lastly, while vaccines may reduce the risk of illness, they are not infallible, and breakthrough infections have occurred, further complicating the argument for blanket mandates. Encouraging voluntary vaccination through education and access is a far more effective approach than forcing compliance.

In conclusion, while I wholeheartedly support efforts to protect public health, I believe that mandatory vaccination undermines personal freedom and the ability to make decisions about one's health. I urge you to consider alternative approaches that respect individual rights while also promoting the overall well-being of society.

Anjelica DiNorscio metzger

808-652-5853

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:29:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shauvon Young	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony Against Bill HB1118

Dear committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which mandates that all children must receive vaccinations to attend public school. This proposal is not only unacceptable but also profoundly unethical, as it infringes upon the fundamental rights of parents and families.

As a parent, I believe that the decision to vaccinate a child should lie solely with the family, guided by their beliefs, values, and unique circumstances. This bill represents a significant overreach by the government into the personal lives of families, stripping away our rights to make informed choices about our children's health.

Forcing parents to vaccinate their children, especially when it may go against their personal or religious convictions, is a violation of our fundamental human rights. Each family understands its own needs and beliefs best, and it is crucial that we uphold the right to choose what is best for our child's health and well-being.

I urge you to consider the implications of passing this bill. It sets a dangerous precedent that undermines parental rights and individual freedoms. We must protect our rights as parents to make decisions in the best interest of our children, without coercion or mandate from the government.

Please do not allow this bill to pass. It is imperative that we respect the rights of families and allow them the autonomy to make healthcare decisions for their children.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,
Shauvon Young

858-859-7653 cell

shauvony@gmail.com

Maui, Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:30:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Minda Takaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because as a parent I should have the right to make decisions on there behalf and not the government. By you forcing this on my children you are taking away my medical freedom and my first amendment rights. What happened to "My body, my choice"? This should apply to this situation as well. If my child reacts to any of the vaccines forced on them the state is not liable. But, yet the state wants to force this on us. Make that make sense.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:30:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUBJECT: Oppose H 1118

I am submitting my testimony opposing HB1118.

Mahalo!

Denise Fernandez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:31:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118!

It is my GOD GIVEN RIGHT to choose what is best for my child, NOT this totalitarian bill forced upon our people and parents!

Forced COVID vaccinations for our keiki to participate in sports was enough and caused many many adverse reactions and even DEATHS!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:32:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Carreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Per both the federal and state constitution, religious freedom and the practice, customs and traditions thereof are a protected right. This bill is a clear violation of those rights and a overreach by the government.

James Madison said "Crisis is the rallying cry of a tyrant" and this bill pushed by Governor Josh Green makes him just that. He seeks to remove the fundamental rights of the people in the name of "health and safety." "Health" parameters that are set by HIS administration. This is a dangerous slippery slope. Tyrannical regimes throughout history have started in this very same way. What other rights will Governor Green seek to remove in order to accomplish his agenda? This cannot stand.

Moreover, should this bill pass it has already established that the people will fight the bill all the way to the highest court in our nation. Governor Green and our Hawaii legislators will be knowingly wasting Hawaii tax payer money as they attempt to fight a court case that will indisputably fail in the supreme court. And why? So Governor Green can make a statement and stay relevant in nation wide news? Ask yourselves -Do we really need to be a laughing stock in national news AGAIN over ridiculous, wasteful spending that has zero benefit to the people of Hawaii? The people of Hawaii deserve better.

I implore our state representatives to do your duty and uphold the federal and state constitution. Fulfill your purpose to serve ALL people of our great state. Kill this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:32:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy yoo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Kids should be protected in public schools, and vaccinations should be required.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:32:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alisa Hamasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118 bill- it does not protect the religious rights of the people and our children of Hawaii and it is against our rights. This bill is not based on the health of our students and children, it is just another way to control the people of Hawaii. I am a public school teacher and a parent, who send my children to public schools but people should not be forced to get vaccines, people should have a choice and if they have an exemption, children should be able to attend the same school and receive an education like everyone else. I do not support bill HB1118- everyone has reasons and their choices should be their's not the government of Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:38:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Hannah Clark, and I am in **strong opposition to HB1118**.

I understand that this bill will remove religious exemptions from student vaccinations in schools. This is a **violation** of fundamental rights protected by both the U.S. Constitution and legal precedent.

The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, and removing religious exemptions would force families to choose between their faith and their child's education. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the **government cannot infringe on religious beliefs in a way that burdens parents' ability to raise their children according to their faith**. Stripping religious exemptions from vaccination requirements directly contradicts this principle.

Additionally, historically, the United States has upheld the right of individuals to make medical decisions based on personal and religious convictions. Thomas Jefferson himself warned against government overreach, stating that **"to compel a man to furnish contributions of money for the propagation of opinions which he disbelieves is sinful and tyrannical."** In the same spirit, compelling parents to vaccinate their children against their beliefs is an **overreach of government authority**.

Parental rights, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy are essential liberties. In good faith, I urge you to vote NO on HB1118. As it is said - **My body. My choice. ;)**

Mahalo,

Hannah Clark

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:38:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Legaspi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Our children are minors, and requiring them to get a vaccine just because the state mandates it goes against everything we stand for. The decision should rest solely with parents and their medical providers, who can determine the appropriate time and necessity for vaccination.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:38:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvin Erice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alvin Erice, I am a father of 3boys and I highly oppose this bill. My children should not be FORCED to take foreign substances. We need to allow for freedom to choose weather we want these immunizations or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:40:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelley Krynsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose for medical, religious and personal freedom for families and individuals. As a mother of a child who has epilepsy possibly from vaccination i think this bill is a extreme overreach. Parents should be able to choose what is best for their children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:41:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kaliki unga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1118. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:44:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradd Haituka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 is a clear violation of constitutional rights, This clearly violates freedom of religious practices. This flawed bill needs to be killed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:44:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Suan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Chair, my name is Ashley Suan, and I testify in opposition to HB1118. This bill will go against my the first ammendment. By having this bill pass, it will take away my right to speech and my religion. I am a mother of three beautiful children and I thank God everyday for them. God had answered my prayers of wanting children and gave me the right to protect my children at all cost. I am not against vaccines, however, I am against anyone that tries to steal my right to make decisions for my children. I am also a health care worker (registered nurse) and I always honor patient's right to refuse care. It is not my right or the hospital rights to make health related decisions for our patients. Therefore the department of education or the government have no right to make the decison on mandating vaccines for our children. Again, I oppose to bill HB1118. Thank you. -Ashley Suan

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:46:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Bueche	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support a bill that will require children to adhere to a universal standard of health. Some group of people disconnected from most communities are the ones that set that standard. They are capable of mistakes when setting the standard, as they are human. They are also capable of abusing the standards for profit, as they are human. Enforcement means that the damage could be widespread and irreversible by the time a government official realizes a mistake or exploitation has been made with new health standards. Parental and community wisdom is needed wherever possible to guard our children and families from the mistakes of misdeeds of those who set the standards. I do not doubt the importance of vaccines. I doubt those who would not let their scientific work even be challenged, and would rather enforce their understanding to the masses. And I doubt those in such a powerful and profitable position to in all cases respect what is right for our ohana. Please hear me and many others when we say, do not take away the freedom to protect and raise our children. They are not your children. Thank you for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:47:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:47:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!!!

My name is Patty Takahashi and this is an issue of taking constitutional and religious freedom away. Also, Pharmaceutical corruption, taking peoples 1st amendment away and interest in taking control of society. There is no sense of the kids well being with 97 vaccines already in place, this is chemical warfare on generations to come.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:48:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ciera Muraoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:50:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Cichowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chairman,

I, Zoe Cichowski, testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove student exemptions from vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I believe it is the responsibility and privilege of the parent, not the government or education system, to make choices regarding the health of a child. Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on thier personal or religious beliefs. Removing religious exemption would force families to choose between thier faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Zoe Cichowski, American citizen, mother of 3, resident voter of the fine sate of Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:50:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Gonsalves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill hb1118. We have individual rights as parents to decide on whether or not our children should or should not be vaccinated. If parents who vaccinate their children believe that vaccinations prevent them from catching diseases, why are they so worried that they would contract something from un vaxxed child? We as parents NOT THE STATE have the final say in our children's healthcare decisions. Forcing vaccinations disregards informed consent, a fundamental ethical principle in medicine! Banning religious exemption is a direct violation of the First Amendment. I have a right to make medical decisions for my own children without government interference. Take Hep B for instance: this vaccine is given to a newborn fresh out of the womb. This is a sexually transmitted disease! Why would I allow this vaccine to be injected into my newborn? Elimination of religious exemptions will lead to the erosion of other personal freedoms in medical and other areas. If vaccines are 100% safe, why won't the Doctors/Pharmaceutical Companies who apply/develop these vaccines, sign any waiver saying if something does happen to my child, that they would be held responsible... I again, OPPOSE this bill. Thank you for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:54:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I stand OPPOSED to HB 1118. This is something that is personal and should not be forced upon anyone. This is like someone who has diabetes, who wants to refuse treatment and not do dialysis. This is like someone who has cancer, and wants to decline treatment. Are you going to force someone to do treatments against their will? This is an individual's choice.

Passing a bill such as this is opening a "can of worms" that the government will be faced with in civil lawsuits. And that means being bogged down with more time and expenses.

Please don't pass this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:55:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brett Kulbis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB-1118.

HB-1118 seeks to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements for our public schools. While the intent behind this bill is to improve our keiki health by increasing vaccination rates, I believe it infringes upon parental rights and freedoms, particularly those related to personal health choices and religious beliefs.

Repealing non-medical exemptions undermines the principle of personal autonomy, allowing parents to make informed decisions about their keiki's health. This is a fundamental right that should be respected and protected. Although the bill allows existing religious exemptions to remain in place for the current school year, it sets a concerning precedent for future restrictions on religious freedoms. Religious beliefs are deeply held and should be respected in matters of health and vaccination.

While vaccines are generally safe and effective, there are legitimate concerns about potential side effects and the need for parental health decisions for their keiki. A blanket policy that does not account for these variations and can lead to unintended consequences. Informed consent is crucial in healthcare decisions, and eliminating non-medical exemptions undermines this principle.

Respectfully, I STRONGLY encourage you to vote NO on HB-1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:55:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Jaworowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, but it does not go far enough. I would amend it to require the end of the religious exemption at the end of this school year without an extension for students who currently have one. Why would we allow any child to continue to endanger other students?

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:56:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Shimokawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly object to HB1118. I implore you to vote against this. This bill takes away our rights as Americans - for freedom. Freedom, religious freedom, bodily choice, our decision over our own bodies & those we care & are responsible for (our innocent children). Our choice, as concerned & loving parents, to make an informed choice for our children's bodies (until they are able to make an informed decision on their own). Not all vaccines are 100% effective & without irreparable side effects. If vaccines were 100% safe & effective, we would be able to hold the pharmaceutical companies liable. However, these powerful drug companies incentivize many government officials & others to do their bidding & "force" more & more shots. When does it end? I sincerely hope you hear the people's concerns over this over reaching bill. Please do not take away our freedom - our choice. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:57:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Woolridge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It should be up to the families in Hawaii to have the choice to vaccinate our children. Vaccines are proven to have side effects and not safe for children

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 3:59:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Treskon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote to oppose this bill. Parents should be able to chose which vaccines if any they want their children to have. There is already a bill that says if there is an outbreak the non vaccinated children need to stay home. Mandatory vaccinations for attending school which just make it so more children are home schooled.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:00:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pohaikealoha B. George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118 because we have the constitutional right to practice our religion in public or private. This bill would prevent my children from practicing their religion at school, and the people of Hawaii have elected you to represent them you should do what is right for the people.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:00:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Selvey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose mandating vaccines for school children. These decisions belong between parents and their children's physician. The state should not interfere in private medical matters. Elected bureaucrats should focus on areas that do not intrude upon the freedoms of individuals. That state would be wise to consider the number of families in Hawaii and across this nation that have felt there is no choice but to homeschool their children because of the state's insatiable desire to intrude upon the freedoms of its citizens.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:02:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leialoha Rojo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of two it is my God given right to have the "option" to choose to or not to vaccinate my children. I oppose this bill this is straight ungodly. The amount of vaccines yyou all are pushing is absolutely ridiculous and outrageous. The amount of proof people are coming out with that it does more harm then good is in the numbers. People who were doctors have even walked away from there practices because of it. It ain't right and you all know it ain't right. Do what is right and leave it up to the parents. Lord help us all.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:06:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Haili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill. Removing religious exemptions for vaccine mandates as a requirement for public school attendance in Hawaii is a violation of our 1st amendment rights. While I understand the importance of public health initiatives, I firmly believe that removing religious exemptions sets a dangerous precedent regarding the role of government in matters of personal faith and medical choice.

Religious liberty is a fundamental American value, enshrined in both the First Amendment and longstanding legal traditions. The ability to exercise one's faith freely—without government interference—must be upheld across all areas of policy, including medical decisions. By eliminating religious exemptions, the state would, in effect, be dictating when and how religious beliefs are valid in the public sphere, a position that directly contradicts the very foundation of religious freedom in this country.

Furthermore, this decision raises a critical concern about the relationship between religion and government. The separation of church and state is essential to ensuring that no governing body oversteps its bounds in either direction—whether that be the state imposing restrictions on religious freedoms or allowing religious doctrine to dictate policy. If we set the precedent that the government can dismiss religious objections in one context, we open the door for it to do the same in others.

This is not simply about vaccines, it is about whether government should have the authority to override deeply held religious convictions in any circumstance. I urge you to protect religious exemptions and respect the rights of individuals and families to make medical decisions in accordance with their faith. Allowing this exemption to stand does not prevent those who wish to vaccinate from doing so; it simply preserves the right of others to exercise their beliefs without coercion.

Should this pass it will be challenged in court. All the way to the US Supreme Court if necessary. The Supreme Court has a long history of upholding constitutional rights. This battle will be very costly for Hawaii tax payers.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:06:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren LaManna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear comitee members. It is your duty to be the voice of the people, and the people say NO! This bill is a clear violation of our first amendment rites and by putting it through will this show the people where you truly stand. For more government control. This isn't about safety, it's about Josh green being owned by big pharma. He showed this with Covid and now he's again coming after us and our children. These religious exemptions are our rite as free citizens. Why is it that my child should have baby aborted cells, fragmented dna, animal dna, heavy metals, famadahyde (proven to cause cancer) and other toxic chemical injected into them not once but 72 times? It's an atrocity! We have had these medical exemptions in place and have been without outbreaks. You mark my words, if this passes, the people that actually comply and keep their children in school, you will see a huge uptake in vaccine injuries. And that blood will be on your hands. And for those of us who do not comply and take our children out of school, well we will fight everyday to also take our tax dollars from the DOE and put it to our use. In places that respect our religious freedoms. If this bill passes you are creating medical refugees, in a supposed "free country." And once again, who is to suffer, our children.

PLEASE VOTE NO!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:07:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Max Fowler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, parent of a child in the DOE and local pastor, I oppose HB1118. In the United States Bill of Rights, under The First Amendment, it states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof". It is the Constitutional duty of the State of Hawai'i to allow parents and students in the Hawai'i DOE the freedom to choose whether or not to have all of the vaccines, some of them, or none of them - according to their conscience and/or religious beliefs. Our community in Hawaii values diversity - we should allow for the diversity of beliefs regarding what we as parents deem safe to put in the bodies of our own children. This extreme bill would upset many in those in the religious community, like my family, and put them in the margins, disallowing students from participating in school, sports and other extra curricular activities, separating them from friendships with other students. I humbly ask for you as our elected representatives to consider the lives that would be changed, and the divisive nature in the culture that would arise as a result in our beloved Hawaii. Mahalo, Max Fowler

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:09:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonah Respicio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear State legislation and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill infringes on the fundamental rights of parents to make informed medical decisions for their children based on their religious and personal beliefs.

Religious freedom is a core principle protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution. By removing this exemption, HB 1118 disregards the deeply held convictions of families who oppose certain medical procedures based on their faith. The government should not have the power to force medical interventions upon children when it directly conflicts with a family's religious doctrine.

Furthermore, parents are the primary caregivers and decision-makers for their children. They are best equipped to evaluate risks and benefits when it comes to healthcare decisions. Stripping away the religious exemption sets a dangerous precedent, granting the state excessive control over personal medical choices and disregarding the diverse cultural and religious fabric of our communities.

It is also important to note that removing religious exemptions does not necessarily lead to improved public health outcomes. Many families who conscientiously object to vaccinations do so with thorough research and understanding of alternative health measures to ensure their children's well-being. Respecting parental rights while promoting public health can coexist through informed decision-making and medical freedom.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and uphold the rights of Hawaii's families to make choices that align with their religious beliefs. Please consider the voices of parents who seek to protect their children while preserving their constitutional freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonah Respicio

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:11:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Billie Nohea George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all

I oppose

mahalo a nui

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:15:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peighton Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of four children, all of which have Hawaiian blood running through their veins. I believe that religion and freedom of choice to practice our religion/beliefs is in the top priority of my family's list. For the government to take that away feels unconstitutional and uncaring of its people. If this bill is to pass I will absolutely be pulling myself and my children out of the public and private schools they are currently in. I will not finish my own schooling with the state of Hawaii as well. I know dozens of families who will do the same. I know even more families who are dedicated to moving to the mainland if this passes. People know their rights and they can tell when something is **WRONG**. They will not stay and be taken advantage of when this line is crossed. Hawaii will lose more local families and lose funding due to this bill. It did not work in California and it will not work here. This is the last straw for a lot of local people who the government of Hawaii claims to "care" about. Hear our voices. Do not take our **RELIGIOUS** rights away. Do not **FORCE** families to have to make a choice to abandon their religion or ultimately abandon their home. We need local people in Hawaii, we need local children in the schools. This will be a big impact on Hawaii's community. The government becomes untrustworthy and unsafe to many families if this bill passes. Please reconsider. **DO NOT TAKE RELIGION FROM SUCH A SPIRITUAL GROUP OF PEOPLE FOUND NO WHERE ELSE IN THE WORLD.**

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:15:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phebe Kahoiwai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully oppose this bill as it is unconstitutional. We have the right to practice our religious freedom and should not be forced by the government to vaccinate our children.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:15:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ROSSANNA C TAVARES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

I am in FULL OPPOSITION of this bill. Essentially, this bill eliminates our GOD given rights to religious exemption for vaccination(s). You are imposing your restrictions on MY religious, health and moral beliefs.

I, along with anyone else, has every right to decide if I (or my child) will or will not take a vaccination if it aligns with my beliefs. This DICTATORSHIP DOES NOT have the authority to tell us how to care for our selves.

I OPPOSE HB1118 today, I will OPPOSE HB1118 tomorrow and forevermore!

Rossanna Tavares

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:16:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Holi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with having required vaccines implemented on our children in order to go to school. This should be determined by the parent and the physician, not by law.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:19:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby lynn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's is unlawful to take away my human right to practice my religion.

You can not say my body my choice then take away my religious practice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:19:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Tagalog	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Alexis Tagalog, I am the mother of 2 amazing children. 1 & 4 years old. Both my children are completely unvaccinated & will continue to be & that is by MY choice. Every parent should have the choice to determine whether their children should be vaccinated or not & not PUNISHED by losing their right to an education for not agreeing with you. What someone puts in their body isnt anyones choice but their owns/their parent. & certainly not the governments choice. Whether its someones personal beliefs or goes against their religious beliefs you cannot take away that right from them. This is cruel.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:20:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyson Okita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a humble constituent of Honolulu County, and I am writing in opposition to HB1118 because I feel that it is an obstruction of my religious and personal freedoms, and it also impedes on my parental rights. I am personally exhausted, wary, and in distrust of government and its mandates which do not have any immediate or everlasting results and in seeing firsthand what experimental-but-mandated vaccines have done to co-workers, friends, and family. These past 4 years has been all about government overreach and taking away people's rights and freedoms while screaming for "oppression" over My Body, My Choice - basically giving women the right to kill innocent babies/fetus (whatever you want to call it so you feel better about yourself). Please explain to me why people's rights concerning "My Body, My Choice" doesn't pertain to what medical treatment(s) you choose for your Heavenly body, and thereby for your own children. Passing this bill would be a blatant disregard of my First Amendment Right as granted to me as a citizen of the United States of America. Bills like these do NOT serve people, they oppress them! This bill only serves less than 1% of the student population of the state of Hawai'i who is immunocompromised or have medical conditions which put them at risk from illness, which, if that's the case, the DOE or at the school-level should have at least a protocol in place in which they can accommodate the student who has a medical condition/disability that would put them at risk. I personally feel that if the State of Hawai'i should indeed pass this bill, then it is only fair that the State should compensate the parents for any damages caused by vaccine-related injuries.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:22:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposing this bill. It is unconstitutional and wrong to force anyone to inject themselves or their children in order to participate in schools or society. If this bill passes my children will no longer attend school in Hawaii as our beliefs do not align with the injection of poisons that are clearly shown to be in many of these immunizations. Things like aborted fetal cells, mercury, aluminum, and formaldehyde (just to name a few) have no place being injected into our children. We have a right to say no. You do not have the right to take that away from us. Anyone trying to pass this bill clearly has an agenda and does not agree with "my body, my choice".

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:23:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Wehrly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to this bill HB1118. This goes against our First Amendment.

What part of the first amendment that says "Prevents Congress from making laws against our religion" do you not understand. How can you stand up for us American citizens if you are not going by our Rights as citizens?

It specifically prevents Congress from making laws respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise of religion.

There is not enough proof that vaccines are safe anymore to many vaccine injuries or so many side effects. Trying to pass this before Robert F. Kennedy Jr. --- who is in charge of MAHA can even follow up with the makers of vaccines to see whats in them or what they really do to us Trying to pass a law that goes against our US citizens rights in AMERICA is wrong.

Have all the parents of the schools or new parents to be , been informed ahead of time of this law that you are trying to pass or are you just rushing to get this passed without their consent. Seems sneaky to me. Plus against the Law. Do you think we can't make the right decision for our children? this just isn't right.

I sure hope the ones that get to vote to pass this bill or not pass this bill has done their own investigating of both sides. Not just listening to one side only. If you have looked into it then of course you would oppose this bill HB1118.

Mahalo

Amanda Wehrly

Kauai Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:24:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzan Danforth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Our rights come from God, not government. Mr. Green is not God. It is the parents duty to decide what is best for their children, not yours.

Stop overreaching what is your job!

Do no harm. God is watching!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:26:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Tran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1!

Based on the First Amendment of the United States Constitution and 42 U.S. Code § 2000a - Prohibition against discrimination or segregation in places of public accommodation, which states "All persons shall be entitled to the full and equal enjoyment of the goods, services, facilities, privileges, advantages, and accommodations of any place of public accommodation, as defined in this section, without discrimination or segregation on the ground of race, color, religion, or national origin."

Immunization should not be required if it violates a person's religious beliefs or any other belief for that matter, especially for children of those said faiths. They are minors and health-related decisions should be made by thier parents, not the State.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:26:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to the nature of separation of state and religion. This overstep by the state in the matters of religion is bias and uncalled for. The state does not represent my wife or my position as parent of my children and do have ownership of that parental right.

Mark Davis

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:26:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn onzuka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill. I am not supporting this bill because I feel the choice of giving a vaccine should be choice of the parent given professional advise from and of the family doctor given in the FREE state of Hawaii. Holding my children and the future children of Hawaii's education hostage by holding this vaccination bill over our heads is un ethical and a disgrace to our freedoms.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:28:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amaya Eckel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wish to decide within my family and physician whether or not to vaccinate my child. I have 2 kids, vaccinated since birth, but more recently one of my children had an adverse allergic affect to the HPV vaccine in which she was rushed to the ER within hours. The visit was documented as an allergic reaction.

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing a testimony to you today as a concerned mom, aunty, sister, cousin, and a Hawaii resident. I urge you to not pass Bill H1118. First and foremost, this completely goes against our 1st amendment; Congress should make no law respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. This bill violates that and forces people to go against their beliefs and interferes with a persons choice. You cannot FORCE a parent to go against their religion, and their beliefs on what to do with THEIR own children!! This bill is doing exactly that, FORCING! If this becomes a mandated law this will severely affect public schools, as parents have only two options; which is to home-school or be forced to go against their religion and vaccinate their children. Again, you are FORCING parents and their children to go against their beliefs. Schools will lose fundings, and that will lead to teacher layoffs and program cuts! There are thousands of children who use religious exemptions in Hawai'i that are currently enrolled in school. I urge you to please not pass this bill for the sake of Hawai'i's people and our 'Ohana!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:29:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly Oppose this bill, HB1118. Medical science no matter what it pertains to can be a powerful tool, but it is not an all-knowing or infallible authority worthy over one's body. It is known that medical science evolves, corrects itself, and is often influenced by human error, motives, and shifting consensus. Taking away our keiki's ability to go to school for not being vaccinated according to religious reasons is egregious! For what medicine can offer it does not deliver any ultimate truth, moral guidance, or meaning to life. We must not let there be an ultimate authority to science or we lose our personal autonomy. We have to right to make decisions over our own bodies and that of our children, especially. Ethical concern comes in when medical authority is taken over ones personal beliefs of well-being for their health and body. Science will not offer people guidance beyond recommendation. What happens when people listen and negative outcomes such as injury or death take place, who will be held accountable? It seems most immunocompromised children are getting a majority of vaccines anyway-- if vaccines are working than why the fear? Please, I ask, let people, the people of Hawaii, make their own choices. Oppose this reckless attempt to take away our religious, bodily and rightful freedoms.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:30:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kristine knight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1118

To whom it may concern ,

I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 1118, a bill that threatens the fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, particularly those enshrined in the First Amendment. This legislation unjustly undermines religious exemptions, infringing on both freedom of religion and individual liberty.

The First Amendment explicitly protects the right to freely practice one's faith without government interference. Religious exemptions exist to ensure that individuals are not forced to act against their deeply held beliefs. By limiting or outright removing these exemptions, HB 1118 disregards the very principles upon which this nation was founded.

Moreover, this bill is an affront to the fundamental concept of free will and personal choice. Our legal system has long recognized the importance of balancing public interest with individual rights. Forcing individuals to act against their conscience under the guise of law is not only unconstitutional but also deeply un-American. A government that dictates which beliefs are valid and which are not is one that oversteps its rightful authority.

Legislation that seeks to erode religious protections sets a dangerous precedent. If the government can compel individuals to violate their faith in one area, what is to stop it from expanding its reach into others? Upholding religious exemptions is not about defying the law—it is about ensuring that laws do not violate the inalienable rights of the people they govern.

I urge you to reject HB 1118 and uphold the constitutional rights that have safeguarded our freedoms for generations. Religious liberty and personal choice are the bedrock of our democracy, and any attempt to diminish them must be met with firm opposition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristine Knight

808429300

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:30:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Pratt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this Bill. I believe it should be a parent's or legal guardian's right to choose to immunize or not. If they don't believe in it then so be it. Religious Exemptions no matter what belief should be honored.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:33:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:33:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristopher Knight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1118

To whom it may concern ,

I am writing today in strong opposition to HB 1118, a bill that threatens the fundamental rights guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution, particularly those enshrined in the First Amendment. This legislation unjustly undermines religious exemptions, infringing on both freedom of religion and individual liberty.

The First Amendment explicitly protects the right to freely practice one's faith without government interference. Religious exemptions exist to ensure that individuals are not forced to act against their deeply held beliefs. By limiting or outright removing these exemptions, HB 1118 disregards the very principles upon which this nation was founded.

Moreover, this bill is an affront to the fundamental concept of free will and personal choice. Our legal system has long recognized the importance of balancing public interest with individual rights. Forcing individuals to act against their conscience under the guise of law is not only unconstitutional but also deeply un-American. A government that dictates which beliefs are valid and which are not is one that oversteps its rightful authority.

Legislation that seeks to erode religious protections sets a dangerous precedent. If the government can compel individuals to violate their faith in one area, what is to stop it from expanding its reach into others? Upholding religious exemptions is not about defying the law—it is about ensuring that laws do not violate the inalienable rights of the people they govern.

I urge you to reject HB 1118 and uphold the constitutional rights that have safeguarded our freedoms for generations. Religious liberty and personal choice are the bedrock of our democracy, and any attempt to diminish them must be met with firm opposition.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kristopher Knight

8084293586

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:33:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michlenn Bocoboc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of two.. My daughter is currently enrolled in a special education preschool program and is attending school under a religious exemption. I strongly oppose HB 1118, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for immunization requirements.

As a parent, I believe it is my fundamental right and responsibility to make medical decisions for my children based on what I feel is best for their health, well-being, and our family's deeply held beliefs. The removal of non-medical exemptions would unfairly discriminate against families like mine and force parents into an impossible choice: comply with mandated vaccinations against our conscience or be denied access to education for our keiki.

Hawaii has always been a place of cultural and religious diversity, and this bill disregards the deeply held convictions of many families. In a state that values inclusivity and personal freedom, we must uphold the right of parents to make informed choices about their children's health without government overreach.

I urge you to consider the impact this bill would have on families who rely on non-medical exemptions and to oppose HB 1118. Please protect our right to choose what is best for our children.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:35:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole LeClaire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is not the will of The People!!!!!!

HB 1118 threatens to strip parents of their ability to make healthcare decisions for their own children—handing more control to big pharma and government mandates. This bill could even block students from graduating, creating unnecessary barriers for families instead of helping our keiki succeed.

Why You Should Oppose HB 1118:

- Strips parental rights—giving the government and big pharma say over our children’s healthcare
- Removes parent's rights to choose what’s best for our keiki's healthcare
- Creates graduation barriers that could prevent students from receiving their diplomas (in NY 26,000 students were forced out of school when the religious exemption was removed)
- Oversteps personal freedoms, violating our right to make informed health choices
- Testimonies overwhelmingly oppose this bill, yet lawmakers are continuing to push it forward

We live in America, where freedom—especially over our own bodies—must be protected. HB 1118 is government overreach at its worst.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:35:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Kama-Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Comm. Chair Tarnas Vice-Chair Poepoe Committee members: Belatti, Cochran, Hashem, Kahaloa, Perruso, Takayama, Todd, Garcia and Shimizu

Re: HB1118

Report Title: Immunizations; *Non-Medical Exemptions; Repeal* Description: *Repeals* the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements

My name is Rita Kama-Kimura and I stand in strong opposition to the passing of this bill.

A bill that “provides a medical exemption only,” but focuses on eliminating any and all other exemption to include religious exemptions.

The American way has always been that the parents are responsible for the care and safety and upbringing of their children, not the government. At least not in this Country. This is the United States of America, and one of the most cherished rights we have is our Religious Freedom.

I realize our governor, a physician, has requested this bill. However, note, he does not have all the answers. There are many very reputable physicians, research teams and projects that have had questions, concerns and opposing views. Many of them were censored, I wonder why?

Can any of you guarantee that vaccines are safe and free of any side effects? Then stop it now!

BTW, what ever happened to My Body My Choice?

So, the answer is no, I strongly encourage you to oppose the passing of this bill!

Respectfully, Rita Kama-Kimura

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:36:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118 Proposed Amendment to Section 302A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I write today in strong **opposition** to the proposed amendment to Section 302A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for immunizations while permitting only medical exemptions. This proposed amendment is unconstitutional, inconsistent with Supreme Court precedent, and detrimental to the protection of fundamental religious freedoms.

I. The Proposed Amendment Violates the First Amendment’s Free Exercise Clause

The Supreme Court has long held that religious beliefs and practices are protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. In **Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U.S. 205 (1972)**, the Court ruled that the government cannot compel actions that violate sincerely held religious beliefs unless it can demonstrate a compelling state interest pursued in the least restrictive manner. The current proposal fails this test, as it imposes an absolute prohibition on religious exemptions without offering a narrowly tailored alternative to accommodate religious objections.

Moreover, the ruling in **Church of the Lukumi Babalu Aye, Inc. v. City of Hialeah, 508 U.S. 520 (1993)**, reaffirmed that laws specifically targeting religious practices for exclusion or elimination are unconstitutional unless they are neutral and generally applicable. The proposed amendment directly and intentionally eliminates religious exemptions while maintaining medical exemptions, indicating a lack of neutrality and general applicability.

II. The Amendment Fails the Strict Scrutiny Test

Laws that substantially burden religious exercise must survive strict scrutiny, meaning they must serve a compelling governmental interest and be the least restrictive means of achieving that interest. While public health and disease prevention are compelling interests, the Supreme Court has recognized in **Sherbert v. Verner, 374 U.S. 398 (1963)**, that blanket prohibitions that do not consider individualized religious claims violate constitutional protections.

Further, the Court's decision in **Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo, 592 U.S. ____ (2020)**, reinforced that even during a public health crisis, the government must not unduly burden religious exercise without sufficient justification. The proposed amendment's absolute exclusion of religious exemptions does not consider less restrictive alternatives, such as requiring additional precautions for unvaccinated students rather than outright denial of religious exemptions.

III. Precedent Recognizes Parental Rights Over Medical Decisions

The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed the fundamental right of parents to make decisions concerning the upbringing of their children, including medical and educational decisions. In **Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925)**, and **Meyer v. Nebraska, 262 U.S. 390 (1923)**, the Court held that the government may not interfere with the parental right to direct the education and upbringing of their children. Forcing vaccination in violation of religious beliefs constitutes an unconstitutional intrusion upon this right.

IV. Conclusion

Eliminating religious exemptions from school immunization requirements violates the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment, fails the strict scrutiny standard, and disregards parental rights protected by the Constitution. Given the long-standing judicial recognition of these principles, I urge this body to reject the proposed amendment, save constituent tax dollars in defense litigations and uphold the fundamental freedoms guaranteed to the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Neal

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:37:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brock DeCosta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is wrong to take away our medical choice.

It is wrong to demand this requirement or deny public education.

you guys think this is gonna benefit the public education system you guys are dead wrong there willl be no public education everyone will be homeschooled included my kids. Do your part and be fair and just or there will be a civil outbreak.

People are sick and tired of being punched around by big pharma and the pockets they fill to pass these bills.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:38:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailani Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong support of maintaining religious exemptions for immunizations, grounded in my Adventist faith and commitment to living by God's Word. For many years, my spiritual journey within the Adventist community has reinforced the importance of health principles and a holistic approach to wellness, guided by biblical truths and the compassion of Christ. After prayerful reflection and diligent study, I believe that mandatory immunization policies without religious exemptions encroach upon the God-given right to follow one's conscience and preserve the freedom to make health decisions in line with our divine guidance. Upholding these exemptions not only protects individual liberty but also honors our commitment to living a life of spiritual integrity and biblical health.

Please let us keep our religious exemptions!

Mahalo,

Kailani Jones

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:39:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailani Arai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am here to voice my strong opposition to the proposed removal of religious exemptions for vaccines in school children. This policy change directly infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms, parental rights, and informed consent, principles that are foundational to our democracy.

Religious freedom is a core tenet of the First Amendment, protecting individuals from government mandates that conflict with their sincerely held beliefs. By eliminating religious exemptions, the state is effectively forcing families to choose between their faith and their child's education, an unconstitutional and unjust dilemma. No parent should be coerced into violating their deeply held convictions to access public education, which is a right afforded to all children.

Furthermore, parental rights in medical decision-making must be upheld. Parents, not the government, bear the ultimate responsibility for their child's well-being. Mandating vaccinations without exemption disregards the diverse medical and ethical considerations that families weigh in their healthcare choices. A one-size-fits-all approach is neither medically nor ethically appropriate.

It is important to acknowledge that vaccine mandates without religious exemptions set a dangerous precedent. If the government can override religious beliefs on this issue, what is to stop further intrusions into other areas of personal and religious autonomy? Protecting religious exemptions is not just about vaccines, it is about preserving the fundamental right to live according to one's conscience.

I urge you to oppose this measure and uphold the religious liberties that our nation was built upon. The ability to freely exercise one's faith must not be sacrificed in the name of public policy. Let us find solutions that respect both public health and individual rights, rather than eroding the freedoms that define our society.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:39:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Wilhelm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our 'ohana vehemently opposes this bill. It violates our constitutional rights and religious freedom. Kill this bill and allow parents and their doctors to make decisions for our children's health. The state is stepping way out of bounds.

Please listen to your conscience and to the people who voted you into office.

mahalo,

Michele Wilhelm

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:41:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Nadalin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is constitutionally wrong!! You are violating the 14th Amendment rights of the United States constitution!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:42:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna P. Van Osdol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is to delete any and all religious exemptions from vaccinations for children in our public schools except those who already have an exemption for the 2024-2025 school year which will be extended throughout their entire school years.

One issue of the bill discusses herd immunity. The bill mentions that there are 296 students who depend on "herd immunity" since they are unable to receive vaccinations, and that 95 percent is the herd immunity number to help keep the 296 students healthy. This number of 95 percent is for measles. The bill notes that currently 5.3 percent was the number of children who had religious exemptions. That would bring the "herd immunity" number to 89.70 percent (95 percent minus 5.3 percent). For SARS-CoV-2, the formula results in a proportion of 70% of the population required to attain herd immunity. Seventy percent! This information is from the National Institute of Health's National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information.

With the herd immunity percentage rate of 89.70 percent noted, I see this bill as simply breaking a student's constitutional right to freedom of religion (Christianity) mostly because many vaccines carry tissue from fetuses aborted. More importantly, this bill also seeks to further erode parental rights. Parents are the ones who should decide whether their child should have a vaccination especially if a vaccine has not gone through the stringent testing protocols taking years or may have known underlying medical consequences if a vaccine is given.

In a nutshell, I find this bill unconstitutional!!! Please kill this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Donna Van Osdol

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:42:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lacey Lien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha To Whom It May Concern,

As a mother of four children in school, this bill directly impacts my family and countless others across Hawaii. As a parent I should have the right to make decisions for my family not the government. I urge you not to violate my constitutional rights, And discriminate against children.

One of my children has an Individualized Education Program (IEP) that provides critical services to support his learning. He had a very rough start to school during the COVID-19 pandemic, struggling with the disruptions and challenges that so many children faced. However, since starting at his current school and receiving the support he needs, he has blossomed tremendously. Pulling him out of school due to HB1118 would be devastating to his progress and well-being.

Additionally, my youngest child is starting kindergarten and is beyond excited to begin her education. She should not be denied the right to learn, grow, and be part of a school community simply because our family holds religious beliefs that guide our medical decisions. Education is a fundamental right, not a privilege based on medical status.

HB1118 is not just unconstitutional—it is discriminatory. The First Amendment guarantees the right to religious freedom, and this bill violates that right by forcing parents to choose between their deeply held beliefs and their children’s education. No child should be denied access to learning because of their family’s religious convictions.

Forcing medical procedures as a requirement for education is a dangerous precedent that goes against the principles of freedom and parental rights. Parents should always have the ability to make medical choices for their children without government interference. Every child deserves an education, and no family should be coerced into making medical decisions under threat of exclusion.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and stand up for religious freedom, parental rights, and the basic principle that all children deserve access to education.

Sincerely,
Lacey Cummins

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:42:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition of HB118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:42:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James pestana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop taking away our free choice, let people decide if they want to take immunization. It's not for safety of others, if the people that want to take all theimmunizations shots should be safe .

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:43:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Shimokawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly object to HB1118. I implore you to vote against this. This bill takes away our rights as Americans - for freedom. Freedom, religious freedom, bodily choice, our decision over our own bodies & those we care & are responsible for (our innocent children). Our choice, as concerned & loving parents, to make an informed choice for our children's bodies (until they are able to make an informed decision on their own). Not all vaccines are 100% effective & without irreparable side effects. If vaccines were 100% safe & effective, we would be able to hold the pharmaceutical companies liable. However, these powerful drug companies incentivize many government officials & others to do their bidding & "force" more & more shots. When does it end? I sincerely hope you hear the people's concerns over this over reaching bill. Please do not take away our freedom - our choice. Thank you.

Nathan Shimokawa

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:44:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Belynda Cleveland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent I oppose this bill. Nobody should have the right to tell me how to raise my child. How to parent my child or what vaccinations my child has to have. My daughter has all the childhood vaccinations she needs. She does not need to be forced to have a flu shot or a Covid shot in order to attend school. You will not take my rights or my daughters rights away from me. If forced vaccines become a thing I will homeschool my child. Period. What does a forced vaccine do to help my child get an education? Josh green has lined his pockets with big pharma money. He is a doctor and a governor and should be looking out for his people instead of forcing people to do things they don't want to do. His personal vendetta with rfk jr and our president is a waste of time and tax payers money. Stop the nonsense.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:45:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesika H.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The government does not have the right to demand citizens to be immunized. It is our right to choose that for ourselves and children. I absolutely oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:45:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Collin Mansanas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:46:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 is unconstitutional. It clearly violates the 1st amendment. The government should not be mandating that children should get vaccinated. The government is overreaching. This bill prohibits the free exercise of religion by citizens who hold sincere conviction regarding vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:46:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marrissa Aguilar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your time. I want to say that I am speaking as a parent who has always followed the rules about vaccination up until covid time. This bill is not fair. I work at the school and they required so many at that time to get the covid vaccination or you can't work. I already have parents including myself feeling uncomfortable about the outcome of this bill. I will absolutely pull my children out of school if this type of situation were to present itself again. You are saying my religious beliefs are less important because you are no longer giving me a choice to my child's best intentions. I know many staff members who will also walk away because of this bill. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:46:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pilialoha Teves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this action against individual freedoms and the safety of our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:47:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118

Dear Honorable Senator,

I strongly oppose the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. While medical science provides valuable knowledge, it is not infallible, all-knowing, or beyond question. It is a constantly evolving field shaped by human biases, economic interests, and ethical dilemmas. To mandate medical procedures without exception is to elevate science to a position of unquestionable authority—demanding blind faith rather than informed consent. By stripping away religious exemptions, the state is not simply promoting public health; it is enforcing a doctrine that disregards the deeply held beliefs and personal convictions of many Americans. Medical decisions must remain a matter of individual choice, guided by both science and faith, not government coercion. I urge you to uphold the principles of religious freedom and personal autonomy by rejecting this bill.

Science, including vaccine research and policy, has made mistakes throughout history. While the faith and belief that vaccines have saved countless lives, there have been instances where medical science got it wrong, leading to unintended harm. Here are some notable examples:

1. The Cutter Incident (1955 - Polio Vaccine)

- A batch of polio vaccines produced by Cutter Laboratories contained live poliovirus instead of the inactivated form.
- Result: Over **40,000 children developed polio**, with **200 left paralyzed** and **10 deaths**.
- This tragedy led to stricter vaccine safety protocols.

2. The 1976 Swine Flu Vaccine Fiasco

- Fearing a pandemic, the U.S. government rushed out a swine flu vaccine.
- Result: The outbreak never materialized, but the vaccine caused **Guillain-Barré Syndrome (GBS)** in some recipients, leading to paralysis and deaths.
- The program was halted after **more reports of harm than actual cases of swine flu**.

3. Dengvaxia Scandal (2016 - Dengue Vaccine, Philippines)

- Dengvaxia was introduced to prevent dengue fever, but studies later showed that it **increased the risk of severe illness** in those who had never been previously infected.
- Result: **600+ deaths suspected**, vaccine rollout suspended, lawsuits followed.

4. Pandemrix and Narcolepsy (2009 H1N1 Vaccine - Europe)

- Pandemrix was fast-tracked to fight the H1N1 flu pandemic.
- Later, it was linked to a **significant increase in narcolepsy**, particularly in children.
- Result: The vaccine was withdrawn from the market.

5. RotaShield Recall (1999 - Rotavirus Vaccine)

- The first rotavirus vaccine, RotaShield, was linked to **intussusception**, a life-threatening bowel obstruction.
- Result: Withdrawn within a year after causing **dozens of hospitalizations and deaths**.

6. COVID-19 Vaccine Issues

- **Myocarditis & Pericarditis:** Some mRNA COVID-19 vaccines (Pfizer & Moderna) have been linked to heart inflammation, especially in young males.
- **Johnson & Johnson Blood Clots:** Reports of severe blood clotting led to temporary pauses in distribution.
- **Shifting Efficacy Narratives:** Early claims about stopping transmission have been revised.

7. Thimerosal and Concerns Over Mercury-Based Preservatives

- Some vaccines contained thimerosal, a mercury-based preservative, leading to debates over potential neurodevelopmental effects.
- While no definitive link to autism was found, it was removed from most childhood vaccines as a precaution.

8. HPV Vaccine Controversies

- Some reports of **autoimmune disorders, chronic fatigue, and severe adverse reactions** following HPV vaccination (Gardasil).
- While not proven in large studies, concerns persist among some medical professionals and parents.

These historical failures highlight that vaccines, like all medical interventions, are not infallible. Science is constantly evolving, and past mistakes show why individuals must have the right to informed consent and medical choice—including religious and personal exemptions.

Thank you for your considerations. I hope you take some breath on this issue and not act out of fear mongering and understand that life is filled with risk. We drive cars everyday with faith that we will arrive safely. Millions jump into the ocean with the faith that they will not

drown. Mandating vaccines removes faith from the individual and makes the state act as God. The state is trying to remove the parent from parenting and teaching their children about faith and health. The state certainly isn't going to care for our kids if the faith in vaccines cause injury or death.

Thank you for your considerations,

Dawn Poiani

Honolulu, HI

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:47:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I'm strongly against this bill. It is illegal and you will waste so much time and money loosing in court.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:48:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheree Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing testimony to OPPOSE HB1118. It is unconstitutional to remove the option of choice in medical care of individuals, especially where immunizations and vaccines that have already been proven to be harmful is concerned. Parents should be allowed the right to choose whether or not to vaccinate their own children. Individuals have the right to choose whether or not to be vaccinated, and be allowed the right to **exercise their own religious beliefs in these matters**. The government does not have the authority to take away our Constitutional rights in matters that concern health and wellness. I strongly urge this committee to vote NO to this Bill.

Sincerely, Sheree Young

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:48:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118 . This is unconstitutional. What happen to our religious beliefs. It should always be the parent to make that decision if they want their child vaccinated in public school, not the government. I believe in freedom of choice. Please oppose this bill its not right. This is still America and we have freedom of Liberty. Please don't take our rights away. Thank you!

Roberta Heleman

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:49:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Ernest gatioan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, taking away rights from a parent or parents is not anyway to show aloha.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:50:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because everyone has the rights to their own children that they made ,we know our kids well and we should have the choice to choose what's best for them not no bill. I will stand on protecting my own keiki because I made them ,raised them no bill should be telling me what for do with my own kids . If anything happens to my children the people who made the bill won't be the one taking care of my kids ,I'm gonna be the one taking care of them. So we have every right to oppose this bill because it's our own kids that will be affected by this. So please for the sake of all parents cancel this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:53:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jayvelin dudoit-tabilangan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AS A PARENT I FULLY OPPOSE OF THIS GOING INTO AFFECT , CHILDREN SHOULD NOT NEED TO BE VACCINTATED TO BE ABLE TO ATTEND SCHOOL IT SHOULD NOT BE ANYONES CHOICE TO BE ABLE TO DECIDE IF MY CHILD NEEDS TO VACCINATED BESIDES MYSELF AND MY CHILDS PEDIATRICIAN .

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:53:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill and urge the committee to vote it down. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:54:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keshia Macariola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair, my name is Keshia H Macariola and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemption for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. (Personally relate to the bill and topic and how it affects you, whether as a parent, student, or concerned community member.)

Hawai‘i has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 4:56:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keone Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:00:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:00:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Removing Religious Exemptions for Vaccinations:

Aloha Legislative Committee Members,

I am writing as a deeply concerned parent and citizen of Hawaii to express my strong opposition to the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. This proposed change infringes upon fundamental rights and disregards the deeply held beliefs of many families across our state. As parents, we have a duty to protect our children, and that includes making informed medical decisions that align with our faith, values, and understanding of potential risks.

Preserving Religious Freedom and Parental Rights:

Hawaii has long been a place of cultural and religious diversity, and our state should uphold the constitutional right to freedom of religion. By removing religious exemptions for vaccinations, the government is forcing families to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs in order to access education and other public services. This is an unconstitutional overreach that discriminates against families who believe that medical decisions should be guided by their faith.

Parents should have the right to make medical choices for their children without coercion. Many families in Hawaii hold religious convictions that emphasize bodily autonomy, natural immunity, or ethical concerns regarding vaccine ingredients. Forcing compliance with mandatory vaccinations disregards these deeply held beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for future government overreach into our personal and religious lives.

Concerns Over Vaccine Injury and Medical Freedom:

While vaccines have provided public health benefits, it is also undeniable that there are risks associated with them. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out over \$4 billion to families affected by vaccine injuries, proving that adverse reactions are real and not as rare as many claim. Some children experience severe allergic reactions, neurological complications, or long-term health issues after vaccination.

Parents should have the right to weigh these risks and make an informed decision based on their child's individual health needs. Medical exemptions are extremely difficult to obtain, even for

children who have had prior vaccine reactions, making religious exemptions one of the only options left for parents who have legitimate concerns about vaccine safety.

Impact on Hawaii's Families and Communities:

Hawaii already faces challenges with affordability, access to healthcare, and ensuring families have autonomy in raising their children. Removing religious exemptions creates additional stress for families who will be forced to choose between their faith and their child's education. This disproportionately impacts local families who may already be struggling with the high cost of living and limited schooling options.

Furthermore, removing these exemptions does not acknowledge the natural immunity many children already possess. Emerging studies show that natural immunity in many cases provides robust and long-lasting protection. Shouldn't parents have the ability to decide what is best for their child's health, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all medical mandate?

A Call for Common Sense and Parental Choice:

I urge lawmakers to consider the serious ethical and medical implications of removing religious exemptions. The government should never come between a parent and their child when it comes to personal health decisions. Medical freedom is a fundamental human right, and in a democracy, individuals must be able to exercise their beliefs without fear of exclusion or discrimination.

Hawaii has always been a place of respect, understanding, and personal choice. Let's uphold these values by preserving religious exemptions and allowing parents to make informed medical decisions without coercion.

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation that seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

mahalo,

Jessica Brown

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:02:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kaipo Bee STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:04:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Elledge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of five, I strongly oppose HB1118 which seeks to further limit vaccine exemptions. It is parents, not the government, that has the responsibility and right to make the best decisions regarding the health of our children. No one should be forced to choose between their personal convictions about what is best for the health of their children and their access to public education. You will no doubt see a large number of families in our community removing their children from the public school system if this bill is passed. It is an overreach of the government's role in our personal family lives. If increasing vaccine numbers is the goal, it should be done through education and persuasion rather than force, which will only serve to further polarize our community on the issue. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

Bonnie Elledge

Kapaa, Kauai

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:04:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Apilando	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which seeks to prohibit new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children. While I understand the public health goals behind this bill, I believe it infringes upon fundamental rights and overlooks crucial considerations related to parental choice, personal freedoms, and the individual health of children.

First, it is important to acknowledge that parents, in consultation with medical professionals, are best positioned to make informed decisions about the health and well-being of their children. Immunizations, while generally safe, do not come without risks, and non-medical exemptions offer families the ability to make decisions based on their personal, religious, or philosophical beliefs. By eliminating this exemption, the bill would reduce the ability for families to make decisions based on their unique circumstances and values.

Additionally, non-medical exemptions have been part of the existing framework in many states, providing a balanced approach to vaccination policies. This bill risks marginalizing families who, for various reasons, may not be comfortable with all vaccines or may prefer alternative medical options. These individuals are not inherently opposed to vaccination but may need to carefully consider their children's health conditions, family history, or personal beliefs.

Moreover, it is crucial to recognize that the bill could potentially strain the relationship between parents and public health authorities. Instead of fostering trust and open communication, a policy that removes the possibility of non-medical exemptions may create unnecessary tension and resentment. This could lead to greater skepticism towards vaccinations in general, undermining the efforts of public health initiatives.

I respectfully ask that you reconsider the implications of this bill and consider alternative measures that maintain the importance of vaccinations while respecting personal freedoms. I believe that a more thoughtful, balanced approach would better serve the community by protecting both public health and individual rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration of this important issue.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:07:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ginger Amaral	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to HB1118. This bill does a disservice to our constitutional rights, parental rights and the right to govern our own bodies. I do not want the government to tell me what I can or can't do to my body nor to my child's. Please listen to the rest of the testimonies and put hawaii first, not your own opinions or agendas.

Mahalo, Ginger

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:08:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
FEORA CADINA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. The government should not get to question the religious beliefs we hold. Nor should the government get to strip parents of the ability to assert their religious right and freedom to decline some or all vaccinations for their children. I strongly urge you all to listen with an open mind and do not ignore what we as parents are saying.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:09:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chaz pai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents should have a Choice to decide what is best for their children. Forcing parents to vaccine their children is unethical.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:10:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayla keanu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I have a 2 year old daughter and to think in the future when I send her to school she will be forced to take vaccinations that she never got when she was a baby. It doesn't make sense to not get permission from parents first. I thought America was the land of the free! I guess not!! We're in a time where the government wants to control everything. Why is that? I will never understand where the government's head is at. So no I do not want this bill to be passed!! I DISAGREE, OBJECT AND DO NOT want this for our future keiki!! We need to build them up and teach them how to survive without money, how to live off the land, not force them to take western drugs you call "medicine". There are so much other things we can do for our home and future and this bill is not one of them. We have families struggling to make ends meet and this is what you guys are doing!! NO, NO, NO!! I strongly oppose!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:11:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly E. Duell	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it violates our Constitutional rights. No government should dictate what is put into a living person's body. We have autonomy and it should remain that way, period.

For every article or study y'all state, there is another one opposing it and proving yours to be wrong and harmful.

The number of shots these poor keiki get is astronomical and should be reduced. Many vaccines don't actually prevent transmission and don't stop one from getting it. There are vaccines that do not have longitudinal studies to know the effects.

Gouvernement should stop interfering with the People's decisions.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:11:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Sellers Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that the parent should have the right to decide on vaccinated or not. Along with or without consent of family doctor. Given past events such as covid has risen great safety concerns. Therefore I am opposed to this bill mandating vaccination in schools.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:13:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:17:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharol Allagonez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an American, who has been born in Hawaii, I oppose this bill. This bill goes against what our founding fathers fought for. We should all have the right to choose what we do to our bodies. We live in America. This is a place where everyone comes to have a better life because of our freedom to choose. This bill goes against that.

As a born-again Christian, I have learned to trust in the Word of God - the Bible. This is our holy grail and how God speaks truth. It tells us to treat our body as a temple. Our body has been made by God, the Creator. We should honor our bodies and consider everything we do to our bodies.

The word of God says:

1 Corinthians 3:16-17 "Do you not know that you are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God dwells in you? If anyone defiles the temple of God, God will destroy him. For the temple of God is holy, which temple you are."

I Corinthians 6:19-20 "Or do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's."

2 Corinthians 7:1 "Therefore, having these promises, beloved, let us cleanse ourselves from all filthiness of the flesh and spirit, perfecting holiness in the fear of God."

It's for this reason that as a Christian, we are forbidden to allow the contaminants that are now documented to have been found in all of the vaccines and even tests into our bodies, as well as the damage from the masks to our bodies, lest we defile ourselves, or worst destroy our aforementioned Temple, in which God the Holy Spirit resides and indwells.

The denial of religious accommodations based on one's sincerely held religious beliefs would be contrary to federal law (The Civil Rights Act of 1964) and morally reprehensible.

Thank you for your time. God bless.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:17:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Hosana	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This is a notice of Liability and cease & desist. We will be seeking legal action against anyone who votes yes on this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:18:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trayline Kiesel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Trayline Kiesel oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:20:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Goodwin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a single parent on Maui with one very healthy child in public school. Our family has very strong religious beliefs that do not include vaccinations. This has been multigenerational and we are all very healthy. This bill would take away the right to choose what we feel is right for us, based on our religion. This bill would make it so my child would be unable to attend public school. Please understand that we should have the right to choose what we put in our Keiki's bodies. Medical freedom and choice is necessary

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:21:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Violet Jensen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely not ok for religious exemptions not to be considered. Or just personal reasons.
Do not pass bill!!!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:21:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendy Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

as a citizen that voted of the United States and a resident of Hawaii I hereby oppose HB 1118 that children should NOT have to have this immunization to enter or attend school.

mahzlo

Wendy Pasion

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:22:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gianna P.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, I don't support this bill because it's my body and my choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:22:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Kahanamoku-Teruya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative and the Hawaii Affairs Committee members, writing in strong opposition to HB1118, not giving the rights of individuals students, keikis to be vaccinated. It should be the rights of a minor to the parents and not the government.

Mahalo nu'u,

Patty Kahanamoku Teruya

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:23:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhonda Akimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I do not agree that children should be forced to take vaccines in school. It should be up to the parents and their family physician to decide what's best for the child. I oppose HB1118.

Rhonda Akimoto

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:23:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dakota Papapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:23:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Staples	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cindy Staples. I am a concerned citizen who sees government overreach as a constitutional crisis. I oppose HB 1118, non-medical exemptions for immunizations. This bill is in opposition to parental rights and specifically, religious rights. The constitution grants all citizens the right to practice their religion freely. Taking away citizens' right to make religious decisions is a slippery slope, if not completely unconstitutional. Instead, It is the sort of dictatorial control that authoritarian regimes place upon their citizens.

The United States is an exceptional country because of our constitution and the rights it grants its citizens. The people should have the right to make decisions for their bodies, including their childrens'. Taking away the peoples rights to make decisions is not who America is or should ever be. I urge you to vote no on this bill.

Thank you,

Cindy Staples

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:23:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne Pohaku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118 - Mandatory Vaccination for School Attendance

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to make vaccinations mandatory for all children to attend school in Hawai'i. While public health is important, this bill undermines fundamental medical freedoms, disregards individual health considerations, and removes a parent's right to make informed medical decisions for their child.

Medical Freedom and Informed Consent

Medical decisions, including vaccinations, should be a matter of personal choice, guided by informed consent and a discussion between families and their healthcare providers. One-size-fits-all mandates ignore the fact that every child is unique, with different medical histories, genetic predispositions, and potential vulnerabilities. The right to accept or decline a medical procedure is a core principle of ethical healthcare. By forcing vaccinations as a condition for education, this bill sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into personal medical decisions.

Potential Risks and Lack of Liability

All medical interventions, including vaccines, come with risks. While many vaccines are considered safe for most children, documented adverse reactions including anaphylaxis, neurological disorders, and autoimmune conditions are real and acknowledged by government agencies. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) has paid out over \$4.9 billion to individuals harmed by vaccines, proving that adverse effects, though rare, do occur.

This bill fails to address the reality that if a child is injured by a mandated vaccine, there is no direct legal recourse against the manufacturers. Pharmaceutical companies are shielded from liability, leaving families to bear the consequences alone. Given this, parents must retain the right to assess medical risks versus benefits for their children without coercion.

Discriminating Against Healthy Children

Preventing unvaccinated children from attending school punishes families who have made medical decisions based on their child's individual health needs. It assumes that all unvaccinated children are a public health risk, despite the fact that many are naturally immune to diseases, have contraindications to vaccination, or follow an alternative vaccination schedule. Excluding these children from school violates their right to an education and creates unnecessary division in our communities.

A More Balanced Approach

Rather than enforcing mandates that strip parental rights, Hawai'i should focus on:

1. Medical and Religious Exemptions - Parents must have the ability to opt out based on health concerns, prior adverse reactions, or deeply held beliefs.
2. Education and Transparency - Instead of coercion, provide unbiased information so families can make informed choices.
3. Health-Based Policies - Focus on overall immune health, hygiene, and personal responsibility, rather than forcing a rigid medical intervention on every child.

Conclusion

I urge lawmakers to reject this bill in favor of policies that respect medical freedom, parental rights, and individualized healthcare decisions. Families should not be forced to choose between

their child's education and their right to make informed medical choices. Hawai'i must uphold the values of choice, freedom, and respect for personal health autonomy.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Daphne Haunani Pohaku

haunani44@gmail.com

808-425-3729

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:24:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauinohea Mafile'o	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Kau'inohea Mafile'o and I am sharing my opinion on this HB1118. I am Strongly Opposed to bill HB1118. Every parent/guardian and child should have the freedom to make necessary medical decisions for their child or loved one. Vaccinations should not be mandatory especially if there is no 100 percent guarantee it would make one feel better and not contract certain diseases. I know close family and friends who had severe adverse reactions to vaccines and this should not constitute if a child should be able to go to school or church or be in public. This is outright communism. Let the people choose. Let us choose what we put into our body or not. I am Strongly opposed to mandating Vaccinations being mandatory. Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:25:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colette Guadagnino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB118, which mandates vaccination for children to attend public school, as I believe that the decision should be a parental right, not one imposed by others.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:26:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
fern stark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State of Hawaii should have no governing over that which is a personal health decision between a parent or guardian and their child's physician. A school mandate requiring vaccination is not something that will protect anyone, rather, it infringes on the rights of the parents/guardians of children and may put many at further risk to their health.

A requirement like this is not tested by "science" in any way but a grab for more power over the parents/children involved.

THIS SHOULD NOT BE PASSED.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:26:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of 2 boys, one in 6th grade at Honokaa Elementary & the other is a junior at Kamehameha Keaau.

We are strong in our faith & do not consent to vaccinations due to many reasons including but not limited to aborted fetus cells, formaldehyde, & aluminum, as we do not allow these things to be injected into our children's bodies! It is our constitutional right to be able to practice our religious beliefs & opt out of taking any vaccines.

My oldest son has had a religious exemption on file since the state of Hawaii requires HPV, the gardasil vaccine to enter the 7th grade. This vaccine has aborted fetus cells as well as was only tested on a small number (100 girls, do the research) before being released to the population. It was originally made for cervical cancer protection & my son doesn't have a cervix! They've since tried to state that it's for protection from boys who can now apparently be "carriers"

This bill is absolutely unconstitutional & violates our religious views as well as our rights. Please do not continue on with this and let people choose what's best for their children. It's not the governments place to decide how I parent my children.

Thank you,

Crystal Nobriga

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:26:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiva Tatofi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The people of Hawaii should be able to freely choose what they want to put into their children's body! The government especially Hawaii government has been known to be uneducated when it comes to health it seems. Promote a more healthy environmonet for the kids like sanitation in bathroom, nutrition in food, and promote rest!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:27:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose all mandatory vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:28:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gena phillips	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill to take away my religious exemption. It should and always be my choice and is my right as a christian and a citizen of the united states which says so in our constitution. Josh Green and all those who are for passing this bill should read it.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:28:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle distajo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! It is strongly against my religious beliefs and rights to put this bill in action. With a majority of testimonies so far (from the people/public) opposing this bill how is it that the majority of representatives votes are still falling in favor of it? It does not make sense. The job of a representative is for the people's voices to be heard and fought for. Why aren't these representatives listening to their constituents? Is there transparency not being shared about behind the scene incentives? It does not add up! If vaccines work, and kids already have their immunizations, why are the thousands of non vaccinated children a risk when we have other options for the small amount of immunocompromised children like targeting public health education, strengthening school health and hygiene policies, or offer hybrid learning and accomodations for immunocompromised students. I humbly ask and urge the representatives who have the power to fight for the people with this bill, to do what is RIGHT and RIGHTEOUS and vote in favor of the PEOPLE and NOT in favor of this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:29:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christopher liu-saguid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118. It is the Parents right and responsibility to dictate whether their own child should or should not receive any Vaccines. Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:30:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luana George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB 1118 because we have the constitutional right to practice our religion in public or private. This Bill would prevent my children, from practicing their religion at school, and the people of Hawaii have elected you to represent them. You should do what is right for the people,

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:31:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kymberly Tangaro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Kymberly Tangaro oppose HB 1118 because it infringes on personal freedoms and individual medical choices. Decisions about vaccinations should remain between individuals and their healthcare providers, not mandated by the government. This bill sets a concerning precedent for overreach, and I urge lawmakers to respect the rights of citizens to make informed decisions about their own health.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:32:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

DO NOT SUPPORT it goes against our freedom and our religious beliefs

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:33:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 if this passes my child and grandchildren will no longer be attending any school. Vaccines are dangerous . This takes away my religious exemption for my children and grandchildren . This is wrong . We need to investigate Josh green. I pray Doge starts to investigate every political representative throughout the entire United States . I oppose this unconstitutional bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:35:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darius Spencer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This concern should be by choice of the parent, not those of government. It is for individual safety of child and family.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:35:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Flynn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill that effectually takes parental, guardian familial and individual rights away in deciding what is best for their families. We want freedom for the right to choose! This bill does not "follow the science".

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:40:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:42:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rayllan Ueda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Rayllan Ueda are writing to you to oppose this bill on behalf of my children on having mandatory vaccines to attend school. My son had 1 vaccine ever in his life and it traumatized us. His reactions were something first moms are afraid of. The night of his first shot his skin had a really bad reaction along with him having a high fever which caused him rushing to the ER as a newborn. Then we decided to not give him anymore as well as my daughter. My son will be attending kindergarten this next school year and is very excited to go. Make new friends and have "homework" so he says. We would be distraught and saddened is he would not be able to attend all because of this matter. Especially for the chance to further his education in life. Please reconsider and let us parents have the right to chose what's best for our children and the freedom for them to be able to attend school without vaccines restrictions. Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:43:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
samantha duff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing with deep concerns regarding HB1118. There are many reasons why my family chooses to maintain their right to religious exemptions based on our religious convictions. It goes against the fundamental truth that the life is given by God, created in His image with our body as his temple. As an American, it is my religious right to choose based on our religious beliefs without my creeds being questioned or dismissed. Religious freedom is a cornerstone to our American democracy, giving me the right and responsibility to care for my child as God has instructed, without government interference. My God, my child, my choice, my right. Removing religious

freedoms is tyrannical. Further, I find it appalling that this bill purposely removes language in attempt to silence-religion by the Hawai'i politicians who seem to get their pockets filled by the pharmaceutical companies. Removing religious convictions is discriminatory.

This is not the first testimony regarding the removal of my religious rights that I have had to give. I request that you oppose this unconstitutional bill that seeks to chip away at our first amendment rights and also take away the right to public education for those who will not comply.

I stand with many families of conviction in opposing HB1118. I pray our voices will be heard and you will throw out these bills seeking to undermine religious freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:43:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALEXIS QUINATA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

parents should be able to have the choice, to choose whether or not they want their children vaccinated. the amount of vaccines required now vs is alarming. no parent should be manipulated or coerced into vaccinating their children behind the guise of "school requirements". i understand a parent can remove the child from the school to a private school, which rarely allow unvaccinated children. or they can even homeschool, however it is very far & few that a family is able to live or even survive off of one income here in hawai'i. passing this bill is wrong. it's wrong for parents, wrong for our keiki, & wrong for generations to come.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:45:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam van Alderwerelt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I enthusiastically support any measure that keeps unvaccinated children out of public schools, with the only exception being for kids who are medically unable to be vaccinated. Parents who want a religious exemption can send their children to religious schools. Public school is for the public, and we as a society need to protect our most vulnerable children, those who are not eligible to be vaccinated. The religious exemption is primarily a loophole, exploited by the uneducated, who hide behind religion to put children in harms way for their own selfish, coolish desires. Most religious people in Hawaii are vaccinated, and vaccinate their kids as well. Close the loophole. Keep our children safe.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:45:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill which will make parents and students have to decide between getting an education and violating their deeply held religious beliefs. Hawaii has always been a sanctuary for people of many different faiths and beliefs and this bill does not reflect those values. Please vote NO. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:45:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Dahl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian and Hawaii State resident, parent and parent of a disabled child, I do not support the passing of this bill. HB1118 strips parents or our rights to act in the best interest of our keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:46:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Hagen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

In this bill there is this statement: "In Hawaii for the 2015—2016 school year, the rate of non—medical immunization exemption was 2.5 per cent. The rate of non-medical immunization exemption more than doubled to 5.3 per cent for the 2023—2024 school year." What this bill does not provide is the rate of increase of diseases, if any, that would have occurred with the higher rate of non-medical immunizations. Without a concurrent rate of increase of diseases, the bill fails to present its case.

To go on, this bill is rife with over reach basically permitting the state to go onto the premises of virtually any establishment or facility to investigate anything deemed not "healthful" according to some undefined standard.

And, regarding a vaccine exemption, a person can seek an exemption "provided that no objection shall be recognized when, in the opinion of the director of health, there is danger of an epidemic from any communicable disease." Note: "..in the opinion..." Really? "...in the opinion..."? Need I say more?

This bill treads on constitutional rights, namely, the freedom of religion; and, more generally, freedom of one's conscience.

Additionally, no sources are cited for any of the data presented in the bill. At a college level, a professor would be hard pressed to give this bill a decent grade. Please write bills that provide sources so that citizens like me can review your supporting details. Also, it saves on time. You actually don't give us much time to review and comment on these bills.

I urge those who support this bill to reconsider their position and vote "no" to its passage.

I vote NO.

Mahalo,

Alfred Hagen

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1 which prohibits new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children. For several reasons:

- The Department of Education defers to the Department of Health on matters of public health and safety.
- The removal of this exemption raises serious constitutional concerns—ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes.
- Adding to the concern, this bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—which directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy. This is deeply problematic and demands immediate attention.

This bill deserves full and proper scrutiny before any decisions are made.

Sincerely,

Cynthia A Dorflinger
2536 Manoa Road
Honolulu, HI 96822

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:47:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have concerns about this bill, and I feel deeply conflicted about its implications. It's difficult to reconcile how our lawmakers can support abortion with the slogan "my body, my choice," and yet, in this instance, we are considering taking away parental rights under the same principle. It feels like we are creating an inconsistency, where one group is given the right to choose, while another is denied that same opportunity.

This bill is similar to forcing children to take vaccines that go against their religious beliefs—because in both cases, they are left without a choice. It's about the right to make decisions that align with one's values and beliefs.

More than that, this bill has the potential to impact our children in ways we may not fully realize. School is not just a place for learning academics, it's where kids develop important social and emotional skills—navigating relationships, understanding empathy, learning how to deal with challenges, and developing confidence. These are lessons that can be hard to replicate at home. If we take away these opportunities, we are limiting our children's ability to grow in ways that are so vital for their future.

I appeal to those who have a heart for our community, to think deeply about what it means when rights are taken away. Please try to understand how it would feel if something you truly valued was taken from you, or if you were forced to make a choice that went against your beliefs. It's not an easy decision, and I believe we all want what's best for our children. Let's make sure we are truly giving them the chance to thrive.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:48:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Char	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:49:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darby Partner CPM LM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings and Aloha, as a mother of 2 grown sons raised organically and without vaccinations and a homebirth midwife I absolutely OPPOSE this bill. In fact the only health issue one of my sons has is due to a vaccine injury, I was heartbroken when he was pressured into an MRNA vaccine at age 18 after he had moved away. He landed in the hospital twice in a 6-month period after the shot. And still sustains this vaccine Injury that causes him daily health issues. It is horrifying to the health of Hawai'i keiki to be forced to take vaccines. Parents must have a choice and religious exemption must be kept intact

Stop this bill NOW!

I know the Senate and the House must be aware that President Trump has signed an order that states that force the Covid vaccine will not receive funding to DOE. What does the State of Hawaii plan to do with that? Our school systems are already crumbling.

Vote NO on this bill.

Sincerely,

Darby L.Partner CPM LM (Certified Professional Midwife, Licensed Midwife in the State of Hawaii)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:49:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia P	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118.

As it states:

"The First Amendment to the U.S. Constitution protects religious liberty and rights related to freedom of speech. Specifically, the Religion Clauses prevent the government from adopting laws respecting an establishment of religion—the Establishment Clause—or prohibiting the free exercise thereof—the Free Exercise Clause. The First Amendment also expressly protects the freedoms of speech, press, peaceable assembly, and petition to the Government."

I believe this bill is putting our rights in jeopardy. This bill will give the government the authority to put things in my kids body without my consent. To me, parents should have the final say in their kids' health decisions. To mandate this means we give all rights to the government. This is abolishing all religious practices. This means government has the right to divide people again.

This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with deeply held beliefs. Forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. I am opposing HB 1118 to stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time,

A Very Concerned Parent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:50:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
AliciA Youngblood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill it takes away our freedom of choice . The bill is unconstitutional and violates my rights as an American citizen. I do not want to vaccinate my children and I should have that choice . They are healthy and I will not give them to my children. Freedom of choice

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:51:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- **I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 HD1.**
- **The removal of this exemption raises serious constitutional concerns— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.**
- **This bill was never assigned to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?**
- **The Department of Education has valid and serious concerns yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.**

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:52:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Shortt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm would like to keep my religious freedoms and do not support this bill. Thank you!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:52:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekai iokia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This choice should be between family, doctors, and not the government. If you choose to mandate this, it will ripple effect on our local family. How? Many families will take their kids out of school and home-school them. That means fewer students in school means fewer state employees will be needed. If they don't have work that means more homeless families on the street.

Lastly, Trump and the federal government will not fund Hawaii schools if they force the covid or any other vaccine onto the people.

So leave the choice to the family.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:52:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arica Cornejo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118, the vaccines and mandates should stay up to parents. My religious practices and use of aborted fetal tissues is against put into vaccines are against my beliefs and find it unconstitutional to push this onto children in order to go to school. Vaccines that are contracted sexually has nothing to do with getting an education. Please leave this up to the parents in what they feel is right for their families, and keep the R.E. for this state.

Thank you!

Arica Cornejo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 5:53:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celestina Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to giving Hawai'i state the right to enforce vaccinations of any kind. Parents of children should be the only ones allowed to make that decision for their children.

It has always been this way and there is no reason to change this. No further FEAR tactics should play a role but rather focus on natural resources to healing any ailments should be the focus. All my children are healthy and have not taken all vaccines. Freedom of choice is what makes us free.

Michelle R. Stefanik

68-1781 Puu Nui St., Waikoloa, HI 96738 | 808-430-3852 |
Michellstefanik@gmail.com

February 19, 2025

To: Hawaii State House of Representatives

Re: Written Testimony in Opposition to HB1118 – Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

I am writing to express my immense opposition to HB 1118 that will eliminate Immunization Exemptions for Religious Reasons. This bill will most certainly violate the First Amendment of the Constitution. The First Amendment states, “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...”. This bill will only do one of two things, prohibit people from exercising their religious freedoms or prevent our keiki from attending public school. This bill will require people to choose between having their children in the public school system or it will deny them from adhering to their religious beliefs.

I understand that the health and well being of all students is what is at the heart of this bill. However, there are other measures that could be taken to ensure the health and well being is maintained for all students. A few suggestions that could be implemented, instead of passing a bill that violates the First Amendment could be:

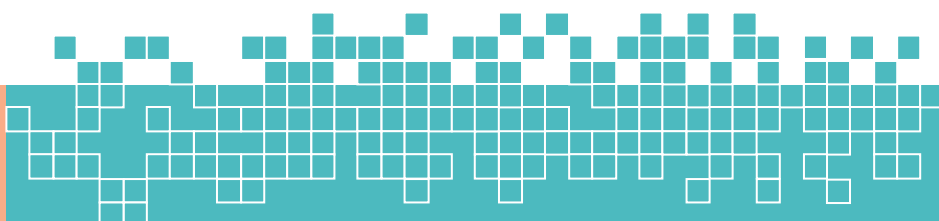
1. Provide targeted public health education instead of mandates
2. Strengthen school health and hygiene policies
3. Provide immunocompromised students with hybrid learning and special accommodations.

I believe the passage of this bill would ultimately be overturned down the road through legal means but it should not come to that. I also believe this is a slippery slope to tread on, if the government passes a law this time “for the greater good” but in violation of my First Amendment Right, what other laws would this set precedence for next time?

I urge you to **VOTE NO** and stop this Bill from becoming law.

Respectfully submitted,

Michelle R. Stefanik



HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:00:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Eshima-Vaquilar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that allows individuals to freely practice, change, or express their beliefs without fear of persecution, discrimination, or coercion. As Religious exemptions are important because they allow individuals to practice their faith freely and without fear of punishment or discrimination, particularly when certain laws or policies may conflict with their religious beliefs. These exemptions serve as a way to balance individual religious rights with public policy, ensuring that people can live according to their values without being coerced into actions that go against their conscience.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:01:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Keama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Kawehi Keama and I am a mother of 3 and we reside in Waimanalo, Oahu and I testify in opposition to HB11118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long - standing personal and religious freedom.

We are given our rights for a reason and this is going against our very rights and is not right! While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:01:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lana Mitsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose this Bill, as it discredits parent and physician communication regarding the decisions surrounding health of our keiki. It should solely be up to the parents to vaccinate or not.. especially with new evidence by the W.H.O & FDA plainly showing the issues surrounding vaccines and their effectiveness, and unfortunate side effects. It IS, and always has been the parents decision to make the best choices for their 'ohana well-being. There are precautionary steps to take for those who feel like their keiki are at risk by the "unvaccinated" children- but it is NOT OKAY to mandate FORCED vaccinations for keiki to attend school.

It has never been a issue in the past, and there is no solid evidence to support the need to implement this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:02:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Tada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill totally!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:03:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rona Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I SAY NO AND I OPPOSE HB1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:03:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernadette Naparan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha, I oppose HB1118. This is violating my religious rights. Please do not ignore the constituent's voices. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:04:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's a HARD NO AND I OPPOSE HB1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:10:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Pitman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118 HD1, which seeks to prohibit new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children. While I recognize the importance of public health and disease prevention, I firmly believe this bill infringes upon fundamental rights and raises significant concerns regarding parental choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

1. Parental Rights and Informed Consent

Parents should have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children. Vaccination, like any medical intervention, carries risks, and parents must be able to assess these risks and make informed choices that align with their child's health needs and personal beliefs. Removing non-medical exemptions forces families into a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards individual medical and ethical considerations.

2. Religious and Philosophical Freedoms

This bill effectively eliminates religious exemptions, which is a direct violation of the First Amendment's guarantee of religious freedom. Many families have deeply held religious convictions that prevent them from vaccinating their children. HB 1118 HD1 fails to provide protections for these beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal religious practices.

3. Discriminatory Impact on Education Access

By prohibiting non-medical exemptions, HB 1118 HD1 could result in children being excluded from public and private education based solely on their vaccination status. This creates an inequitable system that disproportionately affects families who have legitimate concerns about vaccinations. Every child deserves access to education, and this bill unjustly penalizes those who cannot comply with mandatory immunization policies due to their personal or religious convictions.

4. Herd Immunity and Existing Safeguards

The bill argues that non-medical exemptions threaten herd immunity; however, the actual percentage of exempted students remains small. Current policies already ensure that students with medical exemptions and those who choose to remain unvaccinated face exclusion in the event of an outbreak, which effectively mitigates potential risks to public health. There is no compelling evidence that additional restrictions on non-medical exemptions will significantly improve health outcomes.

5. Potential Slippery Slope

If the state removes non-medical exemptions for school-aged children, what is to stop further encroachments on medical freedom? Will adults also face compulsory

immunization policies for employment, travel, or access to public spaces? This bill sets a concerning precedent that erodes individual rights and expands government control over personal medical decisions.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to vote **against** HB 1118 HD1. Rather than eliminating non-medical exemptions, I encourage the legislature to focus on education, transparency, and informed consent, ensuring that all families can make the best health decisions for their children without coercion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:12:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!!!!

Religious liberty.

Section 4 reads:

4. Americans do not give up their freedom of religion by participating in the marketplace, partaking of the public square, or interacting with government.

-Constitutional protections for religious liberty are not conditioned upon the willingness of a religious person or organization to remain separate from civil society. Although the application of the relevant protections may differ in different contexts, individuals and organizations do not give up their religious-liberty protections by providing or receiving social services, education, or healthcare; by seeking to earn or earning a living; by employing others to do the same; by receiving government grants or contracts; or by otherwise interacting with federal, state, or local governments.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:13:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
eiko domon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill goes against the 14 Amendment of our constitution. This bill is no good.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:15:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshana Alailefaleula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Freedom of religion is a constitution of the United States of America! This bill is infringing on the first amendment Freedom of Religion!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:16:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Domonique Boudreau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I hope that this testimony finds you well. I have never written a testimony and do apologize if I do it incorrectly. As a mother of five who strives to always make sure that I am doing everything possible to give them the best life they can have and make the own choices that fit our family and religion I really do hope that this testimony is taken with consideration. I oppose bill HB 1118 because I believe it violates our constitutional rights as a United States citizen. My children and myself do not participate in vaccines as it goes against our religious beliefs. America/ United States is the land of the free. Vaccinations should not be a forceful punishment to children and families who do not believe in such. My family and I will fight to keep our rights as a family with rights and the choice to choose if we want to get vaccinated or not. Please oppose and drop this heinous bill. Listen to the people and do the right thing.

Mahalo,

Domonique Boudreau

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:18:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendrick Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118! This should be a decision parents should make for their own children. Thank you for your consideration

Kendrick

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:18:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Ramirez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is against my religious beliefs and as an American citizen to be forced on this bill. Our keiki, our choices.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:18:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karissa Fuller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children in Hawai‘i. This bill is a direct violation of bodily autonomy, personal freedom, and religious liberty. Every individual should have the fundamental right to make informed medical decisions for themselves and their families without coercion from the government.

This issue is deeply personal to me because my husband, a retired U.S. Marine Corps First Sergeant, suffered severe and life-altering health complications due to a mandated vaccination. After receiving the COVID-19 vaccine, he was diagnosed with myocarditis, a serious and well-documented side effect of the vaccine.

As a Marine, my husband dedicated his life to serving and protecting our country, upholding the freedoms that our nation is built upon. Yet, the very freedoms he fought for are now being stripped away from us and others like us through government mandates like HB 1118. He developed debilitating symptoms after his diagnosis-- chronic fatigue, chest pain, shortness of breath, and heart complications that continue to affect his daily life. Doctors confirmed that his condition was vaccine-induced, yet there has been no accountability or support for those who suffer from these adverse effects.

If a highly trained, disciplined veteran who has sacrificed for this country can suffer from forced medical interventions, how can we, as citizens, trust the government to make medical decisions for our children? The government has no right to force parents into a situation where they must choose between complying with an unwanted medical procedure or being denied access to public education.

Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. By removing religious exemptions, HB 1118 forces parents to choose between adhering to their faith and accessing public education for their children. This is an infringement on our constitutional rights.

Many people, including my family, hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that emphasize bodily sovereignty. We believe that our health choices, including vaccinations, should be made with full consent and faith-based discernment not through government mandates that disregard personal and religious convictions.

Infringement on Personal Autonomy

Medical decisions should be made between an individual and their trusted healthcare providers, not dictated by the government. Forcing medical procedures without consent violates basic human rights. Every person has a unique medical history and risk factors. Forcing a one-size-fits-all approach to vaccinations ignores individual circumstances and potential health risks, as my husband's experience has shown.

Lack of Compelling Justification

Proponents of HB 1118 argue that eliminating exemptions is necessary to protect public health. However, Hawai'i already has a high vaccination rate among school-aged children. The Department of Health reported that during the 2023-2024 school year, 21% of students had exemptions, were missing shots, or lacked records—a 25% increase from the previous year (hawaiipublicradio.org). This statistic includes various factors, and the actual percentage of religious exemptions alone is not specified.

The existing high vaccination coverage suggests that the current exemption allowances do not pose a significant public health threat. Instead, HB 1118 serves to punish families who have legitimate concerns and objections rather than protect public welfare.

Discriminatory Impact

HB 1118 disproportionately affects families with sincere religious and medical objections to certain vaccines. By denying children access to public education, this bill effectively discriminates based on religious beliefs, creating a system of exclusion where only those who conform to government mandates can fully participate in public schooling.

Additionally, it punishes military families, veterans, and those who have already suffered vaccine injuries by disregarding their legitimate health concerns and experiences. My husband served this country with honor, and yet, legislation like this would force our future generations into compliance with the same mandates that harmed him.

Conclusion

I urge you to consider the human impact of HB 1118. We should not be forced to put something in our bodies that we do not agree to, especially when real and serious risks exist. My husband's experience with vaccine-induced myocarditis is a testament to the fact that these risks are not hypothetical they are real, and they have lifelong consequences.

Preserving the right to non-medical exemptions respects the diverse beliefs of Hawai'i's residents and upholds the constitutional protections we hold dear. I respectfully request that you oppose HB 1118 to protect the rights, freedoms, and well-being of all citizens.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Karissa Fuller

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:22:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharde marshall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. THIS IS A VIOLATION OF OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS! TO CHOOSE!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:23:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gayle Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose this bill.

HB1118 ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatment comes with risk, and that no one - ESPECIALLY THE GOVERNMENT- should have the power to force those risks on anyone. Our keikis are not the property of the state. Us as parents should be the ones making these choices.

HB1118 also trample on religious freedom. These beliefs should be honred, not dismissed. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith and to comply with govenment mandate.

I stand with the families of hawaii, protect our rights, our freedom, and our keikis. Please vote NO to HB1118.

Thankyou for your time

Gayle wong...

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:24:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas kirby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Nicholas Kirby. I am submitting my testimony to express my disapproval of the Bill HB1118 which strips religious exemptions from the family keiki whom attend Hawaii public schools. HB1118 is in Direct conflict with Amendment 1 Article 1 of the U.S. Constitutions bill of rights. It says and I quote: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;..." this statement made within the constitution is one of the core foundational principles of our free society. For the house to infringe upon it is a direct threat to our democracy as a whole! In my own personal opinion and religious practices I am not an evangelical Christian, nor a Mormon, Mennonite, Amish or a Jehovah's Witness whom you may hear testimony from at the hearing, I am a Taoist, Taoists beleive in the principles of Following the Tao, that as Lao Tzu put it best "a way (or Tao) can be a guide but never a set path" I believe that every human has the libertarian Free- will to choose their own Tao (or way) and if their Tao is to not take certain vaccinations, or to wait for further testing or until later on in life to take a vaccination, that they should be allowed to do so without the state impeding on their fundamental religious liberty. So I strongly urge The members of This committee as a Citizen of the United States of America, a constituent of the state of Hawaii, an activist and registered voter, To vote No on this Bill! The state of our union's civil liberties depends on it!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:25:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Yasutomi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly oppose HB1118 as this violates our constitutional rights as U.S. citizens in regards to our freedom of religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:28:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Puckett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Joy Puckett. Born and raised Haiku, Maui. I strongly oppose Bill 1118. I was vaccinated and my kids were vaccinated but it should continue to be a choice from parents to do so, not the government! Religion, cultural and guardian should be respected on any choice they may have regarding vaccination. Government needs to stop acting like they can control the people. Whosoever brought this bill up needs to be educated on respect. Mahalo 🙌

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:28:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Keliikoa II	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is William Keliikoa II and i oppose this bill HB1118. I take my opposition on this bill because I believe the choice to give any medical asistance should be up to the recipient. If the recipient is a minor, by legal age of the law, the responsibilty of the decision now becomes up to the legal gaurdians.

Also, for the record, I am vacinated because of the covid JAB rule to work you must be vacinated when it was upon us to make the tough decision to feed our families.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:34:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robyn Uehara-Tom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

please don't take away the rights of the parents to choose. Allow parents to decide if they want to vaccinate their children or not. I am a former DOE special education teacher and have had a handful of parents share their heart-broken stories of their jovial child laughing and speaking; then, they were vaccinated and now the parents were left with a child with a flat affect, nonsocial, and a nonspeaker. And therefore, ended up in my special education preschool class. One incident is a coincidence but a handful of these stories is not. Please allow the parents to choose for their children! Parents are educated regarding the vaccination by their pediatricians. They should make the final decision. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:34:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Carineo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill Hb1118 to mandate the covid vaccine for my children. I believe that it is a parents full responsibility on behalf of our children to choose when to vaccinate them. I don't feel safe having to inject my child with poison and definitely don't want to use them as guinea pigs for the pharmaceutical companies or government agencies to gain money off them. I've also done a lot of research about this vaccine which has Hep C in it and could potentially cause autism, become paralyzed or brain dead which has led me to my decision not to vaccinate or cause harm to my babies. My child has also expressed disinterest in having to be injected with a needle and be harmed. It is already a proven fact that Covid vaccine does not work, after having it more than 5 times, without being vaccinated I'm still alive and thriving. I oppose this bill in the best interest of my children as there mother and I stand with all the other parents fighting for our constitutional rights

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:36:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. It is absurd to require children to be vaccinated just to attend school, and to not even allow for religious exemptions. This should only be a discussion between PARENTS and FAMILY PHYSICIANS. Government should NOT be making medical decisions for them. If this bill becomes law, then there will be a massive drop in student enrollment across all public schools throughout the state in the coming school years. More parents will have to resort to either homeschooling or private schools in order for their kids to get the best education possible, and unfortunately, many parents in Hawaii do not have the time or the money to be able to seek those alternatives. Most parents send their kids to public schools because its the only free and timely option they have, and this bill will only make things more difficult for them. Our leadership acts like they care for our kids and families, when in reality, these bills tell us the exact opposite. Stop making things more harder for families. If you do, then it will only result in not only a decline in public school student enrollment, but it will result in more Hawaii families leaving the state for better financial, health and educational oppoortunites in other states.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:37:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Caey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Chanara Richmnd, HD42.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:37:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pualani Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 1118 I believe in natural immunity over children and all human life. It is our God given right to have natural immunity. We the people of Hawaii choose FREEDOM!!!!

I know of many friends and family in Hawaii that has passed away due to the Pfizer vaccine. All vaccines have many side effects, as well as death. I don't want that for the children of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Pualani

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:39:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is Government overreach! It is our right as citizens of this republic to decide for ourselves and our Keiki what goes into our bodies. If you vote yes to this, are you ready to face the repercussions of making decisions for us? Not all of us voted you in. Be prepare to reap what you sow. Please prayerfully know what is the right thing to do. Don't be blinded by someone calling himself a doctor acting as though he knows what is right, all the wrong doings will be coming to light soon.



HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:39:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beau Bayne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent I believe that God as appointed me to lead my children and protect my children. it is not the job of the Government to make decisions for any child. Only to serve and support the people of Hawaii. I oppose this bill that takes away the parents God given rights to choose.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:39:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shalane tehotu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:42:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1118 as a OBGYN physician as it will help protect our most vulnerable population. Vaccines are widely studied and research and are safe and effective at preventing devastating disease. Most importantly, herd immunity can save the lives of those who are not able to get vaccinated, not by choice, but due to medical problems. The reason we don't widely see outbreaks of polio or measles is due to vaccines and I hope to never see a day when there are widespread outbreaks of these diseases in school.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:44:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:45:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doreen Sokolowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because it takes away rights and freedom parents have for their children. Not to mention it's the Hawaii Constitution as well as the US Constitution of Freedom to choose. We have the right to execute our religious FREEDOM!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:46:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB1118 and I feel as a parent the decision for vaccination should be between child's primary care Physician and Parent.

Thank you!

r, Debra Alison

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:47:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brynne Asing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. As a parent, we should have the freedom to choose. This should not be forced.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:52:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendilee Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There should be no one allowed to make a life decisions for someone else's children other than their parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:53:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerrese Hogg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 HD1.

The removal of this exemption raises serious constitutional concerns— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.

This bill was never assigned to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?

The Department of Education has valid and serious concerns yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:54:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mailo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 HD1.

The removal of this exemption raises serious constitutional concerns— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.

This bill was never assigned to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?

The Department of Education has valid and serious concerns yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:55:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118 I BELIEVE IN NATURAL IMMUNITY OVER CHILDREN AND ALL HUMAN LIFE.

IT IS OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO HAVE NATURAL IMMUNITY GIVEN BY GOD.

WE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII CHOOSE FREEDOM!!!

I KNOW OF MANY FRIENDS AND FAMILY IN HAWAII THAT HAS DIED DUE TO THE mRNA VACCINE / PFIZER VACCINE.

ALL VACCINES HAVE MANY SIDE EFFECTS AS WEL AS DEATH. I DONT WANT THAT FOR THE CHILDREN OF HAWAII.

SINCERELY,

Russell

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:56:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Eustace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[Your Nam

Committee on Health & Homelessness
Hawaii State Legislature
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Opposition to HB1118 HD1 – Preservation of Religious and Personal Rights in Medical Exemptions

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118 HD1, which seeks to prohibit new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children. This bill infringes upon fundamental freedoms and sets a concerning precedent that could have lasting consequences for families and children in Hawaii.

First and foremost, the elimination of non-medical exemptions violates the principle of **religious freedom**. Many families hold deeply held religious beliefs that guide their medical decisions, including vaccination. The Constitution protects these rights, and any legislation that restricts religious exemptions places an undue burden on individuals who seek to adhere to their faith. By removing this choice, the bill disregards the fundamental rights of parents to make medical decisions for their children in accordance with their religious beliefs.

Additionally, this bill establishes a **troubling precedent** by removing a long-standing exemption. Non-medical exemptions have been recognized and honored in Hawaii, allowing families to make personal decisions based on their moral, ethical, or religious convictions. Restricting these exemptions now raises concerns about future government overreach in personal and medical choices. Once the government removes this right, it could lead to the erosion of other personal liberties under the guise of public health or administrative convenience.

Lastly, the impact on **education** cannot be ignored. By restricting non-medical exemptions, HB1118 HD1 effectively forces children out of schools if their parents make medical decisions that do not align with state mandates. This could lead to increased educational disparities, as families may be forced to homeschool or seek alternative schooling arrangements, which are not

viable options for many. Education is a fundamental right, and children should not be denied access due to their parents' informed medical choices.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1118 HD1. Instead of removing exemptions, I encourage the legislature to uphold the rights of Hawaii's families to make informed and autonomous decisions regarding their children's health and education.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Shannon Eustace

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 6:57:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernice Jarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I feel we as an US citizen and parent we have the right / freedom to practice our Constitution, if we choose to be vaccinated or not. We shall not be forced to be vaccinated as we do live in America, the land of the free. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:01:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelyse Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118 HD1 because it violates our constitutional rights as citizens of the United States of America. This is the home of the free, yet we are forcefully being punished to agree to having our children's bodies injected, against our will. Regardless of your thoughts on vaccinations, I am here to fight for my right to choose what's best for MY child and my future children.

My child is under my care until he is 18 years old and until then I will be making the informed decisions for him, which includes but is not limited to not being injected with 50+ vaccinations over the course of his current almost six year old life let alone the rest of the line up for every year following. We still follow the same rules about keeping him home from school when sick, taking him to get check ups, etc and doing our part in that way. However I will not just stand by and watch my rights as his parent to make decisions for him be taken away, especially just so that he can attend school. Because it's going to start with school and then it's going to snowball into something bigger.

This is not right. Every parent deserves the right to choose. Choosing to vaccinate your own child/ren is one hundred percent your prerogative, and choosing not to for my child is mine. There needs to be fairness and balance in life so that there is not discord, and approving this bill is going to tip the scale majorly and unfairly.

Please take into consideration that there are several reasons why parents decide to not immunize their children. However, what the reasons are should not matter. All that matters is that they should be allowed to make that decision for THEIR OWN child. Nobody should be punished or threatened because they do not want to immunize their children. Whether you agree or disagree with a parent's reasons, it is unconstitutional to take away their choice and their voice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:02:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gina asari	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised in Hawai'i. I am also a God fearing Jesus loving Christian! How much more of this pilikia do we have to endure? HB 1118 is further proof of this government's over reach! Josh Green is basically trying to take every last basic right away from our freedom of choice as promised in the United States Constitution and by our Lord God! We cannot allow him to become the dictator that he longs to be!

I believe this is as dangerous as the overthrow of the Hawaiian monarchy. Native Hawaiians and all residents of the State of Hawari should be enraged by this proposal. This bill not only takes away our personal rights and religious rights, it strips parents of their parental rights! I refuse to allow this Hawai'i government to use our citizens and children as some sort of test model for other communist states seeking to see how this experiment works! This is why I oppose HB 1118!

Mahalo and God help us,

Gina Asari

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:02:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Kawai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and it needs to be shutdown simply because it's wrong.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:03:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stephanie kawaauhau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as you have no rights to my children. My body my choice. It's unconstitutional leave our children alone

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:04:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gary burbage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1.

It imposes government control over parents decisive control of their children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:06:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Soriano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 this ridiculous notion that someone can tell me what I have to put in my child. You do not have the right!! Only Parents have that right! Governor Josh Green is overstepping his authority! In my opinion, he is being paid by big Pharma and should be recalled immediately. We live in a country that is free. We should make the decisions for our children and not some government bureaucrat. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:07:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Coelho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government should have no authority over how families manage their medical decisions, including vaccines and other routine preventive care.

I oppose. Our country was founded on righteousness, as reflected in our motto: Ua Mau Ke Ea O Ka āina I Ka Pono! This overreach goes against everything we, as Hawaiians, stand for and infringes on my rights to make choices for my keiki. Hawai'i is not a land ruled by dictatorship this control needs to stop.

To Whom It May Concern:

My name is Precious Childs and I was born and raised on the island of Moloka'i and I am a current resident of Honolulu, HI. In 2020 when covid hit the United States of America I was pregnant with my second child and was living El Paso, Texas due to my husband's military career. During this time, I saw first-hand how fear had spread like wildfire and restrictions and entry to certain places were denied. My husband's unit went on teleworking and schools had shut down. My daughter finished her school year on a tablet and as a result her academics took a huge hit. My pregnancy became harder with the first "wave" of covid and doctors' offices mandating mask. Heck masks were mandated everywhere!

In 2021, the Department of Defense mandated the covid vaccine for military members. As result, active-duty members like my husband went through intimidation tactics, often threatened to be jailed for not following a "lawful" order to get an experimental vaccine. Others were kicked out of the military all together. It took us 2 years to get back to Hawai'i because of his vaccination status. Do you know what prevented my husband from going to prison? His right to religious freedom and a religious exemption. I ask you today do you support the Constitution of the United States? If so, how can you lawfully consider this bill? If you do not, how can you properly represent the people of Hawai'i?

We are all born with inalienable rights regardless of your political views, color, creed, sexual orientation, or religion. You say the unvaccinated are a threat to the public. A safety concern. Tell me, how many vaccines should one get? How many covid vaccines do we need until we are no longer a threat? One? Two? Three? Can you guarantee that there will be no adverse side effects to taking any of the vaccines required by the State of Hawai'i to attend school? I say even one case of an adverse side effect is too much. We are hard wired to think of vaccines as a normal and healthy practice. From the moment we are born we are poked and prodded all the way through adulthood. Most of us never question what is in the shot?! I know I was guilty of this. Who here has ever sat down and read the list of ingredients in each routine vaccine our children are given at well visits? Covid vaccine aside, any of them should be our right to choose what, or if any, our children are given. It is our right to say no, and our right to delay scheduled routine vaccinations.

Some of you might be rolling your eyes and thinking "well you can have that right, but you can't come to school then". If this is your thought this is my response: HEWA! In the late 1870's Southern states in America implemented Jim Crow Laws that segregated Black and White people from public spaces. For example: Blacks could not go to school with whites until the year 1954. That's when the Supreme Court ruled unanimously in Brown v. Board of Education that segregation in public schools was unconstitutional. What's the difference?! You tell me my children should not have the right to enter public spaces or go to school if they are not vaccinated. Stop pushing this narrative that the unvaccinated are dangerous. Our children have a

fundamental right to an education, and you are trying to revoke that right by passing this law. HEWA!

Those of us that are here to take a stance on religious freedom know why we oppose this bill. However, for the ones that question the validity of our beliefs I will share that one of the reasons Disciples of Christ choose not to vaccinate is due to the use of aborted fetal cells in the production of vaccines. For example: the rubella vaccine Meruvax uses two human cell lines, MRC-5 and WI-38. These cell lines are used to create weakened virus strains which are made from the lung tissue of aborted fetuses (Dan Maher, "On the Use of Certain Vaccines," unpublished manuscript [1998, NCBC]). The use of a weakened virus strain is to force an immune response for the body to create antibodies. Antibodies that our body naturally makes which is a God given ability. His design was so perfect and messing with it would be against His creation. I really could argue this position more but for the sake of time I'll move on.

I understand that there may be sympathetic "Christians" that support bill HB 1118. However, I would argue that they do not know Christ and are not a true representation of the "Body of Christ Jesus". To them I say our God is Holy and demands that we keep His commandments.

You will hear many testimonies today, some written and some given in person. Listen to the voice of the people. I do not support HB 1118. I do not support a law that would take away rights, and close public spaces because of a person's vaccination status. I do not support the overlook of our constitutional rights or our inalienable rights to education or religion. I do not support a law that could create a segway into disqualifying people from employment opportunities because of their vaccination status. I do not support a law that would force some families into getting their children vaccinated because they cannot afford to homeschool or to lose their job.

Exemptions should be given regardless if they are medical, personal, or religious. Please do not pass this bill. Do not create a law that would cause so much pilikia, hurt, and distrust with the people of Hawai'i.

Dare to be the voice among your colleagues to say 'aole. Dare to be the voice that says HEWA. You are the people's mouthpiece. You are on a global stage now and what you do next matters. Vote for us! Stand in opposition with us and uphold your oath. Faithfully support and defend the constitution of the United States. Dare to be a Daniel!

Me Ke Aloha,

Precious Childs

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:07:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devi Ndrejaj	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My husband and I belong to a family of strong Christian-Catholic faith, with religious values that directly conflict with medical inventions such as innoculations, the majority of which include aborted fetal cell DNA, which is a fundamental reason we strongly oppose inoculations of any kind. This alone should drive decision making to not move this piece of legislation forward.

We strongly believe that faith based exemptions are under constitutional protection, and allow us the right to choose, based on our constitutional rights which provide the freedom to practice religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:09:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diahnn Villafania	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB118 HD1 Bill. We have the right to choose, it goes against our constitutional rights. I oppose this bill.

Sincerely,

Diahnn Villafania

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:09:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

First, I want to clarify that I am not anti-vaccination. What is right for me and my family can and may be different for other families. Should families have the option to vaccinate their children? Of course, the same should be valid for those who do not want to vaccinate their children. If this is genuinely about the safety of our children, don't you think taking away the option of sending children to school is detrimental to a child's psychological well-being? It is. Don't you think it will make them feel isolated and indifferent just because their parents chose not to vaccinate? It will. You will have an entire generation of kids who will lack societal skills and may develop mental instabilities due to feeling like an outsider. Remember that all of you folks in the middle to older age group will be the generation taking care of you when you can no longer care for yourself. As democrats, we preach, "My body, My Choice" when it comes to a woman's body and having the option to abort a child, but "My body, My Choice" doesn't apply to having the choice to vaccinate because it doesn't fit the narrative. HB1118 is an unjust bill, and it should be dismissed due to dismantling the choice to vaccinate and alternately being a threat to our democracy. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony. May God continue to bless you and help guide you to decide to benefit views for EVERYONE.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:10:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatum Kaakau-Manuwai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am Tatum Kaakau-Manuwai. I reside on the island of Oahu. I am testifying in support of BILL 1118HB because I believe that it is our body and it should be our choice whether if we want to do vaccination or not. Mahalo Nui loa for the opportunity to share my story.

Tatum Kaakau-Manuwai

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:11:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amberlynn Hernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB1118. This bill takes away our American right to FREEDOM OF CHOICE. My children are up to date on their vaccinations. With that said i do not want to be FORCED to get them immunizations that i do not agree with!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:14:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Newton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Take away religious exemptions and you're basically kicking my kids out of school, public or private.

What other things will you deny people based on their religious or philosophical beliefs?

I don't make any money from injecting vaccines in people's arms so unfortunately I don't have any to give you for your reelection funds.

I will however never vote for anyone that votes yes for these bills in committees, the house or the senate. Seems like the only power the individuals who oppose this bill has these days over the organizations that support it.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:15:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Norstrand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to the Elimination of Religious Exemptions for Vaccinations

Dear Committee,

I am writing as a concerned resident of Hawaii to voice my strong opposition to the proposed removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. This change undermines essential rights and disregards the deeply rooted beliefs of countless families in our state. As parents, we are entrusted with the responsibility to safeguard our children, which includes making thoughtful medical decisions that align with our faith, values, and understanding of potential risks.

Protecting Religious Freedom and Parental Authority

Hawaii has long been a beacon of cultural and religious diversity, and it is imperative to uphold the constitutional right to freedom of religion. Eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations compels families to act against their deeply held beliefs in order to access education or public services. Such a move represents an unconstitutional overstep and unjustly targets families who prioritize faith-driven decision-making in medical matters.

Parents must retain the right to make informed medical choices for their children without undue pressure. Many families in Hawaii have religious principles that emphasize personal bodily autonomy, reliance on natural immunity, or ethical concerns surrounding vaccine components. Forcing compliance with mandatory vaccinations disregards these convictions and risks establishing a dangerous precedent for future government intrusion into personal and religious freedoms.

Addressing Vaccine Risks and Preserving Medical Autonomy

While vaccines have undeniably contributed to public health, it is equally undeniable that they carry inherent risks. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has awarded over \$4 billion to families affected by vaccine-related injuries, underscoring the reality of adverse reactions. Severe allergic responses, neurological complications, and lasting health concerns are among the risks that some children face.

Parents should have the ability to weigh these risks and make educated choices tailored to their child's specific health circumstances. Given the challenges of obtaining medical exemptions—even for children with prior vaccine-related issues—religious exemptions often serve as one of the few remaining options for parents with legitimate concerns about vaccine safety.

Impact on Families and Communities in Hawaii

Hawaii's families already navigate hurdles like high living costs, limited healthcare access, and challenges in maintaining autonomy over raising their children. Removing religious exemptions compounds these issues by forcing families to choose between their faith and their child's education. This policy would disproportionately impact local families, many of whom are already burdened by financial and systemic constraints.

Additionally, this measure fails to recognize the value of natural immunity. Studies increasingly demonstrate that natural immunity can provide robust and lasting protection in many cases. Shouldn't parents have the right to decide what is best for their children's health instead of being subjected to rigid, universal mandates?

A Plea for Reason and Respect for Parental Choice

I urge lawmakers to carefully consider the ethical and practical implications of eliminating religious exemptions. Governments should not interfere in the deeply personal relationship between parents and their children, particularly in matters of health. Medical autonomy is a

cornerstone of human rights, and a democratic society must allow individuals to act in accordance with their beliefs without fear of exclusion or reprisal.

Hawaii has always been a place that values respect, diversity, and individual choice. Let's continue to uphold these principles by preserving religious exemptions and empowering parents to make informed, personal medical decisions.

I respectfully ask you to oppose any legislation seeking to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. Thank you for your time and attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Amanda Norstrand

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:15:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiana Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. With all the recent studies being done, and data showing that children who are vaccinated are 212% more likely to be diagnosed with some type of neurodevelopmental disorder compared to those who aren't vaccinated, why would us parents knowing that information be okay with risking the health and safety of our children just so they can attend PUBLIC school. Every parent has the right to make the best decision for the health and safety of their own children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:16:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I want to start by emphasizing that I am not against vaccinations. What works for my family and me might be different from what works for others. Families should indeed have the option to vaccinate their children, but the same choice should be extended to those who decide against it.

If our primary concern is the safety of our children, isn't it counterproductive to deny unvaccinated children access to school? This could negatively impact their psychological well-being, making them feel isolated and indifferent simply because of their parents' decision not to vaccinate. An entire generation of children could grow up lacking social skills and facing mental health issues from feeling like outsiders. Remember, this younger generation will be the ones caring for us when we're no longer able to care for ourselves.

As democrats, we uphold the principle of “My body, My choice” when it comes to a woman's right to choose. However, this same principle should apply to the choice of whether or not to vaccinate. HB1118 is an unjust bill that undermines this choice and poses a threat to our democracy.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. May God bless you and guide you in making decisions that benefit everyone.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:16:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Definitely strongly oppose this bill, taking away our rights to choose based off of our religious beliefs is definitely infringing on our constitutional rights. So sick of all all of this nonsense you constantly trying to force down our throats and literally into arms!!!! Josh Green bought and paid for by Pfizer pushing this crap on us.. he needs to be investigated

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:16:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe the choice should be between family and family physician

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:20:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Aquino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vote against this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:20:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Edrada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I currently am pregnant and have already done research regarding possible negative effects of young children receiving vaccines. I personally know of 3 separate families who are dealing with potentially lifelong issues in at least one of their children because they had severe reactions to getting vaccinated. Strangely enough, they had no issues with their unvaccinated children. Regardless of what has been done for many years, the choice of what goes in a child's body should be left up to their parents. No one should ever be forced to do something just to receive an education. There is no substantial evidence that 100% proves that receiving these vaccinations will prevent contamination within classrooms. In some cases, the risks outweigh the benefits and that needs to be taken into consideration. Not everyone can afford to stay home to homeschool their children, or pay for a private institution that will potentially give parents a choice! Science is based on facts, yes, but it is always evolving and new studies have shown that the recommended CDC vaccine schedule is excessive and potentially harmful. Exemptions should always be allowed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:21:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Nisewonger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our country was founded on religious freedom. The United States Constitution and Hawaii Constitution both firmly stand in the practices of religious freedom. No form of government shall be able to force or coerce any citizen of American to set aside religious beliefs or give up a fundamentally protected activity such as education. The schools will see a dramatic decline in school enrollements. Thus, the bill did nothing. When children are pulled from the schools and vaccinations are not increased, what did this bill do? You were elected to listen to the people and not your own agenda and pockets. The people have spoke and do not want this bill to pass. Currently, the state of Hawaii forces parents to give their child vaccinations that are not required by the CDC. This current asinine policy leads to decreased vaccinations. In Hawaii, you have taken away the parents rights to choose and it is an all or nothing system for vaccinations. Simply, because you force the HPV vaccination we are forced to not vaccinate our children in order to comply with the all of nothing vaccination mandate for DOE. Kill this bill and get rid of the mandate for HPV.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:21:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Chow	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a disgrace to the Hawaiian people. As a father of twins that will be entering high school I fear for their future education. I am going to pull them from their opportunities for sports which they are heavily involved. And for their education. I or my wife would have to quit our jobs and homeschool. This would be financially devastating to my family. I stood firm throughout COVID and did not fall to the pressure from family and friends to get the untested vaccines. This measure will displace so many families who do not want to be part of the Pharmaceutical experiment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:21:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kahulili Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION of HB1118 . . . specifically removing religious exemptions for immunizations. I am a parent of students that have a religious exemption because it is my deeply held belief that medical decisions, including immunizations, should be a matter of personal faith and parental choice. HB1118 infringes upon my constitutional right to religious freedom and forces my family to choose between our sincerely held beliefs and my children's access to public education.

The First Amendment protects the right to exercise religion freely. By removing religious exemptions for immunizations, HB1118 directly violates this fundamental freedom. Many families, like mine, hold strong spiritual convictions regarding medical interventions, and this bill disregards those beliefs entirely.

This bill unfairly punishes religious families by restricting access to public education, which is a right for all children. Public schools are funded by all taxpayers, including those who hold religious objections to vaccines. It is unjust to force families into choosing between violating their faith or being excluded from the education system.

Parents are the primary decision-makers for their children's healthcare. HB1118 removes the ability for families to make informed medical choices based on their religious convictions. This overreach sets a dangerous precedent, allowing the government to override personal and religious autonomy in medical decisions.

While I understand the intent behind public health measures, any policy must respect individual rights, including religious liberty. Religious exemptions have been part of Hawaii's framework for years without causing public health crises, and there is no compelling reason to eliminate them now.

Forcing compliance with medical procedures against one's religious beliefs is unconstitutional and unethical. I strongly urge you to oppose HB1118 and protect religious freedoms for all families in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:21:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grady Suan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Grady Suan strongly oppose HB118. Although I am not against all vaccines, it is not my belief that the state or government shall have the right to decide on forced medical related decisions on my children. This goes against the 1st amendment which makes this bill illegal. A persons personal belief shall not be FORCED upon all. This is government and state over reach which will not stand. Medical decisions for my children and all keiki of the great state of Hawaii should remain in the hands of the parents until they are of legal age to make medical decisions for themselves.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:22:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Murakami Akatsuka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1118, HD 1 passage this session. This is an important public health bill to keep our young children through our kupuna safe in our homes and in our communities statewide.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of HB 1118, HD 1.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:22:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Idanea Serrano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my opinion I don't think vaccines should be mandatory. We don't know all of the ingredients that vaccines contain. Also, companies that make the vaccines can not be sued if my child were to have a bad reaction to the vaccine. I am very worried about this new bill and I don't think it should pass because this should be something that the parents should get to decide and not someone else.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:25:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Yall hurting these kids & pushing it for your own agenda, you don't even care about the people of Hawai'i.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:25:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leticia Miner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This CAN NOT PASS!! This would be violating our constitutional rights to our religious beliefs!! Why are we herd vaccinating for 5% of medically fragile children who can't take the vaccine? Wouldn't that smarter choice be to keep those children separated in their own class or have them stay home. Why should we be forced to homeschool our children due to our religious beliefs! A'ole to Josh Green for even putting this into a bill!!! We the people of Hawaii ARE AGAINST THIS BILL!!! Find better solutions then vaccinations

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:26:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DAVE SMITH	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of this state and father of two I implore you to reject this bill. Religious exemptions protect a fundamental aspect of personal freedom—freedom of conscience. For many, religious beliefs aren’t just preferences; they’re core to identity and moral reasoning. Forcing individuals to violate these beliefs risks alienating them from society, fostering resentment rather than trust. Historically, coercive policies—like the 1905 smallpox vaccine mandate upheld in **Jacobson v. Massachusetts**—worked because they allowed flexibility, including exemptions for genuine objectors. Remove that flexibility, and you replace cooperation with defiance, potentially driving vaccine hesitancy underground where it’s harder to address.

The harm rendered by this proposed removal isn’t just individual—it’s societal. Religious communities often cluster, and stripping exemptions could disproportionately target groups like the Amish or Orthodox Jews, who’ve maintained low vaccination rates without destabilizing public health in measurable ways. Data from the CDC shows that even with exemptions, the U.S. sustained measles elimination from 2000 until outbreaks tied more to travel and misinformation than religious opt-outs. Punishing these groups risks fracturing social unity, creating "us vs. them" dynamics that erode the collective goodwill vaccines rely on. Trust, not force, sustains high uptake rates—look at Sweden’s 97% voluntary childhood vaccination rate with no mandates at all.

The practical benefit of removing exemptions is overstated. In 2019, New York ended religious exemptions after a measles outbreak, but the 1,282 cases nationwide that year were a blip compared to the 128,000 annual deaths pre-vaccine. Most outbreaks tie to unvaccinated travelers or secular hesitancy fueled by misinformation, not religious holdouts. Meanwhile, the backlash was fierce—lawsuits, protests, and families fleeing to homeschooling or other states. This suggests enforcement costs (legal battles, policing, lost tax revenue) could outweigh marginal gains in coverage, especially when 90%+ vaccination rates already achieve herd immunity for diseases like measles.

Finally, coercion breeds skepticism. If people feel their values are steamrolled, they’re less likely to engage with public health messaging. A 2021 study in **Nature Human Behaviour** found that perceived autonomy in health decisions boosts compliance long-term. Removing exemptions signals distrust in people’s ability to reason, potentially amplifying anti-vaccine sentiment across broader populations—harm that could outlast any short-term uptick in shots.

The counterargument is that public health trumps personal choice, and exemptions create loopholes that endanger vulnerable people, like immunocompromised kids. Fair point—but the data doesn't show religious exemptions as the tipping point for outbreaks, and education plus incentives (e.g., Denmark's childcare-linked vaccination nudges) address gaps without trampling rights. Balancing liberty and safety isn't easy, but erasing religious exemptions tilts too far toward control, risking more division and resistance than the protection it promises.

Mahalo!

Dave Smith

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:27:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

I have had my vaccines, and it was my choice.

Medical procedures, medication and vaccines, along with a long list of other things should be up to the individual.

my body my choice

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:27:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Bull	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. These immunizations should not be "mandatory" aka forced, nothing should be "mandatory" or forced as a matter of fact when it comes to choosing what we put into our bodies. What happened to deciding these things between the parents and our primary care providers for our keiki? We won't be sending our keiki to any Hawaii school if this happens to come about. I oppose. I oppose over and over again.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:27:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Arnold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP wasting MY tax payers dollars on legislation that your constituents oppose. WE WILL make note of these individuals and democracy will prevail as you will be relieved of your duties that you so quickly neglect. YOU swore an oath to serve the people, your constituents, and uphold the CONSTITUTION of the UNITED STATES. Continue to be direlect in your duties and you will be dealt with accordingly. Historically, they had a specific punishment for traitors. You've been informed.

Aloha

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:27:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanel kaeo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STOP IMPEDEING ON MY RIGHTS TO CHOOSE WHAT IS BEST FOR MY CHILDREN.
WE SHOULD HAVE THE FREEDOM TO DECIDE FOR OUSELVES WHETHER TO GET
VACCINATED OR NOT.

WE ALL KNOW ITS FOR PROFIT THAT OUR GOVERNMENT IS PUSHING THIS. MAY
YOU REAP WHAT YOU SOW

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:29:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My wife and I are Kaimuki residents, voters, and tax payers. Our children attend middle school. HB1118 violates our sincerely held religious beliefs. Do not pass this bill! Didn't you learn from the Covid scam?

Sincerely, Louis Robinson

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:30:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, which seeks to eliminate religious vaccine exemptions for schoolchildren. The right to make medical decisions based on sincerely held religious beliefs is a fundamental aspect of religious freedom, protected by both the U.S. Constitution and longstanding legal precedent. Removing this exemption would force families to choose between their faith and their children's education, an unjust and unnecessary burden. Additionally, there is no evidence that religious exemptions alone pose a significant public health risk, as overall vaccination rates remain high. Preserving religious freedom while maintaining public health is not mutually exclusive, and I urge lawmakers to reject this overreach into personal and religious liberties.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:33:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeshere Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this testimony in hopes of finding a common understanding. While I can agree that specific vaccinations are beneficial against diseases, I firmly believe it should still be a choice that each parent is allowed to make on behalf of their children. Every parent's wish is to have safe and healthy children and I'm sure everyone will make the right choices for their kids. I feel it is unfair to our rights to have to enforce or mandate something like a vaccination. Look at the mistakes done during COVID and the repercussions from that. We should learn from our mistakes and improve for the future. I humbly request that parents are given the choice of deciding what's best for their own children. Provide the right resources and education of the benefits each vaccination provides instead of making it mandatory. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:34:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill it is unconstitutional and discriminatory. It's my religious belief that my body is the temple of god the Holy Spirit.

We are not our own and we must honor god with our bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:35:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Naparan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118. This violates the First Amendment, U.S. Constitution, which prohibits congress from establishing or restricting any religion and these shots goes against my religious rights.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:37:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Porec	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a public school teacher I do not agree with the government mandating ALL vaccinations at their whim. Students should not be mandated to take covid or flu vaccinations and they should be parent choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:37:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Banner Fanene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this garbage!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:37:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Ukauka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill. This is taking away our God given constitutional rights to make an informed decision and taking away our religious rights to make a choice whether we vaccinate it children or not. For one, we are not even told what is in the vaccines. For two, there is zero liability on the pharmaceutical companies or the government if there is a vaccine injury. Third, it should be the parent's right to choose. Not the government, school system, or anyone else.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:37:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Hamman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Each individual has God-given, unalienable rights. The State has no right to deny people their religious rights. Nothing cancels the US Constitution. The vaccine industry is corrupted, and the vaccine manufacturers are protected from being held accountable for the bioweapons they create.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:38:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Virginia Okamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Virginia Okamoto and I testify in opposition to HB 1118, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms afforded through the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and its protections including religion, to practice one's religion, faith in God, but it also limits the government's ability to favor one religion over another.

As a citizen of the state of Hawaii, I fervently believe one ought to be able to decide how to care for one's body, mind and spirit, and whole health whether it is with their faith in God, through pharmaceuticals and health professionals, or independent of pharmaceuticals, vaccinations or with a combination of the aforementioned. Removing the ability to opt out of vaccinations strips individuals of this basic U.S. Constitutional freedom, to exercise their faith.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and account for various perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB 1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:38:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Koch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill. With all the issues facing Hawaii I find it interesting this is the focus of the governor. It's interesting how the decision makers doggedly pursue things that encroach on personal liberties while overlooking the glaringly obvious problems we are on a day to day basis. You want to talk about public health? How about the deluge of homeless being flown in to the islands daily. These people are sickly, with lesions and poor health. Where are they defecating? All over our common areas. That's basic sanitation issues that history has proven over and over to be problematic for public health. None of you guys address this. Yet here we are talking about healthy children being referred to as animals in the context of "herd immunity". If I vaccinate my cattle and one of them dies we easily move on. With humans there's a much greater level of concern. Parents pay taxes that fund schools and should be allowed to choose if the risk is warranted. I notice that the manufacturers of these drugs and the policymakers that force people to take them are indemnified. To me, you guys should be held criminally/ financially responsible for any injuries or death that occurs from what you enforce. Drug manufacturers should be held to the same standard. In closing, stop wasting time violating our rights, stop trying to be our parents, do your job and clean up the streets. This is getting old and Hawaii is falling apart

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:38:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Logue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a ridiculous overreach by the government and goes against the very principles of our Constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:38:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selina Lalau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support the passing of bill HB1118. Religious exemptions should be allowed for vaccine exemptions.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:41:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare J Weiss	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill against the natural bill of rights. We as individuals have a say in what is best for our children. Some have medical and religious exemptions that need to be honored and not ruled by the state government.

A non medical and non religious exemption is against our constitution and needs to be stopped.

Please understand we all have choices! A wrong decision or a force of a vaccine could cause in death!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:41:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nakita Valdez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of three daughters. All three of them have religious exemption for vaccinations. This all started when my youngest daughter was diagnosed with cancer at the age of three. We became close to god and stopped vaccinating our children. Due to the fact that most vaccinations are made or were tested on aborted fetal cells. I do not believe that god would want us to support the killing of babies or the injecting of there cells in to our bodies. Murder is wrong.

Another thing that I want to comment on is the statement that was made that this law is to protect medical fragile kids. My daughter battled cancer for three years. Not at any point before, during, or after her cancer treatment did I feel that anyone should be forced to vaccinate their children in order to protect my child.

As a mom of children with religious exemptions and a mom of a child who battled cancer I am against this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:43:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christle Kamakaala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1118! The choice of vaccination should be left up to parents. This is a blatant overstep and this bill cannot be ethically or morally allowed to pass.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:43:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing on behalf of bill number Hb1118

We currently have a son that attends public school on Maui.

I am writing to voice my opposition to the forced vaccinations with no religious exemptions. I believe this is a decision that should be between the parents and the pediatrician. I also believe it is our constitutional right to have freedom of religion and separation of church and state.

Thank you for your time and your consideration in this very important matter.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:47:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christopher yarbrough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it goes against my constitutional right to religious freedom

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:48:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Owen-Watts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop taking our rights away, by pushing this mandatory vaccination on our children to get a education. This is so wrong on so many levels. I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:48:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

By forcing parents to follow the states guidelines with no recourse, you will infringe on the religious liberty we have hereto enjoyed in Hawaii. I cannot support this measure. Please oppose.

Signed,

Naomi Brown

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:50:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Wadas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[Zachary Wadas]

[Feb, 19th 2025]

Hawaii State Legislature

Committee on Health & Homelessness

415 South Beretania Street

Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Opposition to HB1118 Protecting Religious and Parental Rights in Immunization Decisions

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunization requirements in Hawaii. As a Christian, I firmly believe that parents have a God-given responsibility to make medical decisions for their children without government interference. This bill directly threatens religious liberty, parental rights, and bodily autonomy principles that are foundational to our faith and the freedoms enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

A major ethical concern for many Christians is that several vaccines are developed, produced, or tested using cell lines derived from aborted human fetuses. For example, cell lines such as HEK-293 and WI-38 originate from abortions performed decades ago and continue to be used in vaccine research and development. The use of these cells contradicts biblical teachings on the sanctity of life (Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5), as it directly benefits from the destruction of innocent human life. Supporting or participating in a medical practice that relies on abortion-derived cells is morally unacceptable to many believers, as it implicates them in an industry that commodifies human life.

Additionally, some vaccines are developed using stem cells from animals, raising further ethical and religious concerns. Genesis 1:26-28 teaches that humans are uniquely created in God's image, distinct from animals, and are given dominion over them. The unnatural blending of human and animal biological material in medical treatments poses serious moral dilemmas for those who believe in the sanctity and purity of God's creation. Many Christians feel a deep conviction that participating in such medical interventions violates God's design for humanity and their duty to remain faithful stewards of His creation.

Furthermore, the Bible calls us to honor God with our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and to act according to our conscience (Romans 14:23). Forcing individuals to receive immunizations developed in a manner that conflicts with their religious beliefs is an infringement upon their right to freely practice their faith. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld religious liberty in cases such as *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, affirming that the government must respect sincere religious convictions even when they conflict with state policies.

Parental rights are also at stake with this legislation. God has entrusted parents with the responsibility of raising their children according to biblical principles (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4). When the government mandates medical procedures and removes parental choice, it usurps a role that belongs to families and erodes fundamental freedoms. Parents, not the state, are best positioned to make informed decisions about their children's health and well-being.

Moreover, enforcing such mandates has led to significant legal and financial repercussions. Across the United States, numerous employees have been terminated for refusing COVID-19 vaccinations on religious grounds, leading to costly lawsuits. For instance, a federal jury awarded over \$12 million to a former employee of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan who was fired after refusing the COVID-19 vaccine due to her religious beliefs. Similarly, six employees of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system were awarded over \$1 million each after being terminated for refusing the vaccine on religious grounds. These cases not only highlight the

infringement on individual rights but also result in substantial financial burdens on employers and taxpayers due to legal settlements and associated costs.

While I understand the intention behind this bill is to promote public health, religious freedom and personal choice must not be sacrificed in the process. The government should not compel individuals to violate their faith by forcing participation in medical interventions that contradict their deeply held beliefs.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB 1118 and uphold the religious and parental freedoms that are essential to a just and diverse society. I respectfully ask that you consider the rights of all Hawaii residents, including those whose faith convictions lead them to seek exemptions from immunization requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I pray that you will act with wisdom and protect the freedoms that make Hawaii a place of respect and inclusivity for all beliefs.

Sincerely,

[Zachary Wadas]

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:50:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kira Lyn Kashiwa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting my written statement in opposition to this bill. Leave our constitutional rights and freedom to express our religious beliefs as it stands. This is felt to be severe government overreach. We should be able to decide as parents what is best for our children based on our religious beliefs and values.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:52:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Akin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose taking more rights away from parents. It also takes education away from children. All children have a right to learn alongside their peers. If parents wish to not vaccinate their children the children should not be made to bear the burden of being rejected from public education. Vaccines protect the person vaccinated. So an unvaccinated child should not be a concern to the schools districts.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:52:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Philhower	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away my constitutional rights to choose what I put in my body.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:52:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marie Calma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We as citizens of the USA should have FREEDOM OF CHOICE of what enters our own & our children's bodies! This is unconstitutional & should NOT be passed!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:53:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Salakielu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely oppose this bill.

We should have the right to opt out of these vaccinations if we have concerns of how they may affect our children in negative ways.

What happened to my body (or my child's body), my choice? or that's only ok if you want to kill a baby.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:54:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
claudia c k quintanilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill 1118!!! Parents have the right to decide for their child's body. I believe in natural immunity. We should not be dictated by government! If we don't take a particular vaccination we loose our employment? That is a threat & unconstitutional!

My best friend decided to take the Pfizer vaccine per her doctor as a preventative measure since she had dealt previously with 3 different types of cancer. After taking the vaccine her heart & body system swelled with water...2 gallons of liquid was removed. She cried cause she didn't want to die! She did everything possible to prevent her fatal death. The vaccine was the start of an infection & it killed her. The unknown side affects are real, therefore parent(s) & individuals should have the right to decide & choose!
Stop & think about!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:54:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaena Gilman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kaena Gilman, and I am testifying in strong opposition to HB1118.

This bill seeks to remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, a decision that directly limits parental rights, personal choice, and long-standing religious freedoms. As a Native Hawaiian and member of a community where faith and family values are deeply intertwined, I find this bill concerning.

Hawai'i has long recognized the right of families to make informed medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions would force families into a difficult position—choosing between their faith and their child's access to education. This is not a decision any parent should be forced to make.

While public health is important, policies must also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. Religious freedom is a fundamental right protected by both our state and federal constitutions. Taking away this exemption sets a dangerous precedent, one that disregards the deeply held beliefs of many in our community.

I urge this committee to stand for parental rights, religious freedom, and educational access by opposing HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Kaena Gilman

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:55:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ayumi Imai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because vaccines and religious freedom are unrelated. Please do not the government take away the freedom of education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:56:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I DO NOT AGREE TO THIS MATTER.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:56:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Derricks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our government does not have the right to take away parents rights to decide on how many vaccinations or to vaccination to our children!!! It's a parents choice. None of you gave birth to our children. Half of doe children are not vaccination or have their own schedule on how many these young child get. Stop trying to control our people we will stand up against this.

Doe will lose funds if this bill passes and the child aren't attending school anymore due to this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:56:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaliyah Tovi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent I believe that making it mandatory too make all children take required vaccines is unconstitutional & it isn't right. Yes they may be children but they should still have rights on whether they should take these vaccines or not along with the support of us parents or we should be the ones making the decisions because after all it is their bodies & if they're not comfortable with what's going in it then why force it? I strongly oppose this bill & stand by that!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:56:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Rimorin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Kenneth Rimorin, I'm here to testify that these immunizations requirement shots is very dangerous and deadly to give our keikis and family/friends. I know friends and even a family member that died taking the shots. I myself took the shots when Covid/pandemic happened just so I could work and so I can feed my family and roof over our head, but the side effect that gave me and I till this day have it now is crazy hives appear on my whole body and sometimes have to scratch to where my skin comes out. I never did have a problem when I didn't take the shots. Now I feel useless when I break out with hives. It's not safe it's an experiment that you guys forcing us to take especially for the keikis , I have kids of my own and I will not let them suffer like how I'm suffering, this is not right. We all human we all have our decisions we alone got to make it not you guys. You don't run our bodies and it's not yours to run, we alone know our healths and we can make our own decisions, free will right. I will fight for my family especially for my keikis and for the people of Hawaii. I Kenneth Rimorin will stand against it. You guys should leave our keikis alone, you don't raise them, you don't take them to school or doctors and you don't pay our bills. This is our life not yours. This is our children's not yours. This is our Aina not yours, this is our people not yours. I'm tired like everyone else, but I can tell you we ain't giving up because we as the locals that live here on Oahu will protect what's ours especially you dealing with our family's. Again this is my testimony! Mahalo for your time!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:57:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hannah Jermstad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hannah Jermstad

276 Kealakapu Rd

Kula, HI 96790

Hannahjermstad@gmail.com

February 19th, 2025

Dear esteemed members of the JHA committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which I believe poses a serious threat to our constitutional freedoms, medical autonomy, and parental rights. My family has suffered devastating consequences from the COVID-19 vaccine—my grandmother passed away 3 days after her second dose, my father was paralyzed 2 days after his second dose, and my aunt was diagnosed with an aggressive cancer shortly after receiving her initial plus two boosters. Our family has a documented history of severe vaccine reactions, making this issue deeply personal and urgent.

As a single mother of two young boys, ages 5 and 2, I want to ensure they have access to education without medical coercion. No parent should be forced to choose between their child's education and their right to make informed medical decisions. The absurd increase in the number of childhood vaccinations in recent decades is deeply concerning, especially when pharmaceutical companies are shielded from liability while profiting enormously from these products. I am not anti-vaccine, but I am against policies that prioritize corporate gain over individual rights, informed consent, and true medical transparency. No company should have the power to mandate medical interventions while being legally protected from any consequences should their products cause harm.

Regardless of where one stands on vaccines, every individual should have the right to weigh the risks and benefits and make personal health decisions without coercion or mandates. HB 1118 disregards informed consent, bodily autonomy, and the rights of parents to act in the best interest of their families. Medical interventions should never be forced or legislated in a way that strips away the rights of citizens while protecting the financial interests of pharmaceutical corporations.

I urge you to stand against HB 1118 and protect the rights of families like mine, and the future and educational opportunities of my children. Please oppose this bill and advocate for policies that respect medical freedom, parental choice, and ethical governance over corporate interests. I appreciate your time and consideration and hope you will be a voice for our constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

Hannah Jermstad

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:59:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Marie Pecoraro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill ! As a mother and a Big Island resident, that has a religious exemption , this is not right . No one has the right to tell me what to put in mine or my child's body created perfectly in Gods image. We know not to trust man and the "grandfathered" in words that can be changed at anytime are not fooling anyone

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:59:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosalyn Ardoin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

my name is Rosalyn I am here to express my strong opposition to HB1118 which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in our schools.

First and foremost, the right to practice one's religion freely is enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This includes the right to make decisions based on one's religious beliefs regarding the health and welfare of their children. By removing the religious exemption, this bill infringes upon this fundamental right, compelling individuals to act contrary to their deeply held religious convictions.

Moreover, the diversity of beliefs in our community is one of our greatest strengths. Religious exemptions for vaccinations acknowledge this diversity and respect the cultural and spiritual nuances that guide many families. Eliminating these exemptions could lead to a homogenization of thought and practice, which goes against the very principles of inclusivity and pluralism our society champions.

From a practical standpoint, the removal of religious exemptions does not guarantee an increase in vaccination rates. Instead, it might push families to seek alternative education options outside the public system, potentially leading to less oversight and accountability over their children's education and health. This could inadvertently increase public health risks rather than mitigate them, as these children would be less likely to be monitored by school health programs.

Furthermore, this legislation could set a precedent for further erosion of personal and parental rights over medical decisions. Health autonomy is a critical aspect of personal liberty and should be respected unless there is a clear, overwhelming public interest that can be served no other way. In this case, the current system of exemptions, combined with educational outreach and support for vaccination, has proven effective for many years.

I also want to stress that many in our community who claim religious exemptions are not anti-vaccine per se; rather, they seek to live in accordance with their faith, which might include a preference for natural immunity or concerns about the ingredients in vaccines. A more inclusive approach would involve dialogue and education, offering alternatives or accommodations where possible, rather than outright bans.

In closing, I urge the committee to reconsider this bill. Instead of removing religious exemptions, we should look for ways to strengthen our public health initiatives through education, open dialogue, and respect for individual rights. This approach not only respects constitutional freedoms but also fosters a community where diverse beliefs can coexist with public health goals.

Thank you for your attention and for considering this perspective.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:02:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlynn Felicilda-Ramolete	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Evening,

My name is Ashlynn, and I am here today as a concerned parent to speak about the requirement for all children to be fully vaccinated to attend school.

First, I want to emphasize that I am not against vaccines themselves, but I strongly believe that parents should have the right to make informed medical decisions for their children. Every child is unique, and some may have medical, religious, or personal reasons for not receiving certain vaccines. Mandating every vaccine for every child without considering individual circumstances ignores the principle of informed consent.

Second, while vaccines have played a role in controlling disease, they are not risk-free. The CDC and vaccine manufacturers acknowledge potential adverse effects, which can range from mild reactions to more severe complications. Parents should have the ability to weigh these risks and make choices based on their child's health history and needs.

Lastly, alternative protective measures exist. Natural immunity, healthy lifestyles, and medical exemptions should be valid considerations for school entry. Many states already allow exemptions, proving that education and public health can coexist without forcing medical interventions on every child.

I urge this board to respect parental rights and medical freedom by allowing informed choices regarding school vaccine requirements. Thank you for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:02:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: As a physician in the community, I understand the importance of herd immunity.
Therefore I support this measure.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:02:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alysha Cummings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in opposition of Bill HB1118. Medical decisions for our keiki is a deeply personal and spiritual choice that the parents not government should make. Please make better use of your time and our tax money by getting rid of the chemicals in our food and skies before you even think to inject our keiki. Hell no!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:03:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheng Shu Li	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Opposition to HB1118

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions from the childhood vaccination schedule for children enrolling in public and private schools. As a parent, I firmly believe that medical decisions for my child should remain a private matter between my family and our doctorâ€”not dictated by government mandates.

Over the years, the childhood vaccination schedule has expanded significantly. While vaccines play an important role in public health, every child is unique, and medical decisions should be made based on individual health needs, not a one-size-fits-all approach. HB1118 would strip parents of the right to engage in informed discussions with their healthcare providers and make decisions based on what is best and safest for their children.

The ability to make medical choices for our children is a fundamental parental right. By eliminating non-medical exemptions, this bill forces families into compliance without consideration for personal, religious, or philosophical beliefs. This is a dangerous precedent that undermines bodily autonomy and informed consentâ€”principles that should be at the core of any healthcare decision.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and stand for parental rights, informed consent, and medical freedom. Parents, not the government, should be responsible for making healthcare decisions for their children. Please reject this bill and ensure that families maintain the right to make medical choices without coercion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:04:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines. As a concerned constituent, I urge you to vote against this bill for several key reasons, which I believe pose a significant threat to fundamental freedoms and rights.

1. Threat to Freedom of Choice:

One of the most basic tenets of a free society is the ability to make personal choices regarding one's health and well-being. HB 1118 strips individuals of their right to make informed decisions about vaccination, a decision that should remain in the hands of parents, guardians, and individuals themselves. By eliminating the religious exemption, this bill forces individuals to choose between following their religious beliefs or accessing certain rights, such as education and healthcare, which is an undue burden on personal freedom.

2. Hindering the Right to Education:

This bill directly impacts the right to education by denying students the ability to attend public schools if their religious beliefs prevent them from complying with vaccine mandates. Education is a fundamental right for all children, and HB 1118 threatens to penalize those whose families have deeply held religious convictions. The right to education should not be contingent on whether or not a person conforms to specific medical requirements, particularly when there are no proven medical exemptions. Denying education to children based on their family's religious beliefs undermines the core values of equality and inclusiveness in our education system.

3. The Right to Practice Religion Freely:

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to freely practice one's religion without interference from the government. Forcing individuals to choose between their religious beliefs and their children's access to education is a clear violation of this right. Religious exemptions for vaccines allow families to make choices based on their spiritual convictions, and removing this option infringes upon their ability to live in accordance with their faith. A person's right to practice religion without state interference must remain protected, especially in matters of health and personal conscience.

There is a long history of respecting religious freedom in our society, and religious exemptions have existed to protect that fundamental right. It is vital that this protection is upheld, not undermined.

4. Native Hawaiians Will Be Disproportionately Affected By This:

Native Hawaiians, like many indigenous communities, have a deep cultural and spiritual connection to their traditions, including their religious practices. For many Native Hawaiians, spirituality and health are often intertwined, with certain cultural beliefs and rituals playing a significant role in their understanding of well-being. These religious practices may include exemptions from vaccinations based on spiritual or ancestral beliefs about health and wellness. Removing religious exemptions for vaccines could have a disproportionate impact on Native Hawaiians, as it could force individuals to choose between adhering to their traditional beliefs and participating in a public health system that may not recognize or respect their unique cultural needs. This loss of exemption might feel like an infringement on their right to practice their religion freely and could exacerbate distrust in healthcare systems that have historically marginalized indigenous people.

While the importance of public health is undeniable, removing religious exemptions does not necessarily improve vaccine compliance. It may instead lead to increased mistrust of government mandates and foster division in our communities. Education and outreach should be prioritized to inform and support those who are hesitant, rather than coercing them into compliance. Public health can be protected through other means, such as ensuring that schools have access to educational materials that outline the benefits of vaccination, offering accommodations for those with valid health concerns, and maintaining transparency and dialogue with communities.

In conclusion, HB 1118 poses a direct threat to personal freedom, religious expression, educational rights and native Hawaiian beliefs. I respectfully ask that you consider the impact this bill will have on individuals' freedoms and vote against it. Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with your constituents and protect these fundamental rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:05:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Alapai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Nicole Alapai and I am opposed to HB1118.

The bill would limit my choice as a parent, and also over step into my family's personal and religious freedoms.

Public health is important, however policies should also respect individual rights.

This bill would force families to choose between faith and access to education.

Again, I oppose HB1118.

Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:06:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea La Pierre	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it is completely unconstitutional and every citizen has the right of deciding what goes into one's body regardless of religious beliefs. Parents have the right to decide for their child. Making a choice to not vaccinate based on religious beliefs is an equal right and may not be taken away by government. This bill cannot be passed, we are not under a tyrannical governmental system. Children have the right to attend public schools regardless of their faith beliefs as it applies to not being required to be vaccinated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:06:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Mello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:09:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslene Rapisura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parents, we should have the right to make decisions for our children. A decision between us parents and our primary care physician.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:10:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla keoho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let the parents parent !!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:10:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pasi Mauga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree with this HB1118 bill at all. It is the parents decision for the kids. Like I SAID I DO NOT AGREE WITH THIS HB1118 BILL. I NEED YOU TO KILL THIS BILL.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:10:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Grace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Jennifer Grace, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. This bill is unconstitutional. This is an extreme overreach of government. I agree that vaccines are helpful but I also believe in the right to choose.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For those reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:11:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Boyd Ready	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators,

Even in wartime we respect freedom of conscience and allow religious people to serve in non-combatant roles.

In our schools votes expect the State of Hawaii to respect religious conscience.

I am opposed to this bill.

Mahalo,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:11:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shealen Uaiwa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 3 beautiful daughters and as a Christian women i oppose this bill. The government works for the people and it is our God given right to do what's best for our children not the government officials nor the doctors who has not birth our children! To all of the government officials, do what you want with your own children but when it comes to mine, you do not get to choose. I am a Native Hawaiian born and raised here. We as people are getting priced out of paradise and I don't want this to be another reason for the people of Hawaii to have to leave because of this bill. This is personal for me as I had a child be injured by a vaccine and I will stand along side all of them parents of Hawaii to oppose this bill. In the mighty name of Jesus!! No weapon formed against our children shall prosper.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:12:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Noble	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha JHA Committee Members,

I urge you to oppose Bill HB 1118, which removes religious exemptions for vaccinations. My primary concern is that forcing the HPV vaccine on Native Hawaiians—who hold deep cultural and spiritual beliefs—amounts to genocide.

There are studies suggesting a possible link between the HPV vaccine and fertility risks:

Little DT, Ward HR.

Premature ovarian failure...following HPV vaccination.

BMJ Case Rep. 2012;2012:bcr2012006879.

PubMed- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23035167/>

Colafrancesco S, et al.

HPV vaccine and primary ovarian failure...(ASIA)?

Am J Reprod Immunol. 2013;70(4):309–316.

PubMed- <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/23902317/>

For a more thorough examination of the HPV vaccine’s risks, please see HPV Vaccine on Trial:

Amazon Link-The HPV Vaccine on Trial: Seeking Justice for a Generation Betrayed
<https://a.co/d/cRVK5UN>

Also, Many Native Hawaiians hold deep spiritual and cultural beliefs that guide their perspectives on health and well-being. For some, these beliefs include a strong connection to natural healing and traditional practices, which may not align with vaccination requirements. Recognizing and respecting these perspectives is essential when discussing health policies that impact Native Hawaiian communities.

Moreover, singling out religious objections while retaining medical exemptions raises serious constitutional issues under the First Amendment. Courts have repeatedly held that laws impacting religion must be both neutral and generally applicable. If public health is the bill's goal, there are less restrictive alternatives, instead of outright removing religious protections.

I respectfully ask that you consider these concerns and vote against this bill. Please protect Hawai'i's constitutional freedoms and cultural identity.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:14:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I appreciate the committee’s amendments to HB1118—clarifying that individuals may object on religious grounds and delaying the effective date to July 1, 3000 to allow further discussion.

While these changes open the door for more dialogue, significant concerns remain regarding religious freedom, parental rights, and the extent of state intervention.

The First Amendment guarantees religious liberty, ensuring that individuals may practice their faith without government interference. Although the amendment now specifies that objections can be made on the basis of “bona fide religious tenets and practices,” the criteria for what qualifies remain uncertain. **It is essential that clear, consistent, and transparent standards be established to protect families with genuine religious objections** while preventing potential abuses of the exemption process.

Parents inherently possess the right to make informed medical decisions for their children.

Evidence from states such as California and New York—where non-medical exemptions have been removed—indicates that these policy shifts have not led to significant public health crises, yet they have been associated with reports of increased discrimination and challenges for affected families. Public health initiatives must balance community safety with respect for parental autonomy, ensuring that education and informed consent remain at the forefront of policy design.

The original intent of HB1118 signals an expansion of state control over personal medical choices. While the delayed effective date is a welcome pause for further discussion, the bill’s core ambition still risks placing medical decisions in the hands of the state rather than with parents. Such an approach runs counter to the principles of limited government and individual autonomy upheld by our Constitution and longstanding legal precedents.

If the goal is to enhance public health, the focus should shift to strengthening educational initiatives and informed consent procedures rather than imposing mandates that override individual rights. Alternatives might include:

- Improving educational programs about vaccine benefits and risks for informed consent,
- Offering flexible accommodations that respect diverse medical and religious beliefs,

- Developing clear criteria for religious exemptions that protect genuine practice without compromising public health objectives.

I urge the committee to continue refining HB1118, ensuring that our public health policies uphold both community safety and the constitutional rights of religious freedom and parental discretion.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Nicholas Zehr

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:15:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aiko Yamada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for a multitude of reasons but the main reason is that it should be a parents choice whether or not to give a vaccine to their child. The government has not and is not transparent on the side effects of these vaccines, they have released the companies who make the vaccines from any legal repercussions should serious injury or death occur from vaccine and true studies are not being done to show correct data. I am not "anti vax", I am anti mandating it. There are vaccines that have proven to work (with mild or severe side effects) then there are vaccines that don't work and have SEVERE side effects.....LIKE THE COVID VACCINE! People were misled by our government into thinking that if we took the COVID vaccine we could neither contract it or give it and we would have immunity.....THAT WAS WRONG and none of the companies can be held liable for the deaths and injuries caused to people from the vaccine! It's absolutely absurd!.

After being wrong about the COVID vaccine, the polio vaccine, the gardasil vaccine and so much more....the government wants us to put the health of our children in their hands. Absolutely not!!!

Some of these vaccines have lifelong negative impacts and to force this mandate on parents, in order for their child(ren) to receive any education, public or private, is an outrage!!! Our school system is already graduating students who are less than proficient in math and reading and now this mandate threatens to lower enrollment.

Leave out keiki alone! Please KILL THIS BILL

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:15:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruce Javellana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This is wrong. Parents should have a say on what's best for their child.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:16:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Cesarek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is America. We have freedom of religion. These vaccines contain DNA fragments and many use aborted fetal cell lines. We have the right to choose what goes in our children's bodies. Vaccine injuries do happen and sometimes lead to death. There is no way to know if a child is prone to an injury before it happens so it MUST be the parents choice to weigh the risks and benefits. If a child is injured, the financial, emotional, and spiritual burden weights on the parents and impacts the whole family. The state has no right to tell parents what to put in their childrens body. If they won't let these unvaccinated children in school, the state should be responsible to pay for private schools, tutors, and baby sitters to compensate parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:19:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaylin M. Tacgere-Bailey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose on this matter. Any vaccinations that takes place should be a choice between the child's parent, and primary care doctor. We all come from different genetics and we don't react the same way when it comes to our healths but as a parent, I believe it should be a PARENT'S choice to vaccinate their children's not the governments.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:19:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennefer Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118 because we have the constitutional right to practice our religion in public or private. This bill would prevent my children from practicing their religion at school, and the people of Hawaii have elected you to represent them you should do what is right for the people.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:19:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby cocke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this upcoming bill. As a past educator and mother , I do not believe that our rights should be taken from us if we do not believe in the required vaccines. So many kids will miss out on the Hawai'i educational experience that I was fortunate to experience because their parents like myself will refuse to put their children in a school system that forces them to go against their beliefs. Passing this bill is NOT what is right for our state and goes against their beliefs United States fundamentals and constitution!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:21:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill directly violates the Constitutional Right to Religion and religious practices, and the Nuremberg code which shall not be used to coerce individuals, including children, in forcefully being vaccinated. Therefore, I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:21:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carina Kelly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove the religious exemption for vaccinations in Hawaii's schools. I believe that this bill infringes upon our fundamental rights to religious freedom, personal autonomy, and the right to make informed health decisions for ourselves and our children.

The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion, and this right should not be disregarded when it comes to decisions about vaccination. Many families in Hawaii, including my own, hold deeply rooted religious beliefs that prevent them from participating in practices that conflict with their faith. Forcing individuals to choose between their religious beliefs and their children's education is a direct violation of their constitutional rights.

Furthermore, this bill overlooks the importance of informed choice. Vaccination is a deeply personal medical decision, and while the intent behind the bill is to protect public health, removing the religious exemption removes the ability for parents to make decisions based on their own research, values, and experiences. Parents should have the right to consider their child's health history, genetic factors, and any other considerations that may influence their decision to vaccinate.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB1118. We must protect the rights of parents to make informed, autonomous decisions regarding their children's health while upholding the values of religious freedom and personal choice.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Carina Kelly

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:22:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Christiansen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill. Removing religious exemptions and forcing our keiki to get vaccinated to attend public school is a violation of our constitutional rights. We have a right to practice our religious beliefs and our keiki have a right to attend public school to get an education. There are policies in place if an outbreak occurs, unvaccinated keiki cannot attend until the outbreak is contained. This policy in place works and change is not needed. Please do not force us to pull our keiki from school. This goes against our religious beliefs which are protected under the constitution of the United States. If you want to make a difference, provide better quality food to our keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:23:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vincent Tomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This is my testimony against HB1118. The government has no authority to decide for parents and families in which the covid vaccine should be mandatory in order to attend school or work. You may call me a conspiracy theorist but I believe that this is a personal conscious choice that all people have a right to decide to make. Also, this vaccine has not proven anything in it's efficacy at all. It has not cured or prevented covid from being contracted by anyone. I was infected by covid and now have been exposed to multiple people who are vaccinated that were infected multiple times and I have not contracted it since. I believe that I developed an natural immunity against the virus and have only seen people get infected multiple times as they have taken the vaccine and boosters. If I told you that you were going to hell unless you had a personal relationship with Jesus Christ you would just call me a conspiracy theorist. But see that's what I love about choices. God respects the choices of the people who do not wish to follow His Son. Jesus won't force himself on anyone and neither should the Governor or any lawmaker impose their will on a free people. We as a family are large. And we are keeping an eye on everything the Governor and all of you lawmakers are doing about this bill. Be advised that we will take you to court if we have to. Why don't we just wait until the coming world leader imposes a mark on the entire world before we start helping him by making bills like these that divide the people because a few people profess to be wiser than God. Romans tells us that people like the governor and other lawmakers who profess to be wise have actually become fools because they worshipped creatures rather than the Creator. So please stop this nonsense on behalf of my family!!! Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:24:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I highly oppose this and feel qe should have the right to choose. If vaccines work how they say they work, then the people that take it shouldn't fear the ones that dont.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:25:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camas Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Shame on every politician who thinks they know better than a child's own parents. What a disgrace.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:27:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a concerned citizen and advocate for personal liberty to urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to **VOTE NO** on HB1118 HD1. This bill is a dangerous overreach that threatens our rights, our families, and our future. I implore you to reject it and uphold the values that define Hawaii.

ATTACK ON PERSONAL FREEDOM

This bill strips away the sacred right of individuals and families to make personal medical decisions based on their sincerely held beliefs. Current law respects religious objections to mandatory vaccinations under Sections 325-34 and 302A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes. HB1118 HD1 obliterates that, imposing a rigid mandate that dismisses faith and conscience. Are we ready to tell families their spiritual convictions are irrelevant? That the state overrides their values? This is not Aloha—it's authoritarianism.

HERD IMMUNITY MYTH EXPOSED

Proponents claim non-medical exemptions—rising from 2.5% in 2015-2016 to 5.3% in 2023-2024—threaten herd immunity. But the numbers don't lie: over 94% of Hawaii's schoolchildren are vaccinated, exceeding the 90-95% herd immunity threshold. The 296 students with medical exemptions—less than 0.2%—aren't endangered by a small, conscientious minority. This isn't a crisis; it's a fabricated scare tactic. Our herd immunity is strong—don't let fear dictate policy.

UNFAIR DOUBLE STANDARD

By grandfathering existing religious exemptions for 2024-2025 while banning new ones, this bill creates an arbitrary injustice. Why should a family today keep their rights, but a new family tomorrow lose them? This isn't fairness—it's discrimination dressed up as law. It sets a precedent that rights are privileges the state can revoke at will. Where does this slippery slope end?

COMMUNITY FRACTURE AHEAD

Forcing vaccinations on unwilling families won't build trust—it'll shatter it. Parents may flee public schools, straining homeschooling resources or leaving kids without education. Some may leave Hawaii altogether, draining our communities of talent. All for a meaningless 100% vaccination rate that even the U.S. Department of Health admits isn't needed? This bill risks tearing us apart when we need unity most.

BETTER SOLUTIONS IGNORED

Yes, we must protect our 296 medically fragile keiki—but this isn't the way. Outbreaks happen even in vaccinated groups due to vaccine failure or travel. Instead of punishing parents, fund real solutions: improved disease tracking, voluntary vaccine drives, and support for vulnerable students. These respect freedom and health without coercion.

FINAL PLEA: VOTE NO

Hawaii's keiki deserve health and rights, not one or the other. HB1118 HD1 sacrifices freedom for a false sense of safety, and we can't afford that trade. I urge you—**VOTE NO** and show that in Hawaii, liberty and family still reign.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:30:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Caramonte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. As a mother and a child of God the vaccine should be a choice not mandated by the state. We have a right to our religious beliefs.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in opposition of this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:31:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy Ilar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Freedom of choice. Isn't this the battle cry of majority of the governing body of the state of Hawaii? Parents have the right to refuse vaccination for their children. If the State of Hawaii mandates children vaccination, Parents then should have the right to sue the State in the event that their child is injured or die from a vaccine. Parents should have the right to sue every single legislature and governor that aproved this mandate. There need to be accountabiity. The childhood vaccine schedule is now under review by the new HHS director Rober F Kennedy Jr. I hope that Parents will be empowered to be Parents again and be the decionmaker for their children, not the government. Covid vaccine is now under the microscope.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:33:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Fleishour	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please do not pass this bill. It would be very detrimental to the health of many children. Two of my friends are severely injured from the covid vaccine and my sister's friend died from it. Not to mention countless others who were killed or injured from it. On top of this, it completely goes against our constitutional rights. People should have the right to chose what goes into thier bodies. Please protect our precious keiki and vote no on this bill.

Mahalo,

Kimberly, mother of five children

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:34:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Christiansen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill. This is an infringement upon our religious liberties and our keiki have a right to receive an education. There is a policy in place for unvaccinated keiki attending school. This policy is working and no need to change. Do not force us to remove our keiki from school because this bill goes against our religious beliefs protected under the constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:35:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lance antonio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing Hawaii House Bill 1118

To the Esteemed Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions, including religious exemptions, from immunization requirements for school-aged children in Hawaii. While I acknowledge the importance of public health and the role of immunizations in safeguarding our communities, I believe this bill poses significant concerns regarding religious freedom, parental rights, and educational access

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. By removing religious exemptions, HB 1118 compels parents and students to act against their deeply held spiritual beliefs, effectively infringing upon their constitutional rights. This coercion undermines the pluralistic values upon which our nation and state are founded

Parents possess the fundamental right to make informed medical decisions for their children. HB 1118 undermines this prerogative by mandating medical interventions without accommodating personal or philosophical convictions. Such governmental overreach into family matters sets a concerning precedent, diminishing the role of parents in guiding their children health and well-being.

The enforcement of strict immunization mandates, absent non-medical exemptions, may lead to the exclusion of unvaccinated children from educational institutions. This exclusion not only disrupts the academic and social development of these students but also imposes undue stress on families seeking to balance their personal beliefs with state requirements. In New York, for instance, the removal of religious exemptions led to the displacement of approximately 26,000 students from schools, illustrating the potential for significant educational disruption

The bill provision to grandfather existing exemptions creates a dichotomy among students, leading to unequal treatment based solely on the timing of their exemptions. This approach fosters discrimination and division within the student body, contravening the principles of equity and inclusivity that our educational system strives to uphold.

While the intent of HB 1118 to protect public health is commendable, the bill, in its current form, encroaches upon fundamental rights and may lead to unintended negative consequences for

families and students. I urge the legislature to consider alternative approaches that respect individual freedoms, uphold parental rights, and ensure that all children have access to education without compromising their personal or religious beliefs.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lance Antonio

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:38:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lianne Blas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill 100%! As a mother and grandmother, it should be the parents to make this decision with informed consent. Doctors can guide you in what you should and shouldn't do. But it does come down to the parents with religious or personal exemption!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:38:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This decision should be made by no other, than the child(ren) legal guardian/parents.

It is my right as a the parent to make all medical decisions for my children. I have birth to them, I raise and pay for all their needs and likes. I am responsible for every right/wrong decision they make. I pay penalties and child care fees. I take them everywhere they need to go. I work feed them, cloth them. I raise my kids, I choose our religion until they are of enough to choose for themselves. Until then, NO ONE ELSE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO REQUIRE MY KIDS TO TAKE ANY VACCINE WITHOUT MY PERMISSION.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:38:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Eshima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose bill 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. Is it essential to allow the religious exemptions for immunizations for students due to their sincerely held religious beliefs that prohibit them from receiving vaccines.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures webpage, <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements>, forty-four states (including Hawaii) and Washington DC allow religious exemptions for immunizations. There has been no disease outbreak in Hawaii's schools so this bill is not necessary as it pertains to public health.

I have a problem with this statement in the bill:

When ninety-five per cent of individuals in a community are immunized, those persons serve as a protective barrier against the likelihood of transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases in the community.

The ninety-five per cent figure in the above statement has no study to back it back it up. This invalidates the credibility of the bill.

I oppose this bill because it is necessary to accommodate students' religious beliefs against immunizations to ensure that they are not forced to choose between their faith and their education.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Eshima

I wish to express my strong opposition to Bill #HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in our schools.

First and foremost, the right to practice one's religion freely is enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This includes the right to make decisions based on one's religious beliefs regarding the health and welfare of their children. By removing the religious exemption, this bill infringes upon this fundamental right, compelling individuals to act contrary to their deeply held religious convictions. Moreover, *the diversity of beliefs in our community is one of our greatest strengths.* Religious exemptions for vaccinations acknowledge this diversity and respect the cultural and spiritual nuances that guide many families. Eliminating these exemptions could lead to a homogenization of thought and practice, which goes against the very principles of inclusivity and pluralism our society champions. From a practical standpoint, the removal of religious exemptions does not guarantee an increase in vaccination rates. Instead, it might push families to seek alternative education options outside the public system, potentially leading to less oversight and accountability over their children's education and health. This could inadvertently increase public health risks rather than mitigate them, as these children would be less likely to be monitored by school health programs.

Furthermore, this legislation could set a precedent for further erosion of personal and parental rights over medical decisions. Health autonomy is a critical aspect of personal liberty and should be respected unless there is a clear, overwhelming public interest that can be served no other way. In this case, the current system of exemptions, combined with educational outreach and support for vaccination, has proven effective for many years.

I also want to stress that many in our community who claim religious exemptions are not anti-vaccine per se; rather, they seek to live in accordance with their faith, which might include a preference for natural immunity or concerns about the ingredients in vaccines. A more inclusive approach would involve dialogue and education, offering alternatives or accommodations where possible, rather than outright bans.

In closing, I urge the committee to reconsider this bill. Instead of removing religious exemptions, we should look for ways to strengthen our public health initiatives through education, open dialogue, and respect for individual rights. This approach not only respects constitutional freedoms but also fosters a community where diverse beliefs can coexist with public health goals.

Thank you for your attention and for considering this perspective.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:38:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

. ****Psychosocial Impact****: Mandating vaccines can create anxiety and stress for children and families who may feel pressured to comply. This could affect children's mental health and their perception of healthcare.

. ****Logistical Challenges****: Implementing and enforcing vaccine mandates in schools can be logistically complex and resource-intensive. Schools may struggle with tracking vaccination status and managing exemptions.

. ****Focus on Other Health Issues****: Some argue that schools should focus on broader health education and wellness initiatives rather than solely on vaccination. A comprehensive approach to health can address various issues students face.

. ****Potential for Division****: Vaccine mandates can create divisions within communities, pitting vaccinated families against unvaccinated ones. This polarization can undermine community cohesion and trust.

. ****Unintended Consequences****: Mandating vaccines might lead to unintended consequences, such as families choosing to homeschool or seek alternative education options rather than comply, which could reduce overall educational access.

1 ****Evolving Science****: The understanding of vaccines and their effectiveness can change over time. Mandating certain vaccines could become problematic if new evidence arises regarding their efficacy or necessity.

****Alternative Immunity****: Some argue that natural immunity acquired through previous infections can provide adequate protection against certain diseases. Mandating vaccines may overlook this perspective.

Long-term Consequences: The long-term societal impact of vaccine mandates is uncertain. Decisions made today may have unforeseen consequences for public health policies and community relations in the future.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:39:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ganya Raksilapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:40:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marichris Diga-Lazo	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair:

I am submitting my opposition against HB1118 as it removes parental rights for their choice on whether they want to vaccinate their child or not. It is not the state's choice to make medical decisions for a child. Removing religious exemptions goes against our constitutional rights and freedoms. Should this bill pass, it will have an impact not only on private schools, but public schools especially with enrollment.

Therefore, I humbly oppose HB 1118.

Mahalo,

Marichris

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:41:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian H Lim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118. As a concerned parent and citizen, I believe this legislation represents an unwarranted intrusion of government authority into decisions that properly belong to parents.

Parental Rights and Family Autonomy

Throughout our history, both our legal tradition and societal values have recognized that parents, not government officials, are best positioned to make decisions regarding the upbringing and education of their children. Parents understand the unique needs, values, and circumstances of their individual children in ways that no legislative body or government agency can.

HB1118 undermines this fundamental principle by substituting the judgment of legislators for that of parents on matters that should remain within the family sphere. This approach disregards the diverse backgrounds, beliefs, and circumstances of Hawaii's families.

Constitutional Concerns

This bill potentially infringes upon constitutionally protected liberties, including the right of parents to direct the upbringing and education of their children. The U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly recognized the primacy of parental rights in numerous decisions, including Meyer v. Nebraska and Pierce v. Society of Sisters.

One-Size-Fits-All Approach

Each child is unique, with distinct needs and circumstances. A one-size-fits-all legislative mandate fails to account for this diversity and may actually harm children whose situations require individualized approaches. Parents, not distant legislators, possess the intimate knowledge needed to make these nuanced decisions.

Call to Action

I respectfully urge you to vote against HB1118 and instead work to support and empower parents in their rightful role as the primary decision-makers for their children. Government should serve as a resource for families, not as a replacement for parental judgment.

Thank you for your consideration of these concerns.

Respectfully submitted,

Brian H Lim

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:41:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Timoteo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is George Timoteo, and I strongly oppose **HB1118**.

This bill seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for student vaccinations, directly infringing on parental rights and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. For generations, Hawaii has recognized and respected the right of families to make medical decisions based on their deeply held beliefs. Stripping away this exemption forces families into an impossible choice—compromising their faith or sacrificing their children’s access to education.

While public health is a priority, it should never come at the cost of fundamental individual rights. A balanced approach must honor both community well-being and the diverse values of Hawaii’s people. **HB1118 disregards this balance and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal and religious decisions.**

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:42:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yana Lins Bonetti	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose the bill.

I do believe vaccines can be helpful in the control of diseases but I do not trust the pharma producing them. We are being exposed to serious toxins in simple things like coughing syrup. I also do not agree with the amount of vaccines given at once bombarding our children's immune system since child birth. It's abusive to the kids, make parents acts with no empathy causing trauma and lack of trust. Besides the fact that I do see a difference in the behavior of overly vaccinated kids compared to kids that are not vaccinated or had less vaccinations.

The trust in the doctors, medical industry, health insurance and pharma must be reestablished so we can feel more safe to accept their protocols.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:42:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Liberato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Schools and or state/us governments should not have a say on what vaccinations my child should have. As a PARENT I should make that choice with their doctor to decide what is best for MY child. Especially when my child has special needs. Don't be dumb!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:42:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina De Witt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I believe each family should be able to make this decision with their doctor to allow their child to participate in FAPE. Forcing vaccinations on families is not just. People should be able to choose based on their medical and religious beliefs to vaccinate or not.

mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:44:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in opposition of this bill. Kill it! I do not comply or consent to an unauthorized medical procedure or vaccine for myself or family members. Injecting fetal tissues into our bodies is an abomination in the sight of Yahuah my Elohiym.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:45:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Timoteo	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kelli Timoteo, and I stand in **strong, unwavering opposition** to **HB1118**.

This bill is a **direct attack on religious freedom and parental rights**, stripping away long-standing protections that allow families to make medical decisions in alignment with their faith. **Forcing** families to comply with mandated vaccinations, despite their deeply held religious beliefs, is not just oppressive—it is **unconstitutional**. The right to religious exemption has been a fundamental principle in Hawaii, and removing it would force parents into an impossible and unjust choice: **violate their faith or deny their children an education**.

While public health is important, **it cannot come at the expense of religious liberties and individual rights**. **HB1118 is government overreach at its worst**, undermining the very freedoms that Hawaii has long upheld. The Constitution protects our right to religious practice without coercion—**this bill tramples on that right**.

For these reasons, I **strongly** urge you to **reject HB1118**. Mahalo for your time and consideration

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:45:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harold Teshima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. You are sworn an oath to uphold the constitution and this bill violates your oath. You have no right to violate the US constitution or my families religious beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:45:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I was raised to believe that my body is a 'temple' and to treat it with the utmost respect. I don't drink alcohol, smoke cigarettes or use drugs. Unfortunately after being bullied by my employer to get the COVID vaccine, I ended up having chest pain which resulted in an ER visit. A few days later, I was diagnosed with shingles. The doctor stated that the vaccine 'probably triggered it' (the shingles). Various other medical appointments ensued as a result of chest pain which I had never experienced before. After sharing my experience with my co-workers; I was terminated from my job without explanation.

Unfortunately during the pandemic, one family friend received the COVID vaccine and her husband passed away from a heart attack within a few days after receiving the vaccine. A second friend experienced chest pain and ringing in her ears after receiving the COVID vaccine. She committed suicide.

Years after being vaccinated, I still regret and am still angry that I was bullied to do something that I never felt comfortable doing in the first place. I went against my personal and religious beliefs to appease my employer and government in general. Both of these entities should have absolutely NO say with what I decide is best for myself and my family.

Unlike putting on and/or taking off a jacket, it is impossible to 'take off' or 'undo' a vaccine. Individuals should be FREE to choose what is best for themselves.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:45:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne F	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill isn't right & I don't agree with what the state is trying to do!! As a parent we should be able to decide what is right for our kids, freely!! No school should be able to give our kids any type of shot/vaccines without a parents consent!! So I oppose BILL HB1118!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:48:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Roa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people strongly oppose mandatory injections just to get an education. This is clearly government overreach. Please vote no on this bill. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:48:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hye Sun Kang	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly opposed this bill. It is our family's belief that we do not inject anything that is made as a result of abortion and all vaccines are made using aborted fetal cells. Home schooling is not an option for us. If this bill passes, I don't know how we will survive. We don't deny the access to public education based on race, sex, nationality. How can we deny a kid's right to education based on vaccination status?

You might say, oh we can deny the public education for unvaccinated kids because they can be a threat to others. If the vaccine-preventable disease ever happens at school or the county, our family is willing to let our kids stay home until the outbreak is clear, for other children's safety. Also, if you are worried about non-religious people submitting religious exemption just to avoid vaccines, why don't we ask them for a paperwork from church or something, instead of abolishing the religious exemption itself? Please oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:50:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zel Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No No No

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:50:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynnelle Callo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because it takes away our freedom as a Church, and the kids at the schools should have the privilege of getting the vaccinations that they need, and this is about helping those who are in need whether anyone likes it or not, and anyone who thinks that vaccinations regarding Religious freedom should be taken away from some students should think about serving those selflessly.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:50:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118 in regards to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. Children should not be subjected to receive immunizations to obtain an education in the State of Hawaii or anywhere for that matter. Parents are responsible for the health and well-being of their own children and should they object to their children getting immunizations, that is their right. Children should also have a say as to what they allow to put into their bodies. Their Body, Their Choice! People need to stop pushing their own profit-gaining agendas on the public. Again, I do NOT support HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:50:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristi millar	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear members of council

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which mandates vaccinations for children. This bill infringes upon my constitutional rights as a parent and my deeply held religious beliefs. Medical decisions, especially those concerning my children, should remain a personal and parental choice, not a government mandate.

Forcing individuals to vaccinate disregards the fundamental principles of bodily autonomy and informed consent. The Constitution protects my right to make medical decisions for my family without coercion or government interference. Additionally, many religious and philosophical traditions emphasize the sanctity of individual conscience in matters of health. This bill disregards those beliefs and imposes a one-size-fits-all solution that does not account for individual faith, medical history, or personal convictions.

Furthermore, the safety and effectiveness of vaccines continue to be a topic of debate. Mandating them without acknowledging potential risks or allowing parents to make informed decisions is unjust. Medical freedom is a cornerstone of a free society, and it must be preserved.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and protect the rights of parents to make healthcare decisions for their children. I also ask that you support policies that respect religious and personal freedoms rather than enforce mandates that violate them.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will stand with parents like me in defending our fundamental rights.

Sincerely,

Kristi Millar

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:50:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Bernal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Do not remove religious exemptions for vaccinations.
Mahalo.

Mahealani Bernal

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:50:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:51:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Waddell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:51:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arika kahao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mom of 4 3 out of 4 of my children are vaccinated. I chose not to vaccinate my last child and it was the best decision I made. I feel like it should be up to the parents to decide if their child should be vaccinated or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:52:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Cummins-Funaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 1118!! I believe that parents, should have the right to choose what goes into the bodies of our children. We should have the FREEDOM to choose what goes in our bodies!! Who are you to choose for us!!

Sincerely

Lynn

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:52:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keith Matsumura JR	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, my name is Keith Matsumura JR and I testify in opposition to HB1118. This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations and would limit parent choice and long-standing religious and personal freedoms. There are specific substances that are placed in vaccines and the processes used in the creation of certain vaccines that completely go against my personal faith and the faith of my entire household. Two of those household members are school aged and this unconstitutional bill would seek to take away my freedom of religion and that of my household. This bill is a direct attack on Hawaii's families who make medical decisions based on their religion and faith. When you take away religious freedoms, you seek to remove the foundations of what America was built on and the people of Hawaii need and deserve their religious freedoms. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:52:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nayeva Pajot-Gendron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a long time resident of Hawai'i Island and the mother of two middle school boys. I am deeply perturbed by bill HB1118 for myriad reasons....

First of all, vaccines are not conclusively proven to be 100% safe for all people. Medical decisions, especially where there's possible risks, are to be made between a doctor and their patient (or patients parents, in the case of a minor). It is not a decision for public servants to involve themselves in. Elected officials and government in a free country have no place dictating citizens' medical desisions, especially irreversible treatments/procedures.

Secondly, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...". In the United States of America, government has no right to infringe on the religious practices of citizens. Qualified elected officials and law makers are wise to remember the rights guaranteed to American citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America.

Finally, to deny a child's education based on unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical procedures is unethical. All children are entitled to a fair education, regardless of medical decisions. This bill falls close to some type of extortion on our children's health and should be stopped immediately.

Thank you for reading my thoughts on this atrocious, unconstitutional bill.

Sincerely,

Nayeve Pajot Gendron

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:54:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not in support of this HB1118 bill because i have seen first hand what vaccines does to children. Vaccines are NOT a one size fits all. My step brother and other family members got vaccine injuries that are irreversible. Therefore, my son did not get any vaccines because of the research I have done. It is so disappointing that pretty much anything goes in public school but we can't use our religious beliefs, why is this getting stripped away from us and our keiki? I will never support something like this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:54:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and am not in support of this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:55:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is my god given right and in the first amendment of the constitution. I am a Christian believer and pro life. Forcing these vaccines and taking away religious exemption is encroaching on my religious beliefs and values. I strongly oppose HB1118 bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:56:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Azevedo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a US citizen entitles me to My First Amendment rights, and as such, being a human being formed in the likeness of my creator I am endowed a right to an indisputable preservation of my body as a temple to my God, Elohim.

The State of Hawaii under the jurisdiction of the United States Constitution and a righteous God that is always true and always for His people is attempting to enact both blasphemy and crimes against its people by forcing them to alter their body in a way that neither God nor the American government support or encourage. Knowing what we know now about the covid vaccines and their Lawless and careless production it would be dangerous to force people to take something with such potential mortal consequences.

Undoubtedly as a taxpayer I am also concerned for the amount of lawsuits that this bill will incur once the Reckless decisions encouraged by this bill bear fruit. Please think about the lawsuits and please think about the tax dollars that will be wasted. But most of all please think about the children in the hard-working people of Hawaii that are entitled to life, Liberty, the pursuit of happiness and a relationship with their God. For those who don't know Him he is just a word but for those who do he is The Word and the reason for everything.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:57:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dacia Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dacia Takahashi and as a vaccine injured citizen, I oppose this bill. I oppose removal of any and all rights to choose what is best for myself and children based on my own medical research, advisement and religious beliefs. I reject this bill.

We the people have spoken.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:58:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elaine Bogard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill is unconstitutional.

As Americans, we are entitled to observe our religious tenets, and to worship and express devotion in the manner of our choosing, without government, industry, or medical interference or scrutiny. The removal of religious exemptions affects our right to make decisions for ourselves and our families. Instead, public health initiatives should focus on individuals taking responsibility for their own health outcomes.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:59:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mailah Gonsales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mailah Gonsales and I strongly OPPOSE bill HB1118.

I personally feel that it is our GOD GIVEN RIGHT as parents and legal gaurdians to PROTECT our keiki and ourselves from anything that may harm us and our keiki.

That includes individuals and government systems and mandates! We create these keiki inside of us and birth them in ti this world and it is up to us individuals to make educated well researched decisions on what is pono for our keiki.

It is FLAT OUT WRONG to TRY and MANDATE vaccinations for ALL keiki in order for them to attend school in the state of Hawaii.

Not every child is created the SAME! Not every child will react to vaccinations the same!

Taking away our Religious Rights and what we choose to beleive in as human beings is absolutely wrong!

Please consider all testimonies that OPPOSE this bill and really READ AND HEAR each one. Every person's story is different every person's reasons are different for opposing the bill that will REMOVE our constitutional rights for a Religious exemption against vaccines.

There are too many red flags and I along with many others are not comfortable with the government telling us we have to inject poison in to our keiki and "hope" the vaccine does what "they" said it should....

You government officials have let our community down in so many other aspects so many times , how can we trust you? How can we trust thr government? It saddens me that these topics are even on the table for discussion.

You are entitled your own personal opinions as individuals as well, but please consider ALL welhem making decisions that can and will harm and hurt our community going forward if you allow this bill to pass as a law.

God Bless you all

Thank you

Dear Members of the Committee,

I appreciate the opportunity to testify today regarding the proposed requirement for mandatory vaccinations for school attendance. While I fully support public health initiatives and informed medical choices, I strongly oppose any mandate that removes parental rights and informed consent in medical decisions for our children.

1. Parental Rights and Medical Freedom

Parents, not the government, should have the ultimate authority over their children's medical decisions. Each child is unique, and a one-size-fits-all approach to vaccinations disregards individual health concerns, pre-existing conditions, and family medical histories. Mandating vaccines removes a fundamental right of parents to make informed choices about what is best for their child's well-being.

2. Potential Risks and Individualized Health Needs

While vaccines are widely used, they are not without risks. Adverse reactions, though rare, do occur, and some children may have medical conditions that make vaccination a potential harm rather than a benefit. Parents must have the ability to weigh these risks in consultation with their healthcare providers, rather than being forced into a decision under government mandate.

3. Education Should Not Be Conditional on Medical Procedures

Every child has the right to an education, regardless of their vaccination status. Conditioning access to education on medical procedures sets a dangerous precedent. Families should not be forced to choose between their deeply held medical and personal beliefs and their child's right to attend school.

In conclusion, I urge this committee to reject any proposal that mandates vaccinations as a requirement for school attendance. Protecting public health is important, but it must be balanced with respect for parental rights, medical freedom, and individual choice. I respectfully request that policies be guided by these principles and that exemptions for personal, medical, and religious reasons remain protected.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kezya Rego

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:02:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Neeve McGrath	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a parent and Hawaii state resident, I vehemently oppose HB1118. Removing the religious or philosophical right to not vaccinate our children is unconstitutional and goes against our right to body autonomy, and freedom of religion. Our children have a right to a public education regardless of our religious beliefs. Individual religious beliefs are vastly different from family to family and do not require scrutiny from the state government. My tax dollars pay for many things and education is one of them! Vaccines come with many injuries and side effects and that is why there is a National Vaccine injury Compensation Fund! If you've never heard of it, please educate yourself. Thousands of children are injured each year! We have the right to decide what goes on our children's bodies! Please do NOT let this bill pass!!

Mahalo!

Neeve McGrath

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:03:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALANNA VELES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Legislature

From: Alanna Veles

Date: February 20, 20205

Subject: Opposition to Mandatory Vaccinations for Keiki to Enter Hawai'i Schools

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony in **strong opposition** to the mandatory requirement that all keiki receive the full schedule of required vaccinations in order to attend school in Hawai'i. While I respect public health initiatives, I believe that **medical decisions should remain a personal choice** made by parents or guardians in consultation with healthcare professionals, rather than a **one-size-fits-all government mandate**.

Concerns About Mandatory Vaccination Policies:

Parental Rights & Medical Freedom

Every child is unique, and medical decisions should be made based on **individual health needs, family beliefs, and personal medical history**. Parents should have the fundamental right to choose what is best for their keiki without coercion or exclusion from education.

Potential Health Risks & Individual Considerations

Not all children react the same way to vaccines. There are cases where **adverse reactions, allergies, or pre-existing conditions** make certain vaccinations unsafe for some keiki. A policy that **forces all children** to comply disregards the potential risks for those who may be medically vulnerable.

Informed Consent & Transparency

Families should have the **right to full transparency** regarding vaccine ingredients, safety data, and potential side effects before making an informed decision. **Mandates remove informed consent**, a key principle of ethical medical practice.

Educational Discrimination

Excluding children from school due to vaccination status **denies them their right to education**, a fundamental necessity for their growth, development, and future success. Every keiki should have access to education regardless of medical choices.

I urge lawmakers and education officials to **protect parental rights and medical freedom** by allowing exemptions and ensuring that no child is denied an education based on their vaccination status. Health decisions should be made with **respect for individual choice**, not through rigid mandates.

Mahalo for considering my testimony. I appreciate the opportunity to voice my concerns and advocate for the rights of parents and keiki in Hawai'i.

Blessings,

Alanna Veles

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:04:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Stacey Lopez and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long standing personal and religious freedom. As a parent this bill would adversely affect my family as we would have to remove our child from school and force us to move out of state in order to seek a state that that protects religious freedom. My husband and I where born and raised in Hawaii and do not want to leave our beloved island home but will do so if it means standing up for our religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. Wjile public health is important, policies should respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

for these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Stacey Lopez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:05:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Soares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong concern and opposition to bill HB1118. I was born and raised on the island of Hawaii. There was never an issue about vaccines until politicians wanted to focus on it. The focus has not been on education but on forced vaccinations. This bill will force anyone wanting to go to school to be vaccinated. Think about that. A basic normal part of life being stripped away!!

My concern is that this directly goes against my religious freedoms that are in the Constitution. This is not right. For anyone to tell me that I can not or I must do something takes away my freedom. I live in the United States of America, the land of the free, not China. My rights should not be taken away for any reason.

I believe in treating my body as a temple. I choose to use natural remedies. I choose to eat food that is organic. I choose to stay away from man made medicines and use what God has created. I believe God provided and continues to provide everything I need. God did not create vaccines. I choose not to be injected with vaccines. This is my choice.

Please do not take away my choice to practice what the bible tells me. This is my my right and my freedom, as it is everyone's.

This is not about weighing out the pros and cons of a "what-if" outbreak of a virus or disease due to me choosing not to be vaccinated. This is about taking away my freedom of religion and my rights.

There might be people who choose not to get vaccinated because they think vaccines are "bad." That's their choice. I think educating them about why they are good would be the way to go. My standpoint stays the same either way. My God, our God, can and will heal me. If it is God's will, it will be done. No law will change my beliefs. No mandate for vaccinations will force me to go against his word.

I know many people who whole heartedly and sincerely believe that taking vaccines go against our beliefs.

Please take this into consideration and oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Jennifer Soares

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:06:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Heathcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Thank you

Lindsey Heathcock MD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:09:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joey Mori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let the parents decide what is best for our own children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:11:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. For our family, this means that all 3 of our children would not be eligible to be educated in Hawaii. (Both of my sons are straight A students in private school. Our daughter is in public elementary school where she has access to additional programs that she needs.)

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Please do not make Hawaii families choose between their faith and accessing education.

With a doctorate in a health science research field, I am confident that I can make the appropriate vaccine decisions for my own children, based on my beliefs, while taking into consideration public health and safety.

I strongly testify in opposition to HB1118.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:11:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I oppose this bill 1118 as it's a violation of our constitutional right. The government has no right to take away how we exercise our religious practices.

thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:14:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne Earwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There are two major barriers instituted to protect American citizens from government overreach. One is the Constitution and the other is the Church. It is unconstitutional to require mandatory vaccination because it violates an individual's civil rights. Additionally, the government must not meddle in the affairs of the Church. American citizens have religious freedoms, both within the Church body and as individuals. To remove religious exemptions is to remove the very foundation of the United States of America. These Constitutional and religious freedoms are sacrosanct in America. "Any law repugnant to the Constitution is null and void!" The Supreme Court will ultimately strike down any law passed by the Hawaiian legislature that ignores or removes Constitutional and religious freedoms. HB1118 is unconstitutional on its face. Oppose! [Also, be aware of what is going on in the rest of our country. Religious exemptions that were violated during the "pandemic" by schools, colleges, universities, the military, and corporations have been upheld in the courts and restitution has been required. Meanwhile, modern studies show that the lack of adequate and transparent safety testing has resulted in vaccines which are neither safe nor effective for the general public. People have the right to say no to such irresponsible products.]

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:15:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olivia Filoteo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is illegal and each individual should have say of their own lives! Just because you believe in it doesn't mean you force your beliefs on us! I strongly oppose this bill, it is hewa!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:16:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane kimokeo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear [Legislative Committee Members],

I am writing as a deeply concerned parent and citizen of Hawaii to express my strong opposition to the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. This proposed change infringes upon fundamental rights and disregards the deeply held beliefs of many families across our state. As parents, we have a duty to protect our children, and that includes making informed medical decisions that align with our faith, values, and understanding of potential risks.

Preserving Religious Freedom and Parental Rights

Hawaii has long been a place of cultural and religious diversity, and our state should uphold the constitutional right to freedom of religion. By removing religious exemptions for vaccinations, the government is forcing families to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs in order to access education and other public services. This is an unconstitutional overreach that discriminates against families who believe that medical decisions should be guided by their faith.

Parents should have the right to make medical choices for their children without coercion. Many families in Hawaii hold religious convictions that emphasize bodily autonomy, natural immunity, or ethical concerns regarding vaccine ingredients. Forcing compliance with mandatory vaccinations disregards these deeply held beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for future government overreach into our personal and religious lives.

Concerns Over Vaccine Injury and Medical Freedom

While vaccines have provided public health benefits, it is also undeniable that there are risks associated with them. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out over \$4 billion to families affected by vaccine injuries, proving that adverse reactions are real and not as rare as many claim. Some children experience severe allergic reactions, neurological complications, or long-term health issues after vaccination.

Parents should have the right to weigh these risks and make an informed decision based on their child's individual health needs. Medical exemptions are extremely difficult to obtain, even for children who have had prior vaccine reactions, making religious exemptions one of the only options left for parents who have legitimate concerns about vaccine safety.

Impact on Hawaii's Families and Communities

Hawaii already faces challenges with affordability, access to healthcare, and ensuring families have autonomy in raising their children. Removing religious exemptions creates additional stress for families who will be forced to choose between their faith and their child's education. This disproportionately impacts local families who may already be struggling with the high cost of living and limited schooling options.

Furthermore, removing these exemptions does not acknowledge the natural immunity many children already possess. Emerging studies show that natural immunity in many cases provides robust and long-lasting protection. Shouldn't parents have the ability to decide what is best for their child's health, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all medical mandate?

A Call for Common Sense and Parental Choice

I urge lawmakers to consider the serious ethical and medical implications of removing religious exemptions. The government should never come between a parent and their child when it comes to personal health decisions. Medical freedom is a fundamental human right, and in a democracy, individuals must be able to exercise their beliefs without fear of exclusion or discrimination.

Hawaii has always been a place of respect, understanding, and personal choice. Let's uphold these values by preserving religious exemptions and allowing parents to make informed medical decisions without coercion.

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation that seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:17:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Prisma Brewer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As your constituent, I do not consent to removing religious exemptions for school children.
Please vote to oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:18:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118 HD1.

The legislature is committing government over-reach with this bill. Non-medical exemptions for immunizations or other invasive procedures must be authorized. Parents must decide what is best for their children, not legislators.

I have seen the horrendous side effects that many individuals experienced with the most recent experimental vaccine that was forced on many of Hawaii's residents. If vaccines were safe and effective, pharmaceutical companies wouldn't be need to be protected under the Public Readiness and Emergency Preparedness (PREP) Act that gives companies total immunity from liability from negative reactions to their product. If vaccines were safe and effective, there would be no need for the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), which contains millions of adverse events since the roll-out of the COVID-19 injection in 2021.

An adverse event may be a statistic to our legislators, but it is a serious problem (including death) for anyone who suffers one. Taking a vaccine is like playing Russian roulette. Many of these "vaccines" are untested. Those who take the injection are the guinea pigs.

The U.S. Constitution's first amendment's protection of religious liberty can't be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, procedure, etc. that violates their religious beliefs, as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well formed conscience. As a retired military officer, I was duty bound to disobey unlawful orders. This bill is unlawful and immoral.

Was the legislature giving false information when it included the following statement in this year's SB1246, "The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii have a long tradition of protecting an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy independently of, and more broadly than, the federal constitution."

If the state cares about protecting the right to privacy, especially in medical matters, and the residents of Hawaii actually have bodily autonomy (i.e. our own body - not a separate body inside our womb), then you can't pass this bill.

Vote no on HB1118 HD1 and any other similar bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:18:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy lapuebla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Vaccines should never be mandated, especially when it comes to our most vulnerable keiki. There is mounting evidence from various studies linking vaccines to serious adverse effects, including myocarditis, ADHD, autism, and even death. According to the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), thousands of cases have been reported as a result of vaccinations, and it is widely acknowledged that only about 1% of incidents are ever reported.

Additionally, vaccine manufacturers are shielded from liability, as they are immune to lawsuits related to vaccine injuries. This lack of accountability is deeply concerning. Furthermore, the government has already paid nearly \$5 billion to victims of vaccine injuries through the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. These funds should not be sourced from taxpayers but from the pharmaceutical companies that create these vaccines.

In addition, doctors receive exorbitant bonuses when they vaccinate kids, which is outrageous! No wonder they push for vaccines.

We must prioritize individual choice and responsibility over forced mandates, particularly when it comes to the health and safety of our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:19:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainoa Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am OPPOSING this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:21:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill and stop trying to take away people's rights to their religious beliefs and decisions for their bodies. You proclaim to be all about "my body my choice" when it comes to ending babies lives or mutilating minors, but when it comes to people's strongly held beliefs in rejecting substances they believe are not acceptable for their body, you are trying to deny them that right. When making decisions such as this, in this case regarding whether or not to inject a substance into thier body, a religious person will go deep into prayer asking their creator for guidance as to what is the right choice. You have no right to deny someone's deeply held belief and guidance as to what decisions they make.

When I checked, this bill had 1,497 pages of testimony submitted. A word check showed the word "support" was used 358 times. The word "oppose" was used 1,897 times. (Over four times as many instances of "oppose") Yet, you passed it through.

This attempmt to force everyone to take every vaccine product, falsely assumes all vaccines are safe and effective, which sadly we are seeing they are NOT. There should be no forcing of new products that were not adequately tested and were rushed to market, and have now shown to have serious adverse reactions and deaths, or products that contain substances that are objectionable to religious people.

You are showing that you are not listening to your constituents, but rather following an agenda to force your beliefs on everyone and deny people their rights to follow their religious beliefs and guidance regarding what they want to do or not do to their bodies.

I urge you not to continue to try to pass this bill, and to respect the religious freedom we are supposed to be guaranteed as Americans.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:21:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Beers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I most strongly OPPOSE HB1118 HD1 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. As a concerned citizen who has bona fide religious tenants and practices that could lead me to object to mandatory immunization, the language of this bill seems to be in direct conflict with fundamental rights established in the 2nd amendment of our U.S. Constitution. Phasing out future religious exemption for anyone not currently exempt would coerce those who have bona fide religious tenants and practices that might object to a mandatory immunization to compromise their beliefs so that they can receive the education benefit that their mandatory tax dollars have funded. Or not give into the coercion, and forego the benefit, and separately pay for alternative education.

This proposed HB1118 is a terrible trampling on fundamental rights of Hawaiian citizens. Please do the right thing and not pass HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:22:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darcie Nakaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am born and raised in Honolulu, Hawaii, and my husband and I have two sons. I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which threatens the fundamental liberties upon which America was founded. This nation was built on the principles of freedom, including the right to make personal medical decisions in accordance with one's religious beliefs and conscience. Forcing citizens to receive a vaccine—especially one developed under emergency conditions—violates those principles and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach.

Many individuals, including myself, hold deep religious convictions against taking certain medical treatments, and no government should have the power to override those beliefs. The First Amendment guarantees our right to religious freedom, and any law mandating vaccinations against one's faith is an unconstitutional infringement on that right.

Furthermore, it is now evident that these vaccines carried risks that were not fully disclosed at the time of their rollout. Reports of adverse effects, combined with the legal immunity granted to pharmaceutical companies, raise serious concerns about accountability and informed consent. If a product causes harm, those responsible should be held liable—not shielded from consequences while citizens are forced to comply.

HB1118 is an attack on bodily autonomy and personal liberty. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and uphold the freedoms that define our country.

Sincerely,

Darcie Nakaoka

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:22:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
June Kawamura	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I adamantly oppose HB1118 which will take away parental right to make medical decisions for their children whether be it religious or otherwise. I have friends who have children that had adverse reactions to vaccine which has caused lifelong injury to their children. Government should not take away parental rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:23:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

this is against our first amendment rights.

The government should not have a say in my or my children's personal health care.

we as the people should have a right to choose what we put in our and our children's bodies.

i oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:24:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Isono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents should have the right to weigh risks and make an informed decision based on their child's individual health needs. Medical exemptions are extremely difficult to obtain, even for children who have had prior vaccine reactions, making religious exemptions one of the only options left for parents who have legitimate concerns about vaccine safety.

I urge lawmakers to consider the serious ethical and medical implications of removing religious exemptions. The government should never come between a parent and their child when it comes to personal health decisions. Medical freedom is a fundamental human right, and in a democracy, individuals must be able to exercise their beliefs without fear of exclusion or discrimination.

Hawai'i has always been a place of respect, understanding, and personal choice. Let's uphold these values by preserving religious exemptions and allowing parents to make informed medical decisions without coercion.

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation that seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:24:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Mustoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to H.B. 1118

Opposition to H.B. 1118 – Removal of Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

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

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to H.B. 1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school immunization requirements. This bill is a direct violation of constitutional rights to religious freedom and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into deeply held personal and religious beliefs.

1. Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. For many, vaccination is not just a medical decision but a moral and religious one. By eliminating religious exemptions, the state is essentially forcing parents to choose between their faith and their child's education—a choice that no free society should impose.

Additionally, Hawai'i's own Constitution (Article I, Section 4) states that "no law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This bill directly contradicts that principle by restricting religious expression in the form of medical choice.

2. Government Overreach and Discrimination

H.B. 1118 unfairly targets religious families while still allowing medical exemptions. Why should medical reasons be deemed more valid than sincerely held religious beliefs? The government should not have the power to dictate which beliefs are acceptable when it comes to personal health decisions.

Furthermore, by grandfathering in existing religious exemptions, this bill creates a two-tiered system where some children are allowed to maintain their religious rights while others are not. This arbitrary cut-off is unjust and discriminatory.

3. No Justification for Removing Religious Exemptions

The bill argues that rising exemption rates increase the risk of disease outbreaks, yet there is no evidence that religious exemptions alone are responsible for any public health crisis in Hawai'i. Many unvaccinated children remain healthy and pose no greater threat than those vaccinated, as immunity is not guaranteed even with vaccination. The state should not infringe on religious liberties without clear and compelling justification, which this bill fails to provide.

4. A Better Approach

Instead of removing religious rights, the Legislature should focus on education and informed consent, allowing parents to make decisions based on science, faith, and personal values. Public health policies should be about persuasion, not coercion.

Conclusion

H.B. 1118 violates fundamental religious freedoms, discriminates against religious families, and sets a dangerous precedent for government interference in personal beliefs. The State of Hawai'i must uphold the rights of all individuals, regardless of their religious stance on immunizations. I urge you to reject this bill and protect religious liberty for all residents of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully submitted,

Rachel Mustoe

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:25:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johanna Anagaran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned resident and parent of two young children, I strongly oppose HB1118.

It is the constitutional duty of the State of Hawai'i to allow parents and students the freedom to choose whether or not to have all the vaccines, some of them, or none of them- according to their conscience and/or religious belief. We should allow for the diversity of beliefs regarding what we as parents deem safe to put in the bodies of our own and our own children.

It is further my opinion that there should be no mandates for medical products - in particular in which producing companies take no liability for any adverse effects. From my humble understanding, there is not enough data from the CDC or other highly peer-reviewed literature journals/experts in the scientific community that proves that vaccines (like e.g. pertussis) can avoid infection and transmission. Consequently, most of them do not reduce circulation of the disease or insert any herd immunity. Most of the American People and the People of Hawai'i do not know this. Quite surprisingly, some data shows that people who do get vaccinated might be more contagious and spread a-symptomatically in their work environments or schools thereof posing a risk to others. I am not requesting that vaccines should be prohibited, but demand that they should be used responsibly with informed consent on an individual case-to-case basis and be a free choice of personal protection for individuals that desire them, not be forced upon individuals that do not. I do want to appeal to common sense, which would be in my eyes to rather invest in education to let individuals make informed choices for themselves rather than spending 2-3 millions on bulk vaccine buys. I would also very much welcome other health measures to improve our public health in our communities that prevent spreading of disease, such as biodegradable soap in public bathrooms. Even in the Covid Pandemic where the significance of handwashing got highlighted majorly in schools to prevent disease spreading - no money got allocated for public safety and threat reduction by putting soap into these bathrooms. I do believe your intention with this bill is to protect people and keep them safe from disease and fatalities. Please do consider that the leading cause of death in Hawai'i is heart disease, however, we do not mandate at-risk individuals to take common heart disease medications (like ACE inhibitors, Beta blockers, calcium channel blockers or others), nor do we mandate for them to exercise more or change their diet.

I want to thank you very much for your time reading my response and kindly ask you as are our elected representatives to take a stance and oppose this bill and keep Hawai'i a diversified and free State. Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:25:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandon Penner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to H.B. 1118

Opposition to H.B. 1118 – Removal of Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

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

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to H.B. 1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school immunization requirements. This bill is a direct violation of constitutional rights to religious freedom and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into deeply held personal and religious beliefs.

1. Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. For many, vaccination is not just a medical decision but a moral and religious one. By eliminating religious exemptions, the state is essentially forcing parents to choose between their faith and their child's education—a choice that no free society should impose.

Additionally, Hawai'i's own Constitution (Article I, Section 4) states that "no law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This bill directly contradicts that principle by restricting religious expression in the form of medical choice.

2. Government Overreach and Discrimination

H.B. 1118 unfairly targets religious families while still allowing medical exemptions. Why should medical reasons be deemed more valid than sincerely held religious beliefs? The government should not have the power to dictate which beliefs are acceptable when it comes to personal health decisions.

Furthermore, by grandfathering in existing religious exemptions, this bill creates a two-tiered system where some children are allowed to maintain their religious rights while others are not. This arbitrary cut-off is unjust and discriminatory.

3. No Justification for Removing Religious Exemptions

The bill argues that rising exemption rates increase the risk of disease outbreaks, yet there is no evidence that religious exemptions alone are responsible for any public health crisis in Hawai'i. Many unvaccinated children remain healthy and pose no greater threat than those vaccinated, as immunity is not guaranteed even with vaccination. The state should not infringe on religious liberties without clear and compelling justification, which this bill fails to provide.

4. A Better Approach

Instead of removing religious rights, the Legislature should focus on education and informed consent, allowing parents to make decisions based on science, faith, and personal values. Public health policies should be about persuasion, not coercion.

Conclusion

H.B. 1118 violates fundamental religious freedoms, discriminates against religious families, and sets a dangerous precedent for government interference in personal beliefs. The State of Hawai'i must uphold the rights of all individuals, regardless of their religious stance on immunizations. I urge you to reject this bill and protect religious liberty for all residents of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time.

Brandon Penner

Aloha Chair,

My name is Eric Ozburn, and I testify in opposition to HB1118. This bill, which would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, infringes upon parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I speak from personal experience, as my two school-age children currently have active religious vaccination exemptions in place.

My opposition stems from my deeply held religious beliefs. As a Christian, I believe that Jesus Christ is my Lord and Savior, and I have a personal responsibility to lead my family in accordance with our faith. This includes serving as their spiritual leader, provider, and protector.

In 2023, after 24 years of honorable service in the US Air Force, I believe God led me to retire early and decline the COVID-19 vaccine. This conviction prompted me to research vaccines extensively, and I ultimately concluded that all vaccinations are harmful and go against my religious beliefs. Therefore, I cannot, in good conscience, allow my children to be vaccinated.

Hawaii has a long history of respecting the rights of individuals to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious convictions. Removing religious exemptions would force families like mine to choose between our faith and our children's access to education. While public health is important, policies should respect individual liberties and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that you consider the impact of HB1118 on families like mine and uphold the right to religious exemptions for student vaccinations.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Eric Ozburn

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:26:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose hb1118

This bill does not benefit the people of Hawai'i. This bill removes inalienable rights from the people of this land.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:26:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Pave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

CHOICE! It should be a choice!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:27:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We should have a choice not the government to choose for us.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:27:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jade Rego	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't pass this law. Children do not need all their vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:28:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Grigore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to all. I appreciate you taking the time to read over our testimonies.

I am a mother to a 12 year old daughter. She is an active student and competitive swimmer in our community. We are an example of a family who opposes vaccines due to truly held religious beliefs. If this bill gets passed, you are forcing hardship on a child that doesn't deserve it. We will have to homeschool or move out of state due to decision that truly shouldn't be yours to make. Leave body autonomy decisions out of the government's hands please.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:29:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I oppose this bill. I believe it is our God-given right to able to choose what we believe is right for our children according to our religious beliefs..

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:30:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliana Redona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Eliana Redona, a member of Inspire Church Kapolei. I identify as a practicing Christian. In my faith, we are told that our body is the temple of the Holy Spirit as referenced in the bible (1 Corinthians 6:19-20). This pertains to anything regarding my body, and body alone. Being that we are able to feel convicted about certain decisions or medications we allow into our body, I would like to oppose HB1118. This bill will ultimately take away our religious freedoms and liberties, while forcing parents to ultimately make the hard decision regarding our child's education. As a parent of 3 young children (two of them being students at Kapolei Elementary School), this bill would make education opportunities harder to come by. I wouldn't even be able to enroll my children into a private institution either, because those would also be covered by this bill.

Being that the state of Hawai'i is already too expensive to live in, it requires most families to have both parents in the household working. With this bill, it would force more families into deeper stress and anxiety having to take drastic cuts in income to stay home and homeschool our children. I for one, am starting school in the next upcoming weeks to become a Medical Assistant because being a stay at home parent is taking a major toll on our family financially. If this bill were to pass, I would be forced to continue to stay home with our children and continue to face more financial hardship. Also, homeschool is not free, let alone cheap. The cost of groceries would increase, the cost of books and education supplies would add up, and we wouldn't be able to afford to buy each of our children computers to ensure they have the greatest success in their education.

Instead of doing something so drastic, maybe we can come up with a solution that would ultimately lead to less extreme measures such as parents keeping their children home from school when they're sick, which seems to work better for parents. It's better to have parents take off from work for a day or two to care for their sick children, than to lose a whole income due to this unfair, inconsiderate bill.

Please understand that this is the stance of most of the people of our faith, or even those of no faith who simply don't want to put their bodies through the hassle of medication that has proven in many cases to have harsh side effects, and life-long issues. Again, my name is Eliana Redona, and I am in complete opposition of HB1118. Thank you so much for hearing my short testimony,

and I hope this state continues to be one that protects our bodily autonomy, and religious freedoms.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:30:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa masutani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% against this bill. It is our legal right as citizens to choose what medical treatments that we receive or our children.

My father in law passed away after receiving the Covid 19 vaccine that was required by the state. My son started taking the "required to attend school vaccines" around 1 year old and had an allergic reaction.

If something were to happen to my son, it would be just checked off as a vaccine injury or god for bid death. There would be no accountability from the state.
i am again against this bill and everything it stands for.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:31:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiffany nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to oppose the bill that takes away personal and religious exemptions of vaccination. I want my children to have a choice in whether they want to be vaccinated or not. They should not be mandated to be vaccinated for school or work purposes. Please remove the Bill HB1118 from legislation. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:33:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is discriminating against my religious rights. I as a parent have an obligation to stand up for my child and our future children. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:33:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Brede	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please note this submission as my opposition for this bill HB1118. **Religious exemptions for vaccines should be allowed for all.** This restriction (hb1118) would conflict with the first amendment in our constitution for the right to religious freedom. By no longer allowing religious exemptions for vaccines, this is essentially telling someone they no longer have their right to religious freedom. Parents should have the ability to choose what is best for their religion and child.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:34:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members:

"The most compassionate approach that balances the risks and benefits of reaching herd immunity, is to allow those who are at minimal risk of death to live their lives normally to build up immunity to the virus through natural infection, while better protecting those who are at highest risk. We call this Focused Protection. " From The Great Barrington Declaration accessed at <https://gbdeclaration.org> on Feb. 19, 2025

I am deeply disturbed that our Hawaii Health Department and Governor Joshua Green have no idea about how to get to Herd-Immunity without harming the public!

The proverb that i learned as a child comes to mind when reading this legislation, "For a person who has only only a hammer, everything is a nail!" Yes, the Governor is an "MD" and partly that could just be his problem, he has one tool and it seems to me it is the needle! He is only satisfied by sticking his needle in everyone's arms regardless of the situation to feel he has done something for the benefit to the individual he is targeting! This is not only wrong but is unscientific and foolish! The claim to have only "medical Exemption" which the government seems to have control over by the threat of license revocation on the medical doctors is a real power mongering as everyone who in Hawaii who stood against the mass vaccination regardless of the outcome was dismissed yet we have COVID still running back and forth because of lack of Herd Immunity! The Public Health Experts who The public health impact of the total shutdown that harmed thousands of lives and especially the poor and the most vulnerable! Please read <https://gbdeclaration.org> from the most respected public health experts who spoke in August , 2020 to keep the country safe, and healthy and prosperous in body, mind and spirit. Yet there was no one listening but to the big-pharma-agents! Please reject this power play by Pharmaceutical companies and their cronies that may inspire Governor Green more than the real science and move this elected Governor to pushing an injection on all of Hawaiians, especially on those most vulnerable children. My brother's family has two boys damaged by Autism in America, the vaccines hurt more minorities (i am african american) than others and more boys are harmed than gilrs , Please listen to the cry of peolpe and don't let big-pharma get exemptions and more funding to harm children and adults! My bropther and his kids lives are never be the easy and the same as my childhood, while I being born in Africa was one of ten and none of us have any autism even though I am number nine born very late in my parents life and no sign of this affliction in our genetic background! Why have 20 or more vaccines before the age of one year old! Due to my past exeperience, I refused the COVID vaccine and I am more healthier and

safer than many of my friends and colleagues at work who call in sick for respiratorial challenges and cold related symptoms as they were coerced to take vaccines, since the Natural Immunity that I acquired appears to be more wholesome in combating COVID than the "injection"! Please read again the Great Barrington Declaration at <https://gbdeclaration.org> to find what the NHI and CDC got wrong with respect to COVID and caused many other ailments to increase (cancer, heart attack, and many other diseases have increase in every control group since the introduction of mass COVID vaccines!) The VAERS data at <https://vaers.hhs.gov> on what havoc vaccines have since done. And now the respected Governor , who was the lieutenant at the time of the COVID dilemma, would even more power to perform something that could harm even more people in Hawaii Nei!

May Righteousness and not Terror Reign in Hawaii Nei!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:36:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsea Hoff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my deeply held religious belief that prevents me from vaccinating my children. It is a vital religious freedom to allow parents the right to make these important decisions for our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:38:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina D.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

Our family strongly oppose HB1118. Most adults are not up to date with the adult vaccine schedule of 229 doses, and are not forced to quit their work nor have proof of a religious exemption. We all can transmit disease, right? This bill is not about health, it is about control and honestly a simple no should be enough for saying no to any for-profit medical intervention on our own bodies or our children's.

Persons may have strong moral, ethical, religious, conscientious, and scientific reasons why they decline consuming biological products that contain fetal cell proteins and DNA, animal/insect/fungal protein and DNA, and other chemicals and adjuvants [4] contained in vaccine products.

Individuals have a fundamental human right to bodily sovereignty. Prior, free and informed consent is a guiding pillar of the medical practice. Article 6 of the Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights states in paragraph 1, "Any preventive, diagnostic and therapeutic medical intervention is only to be carried out with the prior, free and informed consent of the person concerned, based on adequate information. The consent should, where appropriate, be express and may be withdrawn by the person concerned at any time and for any reason without disadvantage or prejudice" [5]. The Nuremberg Code of 1947 states, "The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential" [6]. Vaccine mandates have no place in a free society; therefore, we must protect informed consent and medical autonomy which underpin the ethical practices of medicine.

Thanks for doing the right thing and voting no on this unjust bill.

Sincerely,

Tina D. Maui

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:38:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Homestead	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill is unconstitutional and impinges on our First Ammendment rights. There is no health emergency to call for such draconian laws. The system currently in place has worked and will continue to work.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:38:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chasity Kekahuna-Kalamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I BELIEVE IT SHOULD BE A CHOICE!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:39:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill raises constitutional questions. Religious exemptions should always be allowed. Seems this did not go through the proper process up to this point. This undermines the authority of the parents and their right to religion and to raise their children according to their beliefs. Please care about Hawaiis children and vote no.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:39:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Barba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed. Please protect my constitutional rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:40:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mele Kalama-Kingma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian, my child's health care is my kuleana, not the government. Our firmly held religious beliefs and cultural practices prohibit us from trusting in western medicine without questioning. While we have given our keiki certain vaccines, it is our religious belief that Ke Akua directs us how. We do not take orders from doctors that do not understand our approach to health and healing. We also do not take lightly the very real risks that come with foreign disease. We are not irresponsible to others, but are very connected to the Source in which we must move accordingly to Ke Akua's plan, and not the vaccine schedule of a billion dollar corporate industry. This is our religious belief: We are the healers of our own keiki and will listen to Ke Akua solely. Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:40:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom this may concern,

I Don't agree with this Bill because kids have rights to their bodies, and they can be injured by jabs/vaccines. This is discrimination and it's not okay why even come up with a bill like this people have kids with medical and religious reason why they don't take the jab/vaccines also people died from the jab/vaccines so why make it mandatory. I seen interviews of parents notice after their child had taken a vaccine they were not the same and it can really damage a child. Our children are all still developing and growing. We have choices with our children this bill will not solve anything. being required to take such a jab or any sort of vaccines should not even be up to the government it's up to us as parents we protect our children.

To think politicians children if you have children and they were being required to take something you don't even know what's in it and your child had a medical condition so they couldn't take whatever it was you would be okay with that ? And force them to take even though think about that! You would be okay if your child got injured by a vaccine?

put yourselves in our shoes and stop thinking about making dumb bills that will not solve any situations unless it's to make money that's all you Pilauticians think about.

Get it through your guys heads you will not control we the people and we the people's children.

You pilauticians need to leave our children alone!!!!

Take this BILL AWAY !!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:40:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joni Kamiya	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair and committee members,

I am asking you to support the removal of religious exemptions from childhood immunizations. As we are seeing across our nation, once eradicated diseases like measles is making a comeback thanks to disinformation campaigns on the social media. Our nation was declared measles-free 25 years ago and that is no longer the case.

As leaders of our state, you have an utmost responsibility to our communities to review the evidence and listen to the experts in medicine to make decisions for the best interest of all. Yes, the pleading cries of mothers are hard to ignore but you must realize that they are relying upon unfounded information to stir up emotions in you as leaders. Reviewing the evidence is what your responsibility is first and foremost and guide people with that evidence.

As we have seen in Samoa, a low vaccination rate led to so many deaths and suffering. It ultimately led to a mass vaccination campaign that protects the most vulnerable.

Hawaii can easily become overwhelmed with preventable diseases if we don't take this critical step towards protecting our keiki with the passage of this law. Do you want to see kids suffering with measles and other sequela from avoiding vaccines?

we cannot rely upon emotional cries against this bill but need fact based information to protect everyone, including so many others with compromised immune systems.

Protect our keiki now and future generations to have healthy and productive lives by passing this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:42:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dalton Drake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Its as simple as not allowing the state to take away our constitutional rights. We can decide with our own research and guidance from medical professionals NOT POLITICIANS if our children or anyone must get a vaccine. I encourage politicians to do their own research and look up the cases or children being disabled and then dying at very young age due to negative symptoms of vaccinations they they are told they need! Have a heart!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:42:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rocio Bueno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118_HD1.

- This bill would enact a law that is discriminatory against children and families who hold certain religious beliefs and practices.
- We all pay taxes that help fund public services, including receiving a public education.
- The 14th amendment might protect the right to a public education regardless of religious beliefs and practices.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:43:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Kawika Marasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Oppose!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:43:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elena Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Everyone should have the right to choose their best course of medical treatment with recommendations from their physicians. We the citizens should not be required by law to be vaccinated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:43:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacquelyn Born	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Hawaiians see entitled to 1st amendment religious freedom. There is no health emergency and current established RE system has been working fine. Government needs to stop acting like California and listen to the Hawaiian people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:44:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I go against these vaccines because there is NO facts that these vaccines can benefit to my child's health.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:47:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aryn Nakaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB1118 & Mandatory Vaccination

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to vehemently oppose HB1118, a direct assault on the fundamental liberties upon which this nation was built. The United States was founded on the principles of freedom—chief among them, the right to make personal medical decisions based on one’s religious beliefs and conscience. Mandating vaccination, particularly one developed under emergency conditions, is an unacceptable overreach of government power and sets a dangerous precedent for future coercion.

Religious freedom is not negotiable. Many citizens hold deep, unwavering convictions against certain medical interventions, and no government has the authority to trample those beliefs. The First Amendment explicitly guarantees our right to religious liberty, and any law that forces vaccination in violation of those beliefs is not only unconstitutional but morally indefensible. What happened to the separation of church and state? At what point did the state decide it was our church?

Beyond the blatant constitutional violations, HB1118 places an undue financial burden on families who refuse vaccination for religious reasons. Parents unable or unprepared to homeschool will be forced to make an impossible choice between their faith and their children's education. Homeschooling requires significant time, labor, and financial resources—not something every family can afford. Will the state refund the tax dollars these families pay toward the Department of Education, given that they are being denied access to the very system their taxes support? Are we now at a point where religious families must either compromise their beliefs or forfeit public education, a service they continue to fund?

Furthermore, what about private schools? If the state is now dictating how private institutions select their students, will there be compensation for families who have invested in private education only to be told that religious exemptions no longer apply? Are lawmakers prepared to override a religious school’s right to uphold its faith-based principles? If the government can force religious institutions to comply with mandates that contradict their doctrine, what’s stopping the state from dictating religious beliefs altogether? This is a dangerous and unconstitutional slippery slope.

And what is next? Shall we force everyone to take the annual flu shot that doesn't even cover most flu strains? Or shall we dictate circumcision for all because some believe it has health benefits? Where do you draw the line? If the government can force medical interventions on its citizens under the guise of public safety, then personal choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy no longer exist.

The implications of HB1118 reach far beyond public health—it is an attack on bodily autonomy, personal liberty, and religious freedom. I urge you in the strongest possible terms to reject this bill and uphold the freedoms that define our country.

Aloha.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:48:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill is taking away our rights as parents and as Humans. We all have a right to choose what we want or don't want. Especially when it comes to our children. Taking away the right to go to school because our state makes a decision that it is mandatory for OUR children to get vaccinated is unbelievable and unacceptable. Parents know the risk they are taking when they choose to not vaccinate, same goes with the one who choose to vaccinate. It's not up to the state or the government to make that choice for us. If you pass this bill I promise you will have no kids in public school anymore. The schools will be shut down because you all wanted to make a choice that wasn't yours to make. You guys so busy worrying about mandating vaccines, what about affordable healthcare? Affordable housing? The homeless problem we having going on in Hawaii? This is a pointless bill and our governor sure has shown he's not focused on helping the Kanaka Maoli of Hawaii. Not in anyway ! Do not pass this bill for the future of our children !

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:49:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristie Suan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Kristie Suan, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a Christian parent, I strongly believe no one should make decisions for my child as to what types of vaccinations she should get. This bill goes against our 1st ammendment rights set forth by our forefathers.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasong, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:50:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL PLEASE

MAHALO NUI LOA

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:53:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Naki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:53:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. With all the people opposing this bill, you are still pushing it through. Each individual has the right to their religion beliefs. It is not the governments right to tell the individuals that their religion beliefs are no longer valid. You are overstepping. It's a parents right to decide if they want to put that poison in their kids or not. This bill should be killed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:54:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Enriquez Tangaro	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Everyone should have a choice

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:54:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drew Farr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill, this restricts our (parents) freedom of choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:54:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Scanlan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not take away my right to practice my religion. My body my choice is something everyone believes in. As mothers we also have to make choices for our children. These vaccine have a myriad of toxic ingredients. They should not be forced upon for a child to attend school either public or private. My child getting their vaccine does not protect other children from getting something like the measles. We were all fooled when the Covid vaccine came out and the news Rachel Maddow said that the spread of the disease stops with every vaccination that turn out to be a lie. I work in healthcare and have heard the senario one too many times "I'm vaccinated and boosted all boosters" and still positive Covid. So tell me how vaccines stop people from getting the disease and spreading it? Same with all the other vaccines. And tell me when was the last time someone died from diarriah??? And let me know why the rotoviurs vaccine exists. In my religion we believe our bodies are a temple and as such we are to treat it that way by not poisoning it with unnecessary things. Again please do not take away our religious freedom to choices for our bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:55:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This takes away my religious freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:56:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Saori Masutani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Saori Masutani am against this bill requiring vaccinations for my child to attend schools in Hawaii. My son is 2 years old and will be attending preschool 2025-2026. He currently has a religious exemption to attend school but according to this bill, we are 1 year too late.

The state already required Covid vaccines that hurt and killed many people. There was no accountability for the loved ones who passed.

it should be our right at citizens of the United States to choose what medical treatments we have administered to us and our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:57:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy Farr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this bill. You will be removing our freedom. If you want to save our children, you will not pass this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:57:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylee Kaiwi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I completely oppose HB1118. It is absolutely unconstitutional and takes away our religious freedom. It goes against our beliefs and values and because of that, my children won't be able to go to public school? Shame on you State of Hawai'i. Hewa!! Hewa nō.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:57:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Herrelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Whitney Herrelson, a wife and mother of 2 boys, and I am writing to express my strong conviction that religious exemptions for vaccinations must be preserved. As a Christian, I believe that my faith requires me to make informed and prayerful decisions about what enters my children's bodies. I respectfully urge you to uphold our religious freedom and parental rights by maintaining these exemptions.

Scripture teaches that our bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, entrusted to us by God:

"Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." — 1 Corinthians 6:19-20

Because of this, I must carefully discern what substances are introduced into my children's bodies. Many vaccines contain ingredients that conflict with my religious beliefs, including those derived from aborted fetal cell lines and unclean animals.

Objection to Vaccine Ingredients

As a Christian, I cannot, in good conscience, allow my children to receive vaccines that are developed using human fetal cell lines from abortions. The Bible is clear in its condemnation of shedding innocent blood:

"There are six things that the Lord hates, seven that are an abomination to him: haughty eyes, a lying tongue, and hands that shed innocent blood." — Proverbs 6:16-17

Several vaccines, including the **MMR (Measles, Mumps, and Rubella), Varicella (Chickenpox), Hepatitis A, and certain COVID-19 vaccines**, were developed or tested using fetal cell lines from elective abortions. Even though these cell lines originate from abortions that happened decades ago, the continued use of such materials in medicine is an ethical violation of my faith.

Furthermore, certain vaccines contain **pork-derived gelatin** (such as MMR, Varicella, and some flu vaccines), which goes against biblical dietary laws:

"And the pig, though it has a divided hoof, does not chew the cud; it is unclean for you. You must not eat their meat or touch their carcasses." — Leviticus 11:7-8

Additionally, some vaccines are produced using **bovine (cow) serum, monkey kidney cells, and insect cells**, which I believe defile the purity of the body as designed by God.

Trusting in God's Protection and Healing

As believers, we are called to trust in God's divine protection over our health:

"Because you have made the Lord your dwelling place—the Most High, who is my refuge—no evil shall be allowed to befall you, no plague come near your tent." — Psalm 91:9-10

Forcing vaccinations upon individuals who have sincere religious objections violates their trust in God's sovereignty over life and health. Faith has played a fundamental role in healing throughout scripture:

"And he said to her, 'Daughter, your faith has made you well; go in peace, and be healed of your disease.'" — Mark 5:34

Religious Freedom and Parental Rights

Religious liberty is a fundamental right, protected by the First Amendment. The government should not force parents to violate their faith-based convictions regarding medical decisions for their children. As scripture reminds us:

"But Peter and the apostles answered, 'We must obey God rather than men.'" — Acts 5:29

I respectfully urge you to uphold religious exemptions for vaccinations and protect the right of parents to make faith-based decisions for their children. To remove these exemptions would infringe upon our religious freedoms and violate our ability to live according to our deeply held beliefs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Whitney Herrelson CPM LM

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:58:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Hoapili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to bill HB 1118 This bill goes against our constitutional rights

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:59:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118. This bill is so wrong! It is constituents basic rights you are taking away if you vote in favor of this bill and taking away the rights of our keiki to go to school. What is the benefit of removing this exemption & who does it serve? Many many children have grown up perfectly healthy without vaccines and many others have been injured by vaccines. Leaving the decision up to the parents, their doctors and their clergy is where it should remain.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 9:59:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerusha Lopes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe the parents should have the option to vaccinate their kids, it shouldn't be a requirement to attend school. School is a place of learning, and everyone should have an equal opportunity whether vaccinated or not. My son isn't vaccinated and I believe we chose correct for him. If in the future when he becomes an adult, he can choose whether or not to be vaccinated. But it shouldn't be forced on him just to get a higher education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:01:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ally Hehn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is overstepping its boundaries and in now way helps to protect people. It takes away our rights as Americans to have a choice for our children and coerces us to allow the government to make health choices for our own children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:01:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlee Kamakaala-Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:02:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Antonio Anagaran Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. It is the Constitutional duty of the State of Hawai'i to allow parents and students in the Hawai'i DOE the freedom to choose whether or not to have all of the vaccines, some of them, or none of them - according to their conscience and/or religious beliefs.

Thank you for receiving this,

Antonio Anagaran Jr.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:02:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Noelle Magallanes	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Lindsey Magallanes, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, taking away parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a Christian, follower of Jesus Christ, I feel that this bill infringes on my right to worship my God how the constitution intended to withhold for US citizens. I am a parent of a school-aged teenager and I am also a school teacher. The state should not take away our religious freedoms at any point. This is overstepping our rights. My son does not do well with vaccines. He has had seizure-like episodic events after vaccines. He does not focus well in school and has never been the same. Please protect our constitutional rights!!

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lindsey Magallanes

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:04:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristi T Chun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing in opposition of HB1118.

From age 1-24+ months old my son suffered from a life-threatening debilitating disease that prevented him from gaining weight and caused itchy open burning wounds that covered his entire body for over two years. The cause was not readily acknowledged within the medical community and our concerns were completely dismissed by four separate doctors.

Despite their dismissals, I followed my instincts. I understood the cause was due to previously prescribed drugs that damaged my newborn's immune system. As a result, I chose NOT to follow the normal vaccine schedule as it would have prolonged his suffering and set our healing back tremendously.

Medical Exemptions are NOT ENOUGH, particularly if the treating provider is unwilling or unable to properly assess the condition. I cannot express how difficult it was to get any doctor at the time to acknowledge my son's illness.

Today there is growing recognition within the medical community of this preventable condition and my son is 95% healed from a misdiagnosed disease that every doctor said he would have for the rest of his life.

PARENTS know their children BEST. Healthcare decisions, including whether to vaccinate or not, should be left to them, NOT DOCTORS.

OUR KEIKI OUR CHOICE

Thank you

Kristi Chun

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:04:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariel Kwon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose this bill. Everyone has the right to medical freedom. What you are considering right now is absolutely insanity! It is immoral, unethical, and ILLEGAL!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:04:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Hironaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that all parents have a right to choose which vaccines they would like to administer to their children and which ones they may not. Reasons could vary by vaccine given any persons religious views. Whether they choose to be exempt from all or just some, a parent has the right to choose which is best for their own child or children. It is unconstitutional to force and not give citizens the right to choose.

Moreover, those who are vaccinated are protected against those who are not. It is the assumed risk of the parents who choose not to vaccinate, however, it is their choice and they accept responsibility for their choosing based on religious rights.

If our government pushes for women's reproductive rights, how is this any different? I humbly ask to have each family decide what is right for their respective families. Thank you for taking the time to read this and I hope you can reconsider.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:05:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad DeMello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to HB1118 -Protect Religious and Constitutional Rights

ALCON,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which mandates vaccines for children in schools. While I recognize the importance of public health, this bill directly infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms and constitutional rights that must be protected.

First, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. For many families, vaccination decisions are deeply tied to religious beliefs, and forcing compliance disregards these sincerely held convictions. The government should not compel individuals to violate their faith in order for their children to access education.

Second, this bill raises significant constitutional concerns regarding personal liberty and parental rights. The Supreme Court has long upheld that parents have the primary authority in making medical decisions for their children. HB1118 undermines this principle by imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate that disregards individual circumstances and medical autonomy.

Public health policies should respect both science and individual rights. Rather than imposing mandates, policymakers should support informed consent, medical and religious exemptions, and parental choice in healthcare decisions.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the constitutional and religious freedoms that are foundational to our country. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chad DeMello

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:05:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinohi Kelly-Paleka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is not right the parents should have complete say on what shot their keiki will take so i opposing this bill. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:06:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha , i oppose this bill because its to much one time with harderly impovement in hawaii beside raise taxes and other making vaccine mandate kids to get vaccine or they cannot go to school.what kine of bill law was that? they should doge investgete state to see why so much.

thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:07:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SHEENA DEMELLO	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB118 as it violates constitutional rights and religious freedom. The government should not compel individuals to violate their faith in order for their children to access education. This bill also raises significant constitutional concerns regarding personal liberty and parental rights. Parents have the primary authority in making medical decisions for their children. HB1118 undermines this principle by imposing a one size fits all mandate that disregards individual circumstances and medical autonomy. I urge you to uphold the constitution and religious freedoms that are foundational to our country. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:07:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siari Nakila-Sunderlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to not allowing my kids to take vaccines that they can be allergic to or have a bad reaction.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:08:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Kahiapo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of three since 2012 it has been a conscious decision to opt out of immunizations for my children due to and through the commitment of our religion. It goes against our beliefs and values. It is within our custom that we rely on divine protection for our health and furthermore violates our right of choice and confidentiality between us and our care provider. To mandate vaccinations for entry into schools would be forcing and corersing many Americans into making a decision that lacks informed consent. It is not in our belief to take vaccinations therefore we would be forced to do something we would not normally do which is coercion and also not ethical. Vaccinations require informed consent and by mandating vaccinations that would violate the choice of recieving vaccinations due to it not being voluntary.

You shall serve the Lord your God, and he will bless your bread and your water, and I will take sickness away from among you Exodus 23:25

JOB 12:10 In his hand is the life of every living thing and the breath of all mankind.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:08:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denise Sherman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of HN1118 - Taking away of religious rights is unconstitutional. Who made our government GOD! We only have 1 God and it's not our Governor, LT Governor nor anyone who supports this bill! I humbling ask everyone to OPPOSE this bill. Protect our rights to choose what is best for body, mine and soul!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:09:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marleina Vave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha & Malolelei Legislation of Hawai'i,

My name is Marleina Vave, and today I stand before the Legislature to say that I vote NO on SB 1118. My children are not experiments, and I firmly believe there has not been enough time or sufficient research to prove that vaccines, such as the COVID-19 vaccine, are superior to natural immunity.

Approving this bill would be a grave mistake, akin to repeating the injustices of segregation, where individuals are divided and treated unfairly based on personal beliefs and choices. Why should parents be forced to separate their children because of what we know is best for them?

If this bill passes, you will be stripping away our freedom as parents to decide what's best for our children. We should not be forced into decisions that do not align with our values, beliefs, or what we know is best for our families.

To the Hawaii Legislature: Please set aside any financial ties to the pharmaceutical industry and think about the real, human impact on families. Stop this bill! Not through my children.

Mahalo and Malo aupito

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:10:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skye Kanakaole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unavailable, not for it!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:11:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaycie Izumi-Matsubara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"The First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion, expression, assembly, and the right to petition. It forbids Congress from both [promoting one religion over others](#) and also [restricting an individual's religious practices](#). It guarantees [freedom of expression](#) by prohibiting Congress from restricting the press or the rights of individuals to speak freely. It also guarantees the right of citizens to [assemble peaceably and to petition their government](#)."

HB1118 is completely going against our constitutional rights as citizens of the U.S. This bill takes away our religious freedom, our freedom of speech, & our rights as parents to decide what's best for our children & IT IS NOT OKAY!!!

I am not against vaccines but what I am against is when my rights as a parent gets stripped away. I am not okay when someone who doesn't know my children tells me what my children can and can't do. I am not okay when someone forces people to do something they don't want to do because that is called bullying. Again, this bill goes AGAINST OUR CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS and I am appalled that our government actually thinks that having such a bill is okay.

I OPPOSE BILL HB 1118 NOW & FOREVER!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:11:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melvin201181@live.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unconstitutional.

Aloha Chair, my name is Ronald M. Lopez, Jr., and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a parent I feel that I should be the one, making choices of what does and does not go into my daughter's body. Not the choice of the government.

Hawaii has a long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemption could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

Ronald M .Lopez, Jr.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:14:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Voyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please respect 1st amendment religious freedoms of Hawaii. There are no current health emergencies requiring such draconian and unconstitutional measures. The current system in place with current RE to keep unved kids home in the case of an outbreak is working and has for years.

Truthfully, I believe that not only is this a detriment to the 1st amendment rights of our families but if not preserved- I believe that this will be a huge disservice to our school system in lost dollars and the many hours of community service that these families ultimately give. I worry for the segment of children that may be removed who go to school to feel safe or to fill their bellies. I worry for the children whose support system will mean well but will ultimately need to choose to go to work vs homeschooling.

This is not the time to divide our islands more. Let the children learn. Let the already successful processes that were no doubt painstakingly developed continue as is.

Aloha,

I am writing to give testimony in **strong opposition** to HB1118. (This written testimony is also attached as a Word Doc. for easier reading.)

There are several reasons to oppose this bill:

1. The first reason would be to protect our religious freedom.

Religious freedom is foundational to what it means to live in or be an American. It has been a fundamental right since our country's conception. It is what shaped and continues to uphold every other right given to us in the Constitution. Having the ability to exercise one's deeply held religious beliefs is vital to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. Impeding our right to religious freedom opens the door for any other right we have to be limited, restricted, or removed.

2. The second would be to protect our freedom to choose our own health matters free from coercion.

Parents have the right and responsibility to make health decisions for their children and that should be done free from coercion. Regardless of your personal opinion on vaccines, you cannot deny that there is some risk to receiving any of the vaccines. The risks are supposed to be given to you or the parent if it's a child every time a vaccine is administered. There have been settlements and payouts due to vaccine injuries. My own child was injured from one of the vaccines, I am thankful it wasn't life altering but none the less it was a vaccine injury. I know people who have similar stories to the one in this CBS news storyⁱ, except they didn't get a government settlement for their injury.

You would have to be willfully ignorant to say there is no risk in getting these vaccines. Worse off it would be nefarious to acknowledge that there is a risk, but remove our choice in the decision to receive them. Even if it's only one child that is injured from the vaccines, it's enough to say that it would be unjust to mandate these uniformly across the board, and therefore we cannot support this bill.

Making parents give their children unwanted health procedures in order to receive an education is coercion. Parents should not have to choose between their right to direct their child's education or direct their child's health matters.

3. The third reason would be the matter of informed consent.

The National Vaccine Injury Act protects pharmaceutical companies from liability and as a tradeoff requires that every parent must be granted certain information with every vaccine and granted the right to informed consent. How can we provide "informed consent" if our choice to consent is removed? Again, this is coercion.

4. Your duty is to represent the will of the people, not your own opinion or that of the Governor.

In the bill's writeup, there are statistics showing that over the last 10 years the trend is for more people desiring to opt-out of immunizations. In fact it clearly states on page 2 that it has doubled. If that is true, then the logical conclusion would be that the will of the people is trending in the opposite direction of what this bill proposes. In addition, after reviewing the PDF of testimony submitted for the 2/7/25 hearing, the testimony of the public is overwhelmingly in favor of opposing this bill. We the people do not want a blanket mandate forcing us to get unwanted health procedures for our children, we want the freedom to choose what is right for our families. This trend is not unique to Hawaii, but rather is

consistent with what we are seeing around the country as a whole. A recently conducted survey through the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania found that public support for policies that allow parents of schoolchildren to opt out of vaccinating their kids for medical, religious and personal or philosophical reasons has grown substantially since 2019ⁱⁱ. In addition to this, there are only 4 states left who do not allow religious or philosophical exemptions. Almost every other state in the nation has laws protecting those exemptions or are currently introducing bills to allow for them. The national trend and federal precedent is to allow for medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions to these school vaccine requirements. Do not send Hawaii backwards by eliminating religious exemptions.

I urge you to consider what your duty is. Is it to do the Governor's agenda, vote your own personal opinion, or to represent the will of the people? The people do not want you to create a medical dictatorship by allowing the government to remove our parental & religious freedom rights. HB1118 would do this by eliminating our choice for us to decide what is best for ourselves, our families, our children, and our communities as it relates to individual health matters. Healthcare is not a one size fits all, it is to be individualized and as such, you cannot in good faith vote yes to any legislature/bill seeking to make a blanket healthcare directive for all. Religious freedom is paramount to our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; you must not vote yes to any legislature/bill seeking to remove such freedom.

HB1118 removes our constitutional right to religious freedom.

HB1118 removes our right to make health choices free of coercion.

HB1118 removes our ability to give informed consent.

HB1118 is directly going against the will of the people.

Voting yes on HB1118 would be a direct violation of your duty to represent the will of the people and protect our constitutional rights.

Please vote NO on HB1118.

Mahalo,

Alana Sooriyakumar

ⁱ <https://www.cbsnews.com/news/family-to-receive-15m-plus-in-first-ever-vaccine-autism-court-award/>

ⁱⁱ <https://www.annenbergpublicpolicycenter.org/most-americans-favor-school-vaccine-requirements-but-support-is-rising-for-opt-out-options/>

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:16:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mattlene Iokia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118.

This bill will effect my right and our communities right for freedom of religion! It will be breaking our 1st amendment. I will not let our governor/government decide for my Ohana!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:16:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dezha George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill requiring vaccinations for school-aged children, as it undermines both religious freedom and parental choice. Parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children based on personal beliefs and values. This bill disregards the importance of these freedoms and imposes a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare, limiting the ability of families to make choices that align with their convictions. I find it very important to safeguard our rights as individuals and parents if we want to preserve a society that values and respects religion and freedom of choice.

As a homegrown Christian educator who has served the families and students of our community for 15 years as a teacher in the DOE, to be rejected to have the opportunity to send my child to the very place I have served and poured into because of my beliefs is truly sad and if we truly cared about the next generation, we would not create additional barriers to ensuring that all children have access to quality education.

While I hear the rationale behind protecting medically fragile children, many who I have also served and worked with, my hope is that we would be to find another alternative without stripping religious freedom and personal choice. Advocates of this bill and those who are opposing the bill are not against each other, we are two sides of the same coin - both with the desire to protect our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:18:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lile	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 as an individual citizen. This violates constitutional rights to freedom of religion. This is not about vaccinations, but an undermining of our constitutional rights. It feeds on fear under the guise of "public safety." This is a violation of the constitution.

I firmly oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:18:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernest Tomita	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 1118 as it removes religious exemptions from vaccine mandates and threatens those who have the exemptions to randomly have it removed as well. Or, perhaps include the grandfather clause as a significant part of the bill so that those who have the exemption not having to worry that it can be removed at anytime. Mahalo

have it removed as well. Or, at the very least, firmly recognize and include the grandfather clause through high school. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:18:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Alcos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I highly oppose this disgusting bill I don't know how or what gives you dirty politicians and an evil government the right to get involved in the lives of us we the people you have no rights to tell force this killing vaccine or any other onto kids or anyone else. I oppose this crappy bill and I pray and rebuke this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:19:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB1118, which removes religious exemptions for vaccinations. This bill infringes on religious freedom and parental rights, forcing families to choose between their beliefs and their childrens education. Hawaii should uphold inclusivity and respect diverse choices. Please oppose HB1118.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:19:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Holbrook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to not pass this bill as written. If a family has beliefs and is proven that they follow those beliefs then they should not be forced to receive a vacation. If we support a woman's right to abortion because it is her body then the same should apply to anyone's body.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:20:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Satele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to share my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held religious beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is NOT ok. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:21:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kimberly jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill HB1118

because it is my God given right as a parent to make decisions on behalf of my children in regards to their health and as a family we have the right to our religious beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:21:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel Morgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Respectfully, I do not believe in putting complete trust in others when it comes to my children's physical, mental, and emotional wellbeing. I believe that it is my job as their mother to research on my own and do my very best to make the best decisions for them. Whether it be to vaccinate or not should and will be up to me and their father. It is our God given right to choose how we want to live our lives. Forcing is not of God.

I am completely against this bill and will fight with everything I have to to keep it from moving forward.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:21:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miwa Chung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Miwa Chung, and I oppose the enforcement of mandatory vaccinations for children attending public schools. Such mandates infringe upon fundamental rights protected by the ****First**** and ****Fourth Amendments**** of the U.S. Constitution. Parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children based on personal, religious, and ethical beliefs.

The ****First Amendment**** guarantees freedom of religion, and for many families, this includes choosing whether or not to vaccinate based on religious convictions. The ****Fourth Amendment**** protects individuals from unreasonable government interference in their personal lives, including medical decisions.

While public health is important, these mandates must not come at the expense of personal liberties. Vaccination is a personal choice that should be made by parents in consultation with their healthcare providers, not through government coercion. Forcing children to receive vaccinations violates the principle of bodily autonomy and the right to make informed choices.

I urge this committee to reject any proposal that mandates vaccinations for children in public schools, and to uphold the rights of parents to make decisions regarding their children's healthcare.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Miwa Chung

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:22:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cinda Butay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm against this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:23:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew P.Voyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please respect 1st amendment religious freedoms of Hawaii. There are no current health emergencies requiring such draconian and unconstitutional measures. The current system in place with current RE to keep unved kids home in the case of an outbreak is working and has for years.

Truthfully, I believe that not only is this a detriment to the 1st amendment rights of our families but if not preserved- I believe that this will be a huge disservice to our school system in lost dollars and the many hours of community service that these families ultimately give. I worry for the segment of children that may be removed who go to school to feel safe or to fill their bellies. I worry for the children whose support system will mean well but will ultimately need to choose to go to work vs homeschooling.

This is not the time to divide our islands more. Let the children learn. Let the already successful processes that were no doubt painstakingly developed continue as is.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Andrew P. Voyer

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:23:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Jenkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 118, which seeks to prohibit religious exemptions to immunization requirements. As a parent of a 3-year-old, I deeply value the freedom to make informed decisions for my child based on both medical advice and our religious beliefs. This proposed bill threatens the fundamental right to exercise our religion and make decisions that align with our faith and conscience.

While I understand and appreciate the importance of vaccination in protecting public health, I believe that the government should not mandate vaccination for all children without consideration of religious beliefs. Religious freedom is a fundamental right, and it is vital that parents retain the ability to make decisions about their children's healthcare in accordance with their beliefs.

Immunization is a personal decision for many families, especially when there are deep religious convictions that guide our choices. My family, like many others, holds religious beliefs that shape how we approach medical care. Denying us the ability to make these decisions for our child based on our faith is an infringement upon our religious freedom. It is crucial that we retain the right to make these choices and raise our children in accordance with our faith and values.

While I recognize the importance of public health, I believe the current exemption system provides a reasonable compromise that allows parents to exercise their religious rights while still contributing to herd immunity. A blanket prohibition on religious exemptions would severely limit the ability of families like mine to freely practice our religion without facing government overreach.

My child's health and well-being are my top priority. I am fully committed to ensuring that my daughter is safe and cared for in accordance with our beliefs. Forcing families to comply with mandates that violate their deeply held religious convictions would be a violation of both our rights and our moral responsibilities as parents.

I respectfully ask the committee to reconsider the provisions of HB 118 and to protect the right of families to exercise their religious freedoms when making decisions about immunization. We should ensure that our public health policies respect and uphold the rights of individuals and families, allowing us to make healthcare decisions that align with our faith and conscience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:23:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I do not support this bill. We should have the right to choose. Religious exemptions should still be allowed. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:26:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I grew up when there was no such thing as vaccinations for measles, mumps, polio, chicken pox, and other diseases. I remember not being allowed to play in certain areas because of a polio epidemic. I remember from suffering from measles. That was bad. The anti vaxxers do not understand how serious this is. Unless there is a risk to a person because of their current medical condition, there should be no exceptions to vaccination. Some of these diseases are airborne, offering little protection without the vaccination.

Currently, there is a TB outbreak in Kansas City and measles outbreaks in Texas and New Mexico. At least 13 children in Texas are hospitalized.

Please move this bill forward.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:26:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vishakha corbett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely don't take this right away

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:26:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sassie Keaulana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. We should have the right to choose. Religious exemptions should still be allowed. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:28:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Marzo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee Members,

I am writing in support of HB1118 HD1. I am a family physician practicing in Honolulu, and have seen first hand the powerful, beneficial impact that vaccines have in our communities. I am fortunate enough to have only seen measles cases in text books, never in person - a reality that is only possible due to vaccines. Unfortunately, a wave of misinformation circulating over the past few years has cast doubt upon the safety, efficacy, and public health benefits of vaccines, and as a result, we have seen growth in non-medical vaccine exemptions in Hawaii schools. As a family physician, I provide care for all members of our community, including the medically vulnerable that are unable to safely receive vaccines, and thus rely on an immunized community to prevent the spread of communicable diseases. Eliminating non-medical exemptions for vaccines would help to keep our communities safe and healthy.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Christina Marzo, MD MPH FAAFP

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:28:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Chan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As parents we should have the right and freedom to choose what immunizations our children receive or don't receive not schools or organizations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:29:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
cierra kauhane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i oppose to this. i do not agree.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:30:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoltan corbett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How can this basic right that's related to our religion. Nine of our kids are vaccinated with our religious right be taken away. Healthy kids who have right of freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:32:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel LaBuda	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

My name is Rachel LaBuda, and I am a concerned parent and resident of Hawai‘i. I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, as it threatens the fundamental rights of parents to make informed medical decisions for their children. I speak from personal experience when I say that vaccines are not without risk, and their consequences can be life-altering.

When my son was a baby, he received his routine vaccinations as recommended. Shortly after, he developed severe food allergies and debilitating eczema that turned our lives upside down. Before the vaccines, he was a healthy, thriving child. Afterward, we were thrust into a world of constant doctor visits, urgent care trips, and endless struggles to manage his conditions. He can no longer enjoy simple pleasures like eating dairy, eggs, gluten, soy or playing with dogs without his skin flaring up in painful, itchy rashes. As a mother, watching him suffer—and knowing I consented to the shots that caused this—has been heartbreaking.

I’ve spent years researching and consulting with medical professionals to understand what happened. While correlation isn’t always causation, the timing was undeniable, and I’ve since connected with countless other parents across the country whose children experienced similar reactions post-vaccination. Studies and reports exist showing that vaccines can trigger allergic responses and autoimmune conditions in some individuals—yet these risks are often dismissed or minimized. For my son, this isn’t just a statistic; it’s his daily reality.

HB1118, by pushing forward policies that could mandate or further entrench vaccine requirements, ignores the real harm that can come to children like mine. Parents deserve the right to weigh these risks and make choices based on their child’s unique health needs—not have a one-size-fits-all solution forced upon them. My son’s story is a testament to why medical freedom matters. No family should have to endure what we have without a say in the matter.

I urge you to vote NO on HB1118. Protect parental rights, acknowledge the real risks of vaccines, and prioritize the well-being of Hawai‘i’s children over blanket policies that fail to account for individual differences.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Rachel LaBuda (Kailua, HI)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:32:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dahni gonzales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose HB1118, requiring immunizations, particular for children to enter school. As a new and first time mom, I would hope to have the choice for my child. Freedom to decide which and when my child will be ready. I do not have the means to homeschool. I hope she may enter school soon and not be discriminated based off of vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:33:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Wong	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

At the end of the day, it does not matter if vaccines work and are safe, or vaccines don't work and are dangerous. It doesn't matter if you're a Republican or a Democrat, conservative or liberal, religious or atheist. There are social contracts we DO NOT break.

- The government/state cannot force citizens or their children to use products of companies they DO NOT trust (which includes vaccines), and the government cannot marginalize and bar people from society for having legitimate reasons to distrust our medical institutions. That is wrong.

All the major pharmaceutical companies we know about have a history of falsifying data, and bribing doctors and scientists to bypass medical trial phases to sell their products. For example, as far back as 2009, Pfizer had to pay a \$2.3 billion dollar settlement because of those exact corrupt practices. Johnson & Johnson will settle a \$10 billion dollar lawsuit this year (2025) for selling asbestos in their baby powder and downplaying the harmful health effects such as ovarian, lung, and mesothelioma cancer. If Big Pharma has a history of corruption and harming people with their products, why are we pressuring people to take their products? Most importantly, do we consumers not have the choice and right to have full confidence in a seller before deciding to use their products?

Perhaps the most damning part about this bill is the last page where it says people can apply for religious vaccine exemptions with written letters, but the Director of Health can essentially say "to Hell with your exemptions, this is an emergency." Since when does an emergency mean that the government can nullify and suspend your fundamental rights as a consumer/patient/and American citizen? The Constitution clearly shows the limits and boundaries of which the state can operate within.

Think about this from an atheist's perspective who has good pattern recognition and doesn't trust Big Pharma. If the bill passes, wouldn't this incentivize an atheist to fake being a Christian in their written exemptions to avoid any vaccine requirements from school or work? You shouldn't have to be religious to obtain a vaccine exemption; an atheist has consumer and patient rights, too.

This Bill is BLATANTLY unconstitutional and I hope the Chair defers this bill (and bills similar to this) indefinitely.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:33:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

I am in strong OPPOSITION of this bill, this is government overreach and should not be allowed!

Alyssa Pang

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:34:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Carreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** Bill HB1118.

To whom it may concern, what kind of Communist nonsense is this? One of the founding principles of this country is religious freedom. How can you take the freedom away from parents who due to religious reasons object to their child to be forced to receive certain vaccines? This is a blatant overreach of government power and we, the tax payers and parents of the keiki of Hawaii, will not stand for this. WE are in charge of the well-being of our keiki. It is our right and duty to do our own due diligence when it comes to vaccinating our children and weigh out the benefits and risks, NOT YOU. This is a notice to all the representatives. We will remember this vote and there will be consequences next election.

Respectfully,

William K. Carreira

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:34:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'ehu Hironaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:36:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheena Intendencia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Sheena Intendencia and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. (Personally relate to the bill topic and how it affects you, whether as a parent, student, or concerned community member.)

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:38:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rondi K Simon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I oppose this bill. I am a mother of two school-aged girls. I am not against all vaccines. My children have received a majority of the scheduled vaccinations by our family physician. However, there are some vaccines that I am not comfortable with, especially those that I have not received myself. To limit my ability and authority to protect my children, should I choose to exercise my constitutional right, is wrong! If I choose to exercise my constitutional right to protect my children, who is the government to take that option away?! What guarantee can the government give me should my child suffer from vaccine injuries? Without a liability clause, I cannot, in good faith, put my trust in a government that seeks to limit my ability to parent. The authority of my children's health and well-being is between me and our family physician, NOT the government!

I, strongly, oppose HB1118.

Mahalo & God Bless,

Rondi Kamaile Simon, MCP/MH

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:40:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barilyne Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Barilyne Sakamoto and I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1 for the following reasons:

- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.
- This bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?
- The **Department of Education has valid and serious concerns** yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

Please don't pass laws that majority of the people are opposed to and pass the ones that the majority of people do support.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:45:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leane Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE!

I OPPOSE the ban on religious/non-medical exemptions for vaccines (HB1118) as this is a violation of constitutional rights, particularly the First Amendment's protection of the free exercise of religion. The First Amendment states that Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof. This means that individuals and families should be able to practice their religion freely, including the ability to seek religious exemptions from vaccine mandates. The govt should not be mandating vaccines under the guise of public health when research shows that vaccines are neither safe or effective in preventing outbreaks. The VAERS reporting system shows hundreds of thousands who have suffered/died from the covid vaccine which, by the way, did not prevent the spread of covid. Furthermore, the Supreme Court has shown a trend of supporting religious freedoms, and has indicated that governments should seek alternatives to mandates that restrict religious practices. This suggests that outright bans on religious exemptions will be challenged on constitutional grounds. Finally, these are REAL children that attend our schools. Banning religious exemptions from vaccinations will greatly affect these families religious rights and freedoms to chose how to educate their children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:46:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Rebekah Garcia, am opposing HB1118 specifically because I don't believe in forcing my children to take the flu & covid vaccinations. I myself have worked in the medical field for 10 years and have declined the flu vaccination. I wasn't working during the pandemic so I wasn't required to take the covid vaccination/boosters. I do believe in being vaccinated with all the other mandatory vaccines to enter school traditionally and have had my children do so as they are already in school. I will not stand for these vaccines to be forced on them. It is our human & God-given right to choose & the opportunity for our kids to remain in school should never be taken from them. This is my clear stance and hoping my voice will be heard in this plea. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:46:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:47:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Gregory	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am a fellow Christian, Christ-following believer and I stand with other Christians to OBJECT Hawai'i HOUSE BILL HB1118.

A Christian Statement on Vaccination and Religious Objection**Introduction**

As Christians with religious objections to vaccines, we share the goals of promoting good health for children and families, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. With these goals in mind, in good conscience we cannot agree to have the state mandate vaccinating our children. Some with religious objections to vaccination may choose to use some vaccines and some may abstain from all. We are united against religious discrimination which goes against our sincerely held beliefs.

Christian Reasons to avoid vaccination**1. Fetal Cell Lines**

American vaccines have a serious moral issue with cell lines taken from aborted babies. The Bible teaches that "thou shalt not kill." 1 Biblically, murdering another person is a serious offense which brings the need for redress. As God told Cain when he murdered his brother, "What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood cries unto me from the ground." 2 In addition to avoiding violence, Christians are also told to advocate for victims. 3

Some of the most common vaccines are only licensed in America in forms that include live attenuated viruses cultured in aborted fetal cell lines.

The Rubella portion of the MMR or MMRV is Wistar RA 27/3. 4 It is documented that at least eighty abortions, likely more, took place to create simply that one vaccine. 5 It also appears that the researchers involved had close relationships with abortionists, and obtaining babies' bodies

for the purpose of creating vaccines was intentional. What persuasion or coercion of mothers to that end took place is unknown. 6

WI-38 is a cell line sourced from the lung tissue of a Swedish baby girl 7 , and MRC-5 was taken from a baby boy. Both are currently in use in America, and this alone would be enough to give Christians serious pause. What is even more alarming is that the cell lines do not last forever, and there is a demand to continue to produce cell lines. One recent one is Walvax-2, taken from a Chinese baby girl. She was one of nine aborted babies used in starting this new cell line in 2015. 8 Many Christians avoid vaccines which include fetal cell lines. This is due to the great loss of life in producing these vaccines, concerns about human dna remnants in the vaccine itself, and a desire to avoid creating an incentive to develop similar cell lines in the future. Jessica Farnsworth, MD writes, “The only recourse I have, and would argue any Christian should have, is to boycott these products. How else will the pharmaceutical companies be influenced to produce ethical vaccines...?” 9

1. Sexual Ethics and Substance Abuse

The Bible says, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.” 10 Christianity teaches radical self-control 11 and a lifestyle with high moral ethics, including lifetime monogamy. 12 We are to flee from sexual immorality of any kind 13 and are not to abuse the body with recreational intravenous drugs.

For most people, sexual contact or needle-sharing are the only ways to be exposed to infections such as HPV (sexual only) or Hepatitis B. Generally, these vaccines are administered to enable one’s children to make Biblically sinful decisions. If adults choose to pursue these lifestyles or work in high-risk fields, they can make the choice to get the vaccines. But to require Christian parents to provide them to children (who are generally not at risk of these diseases) is a violation of conscience.

1. Biblical View of the Body

We are not permitted in the Bible to treat the body in a way that we believe will harm it. The Bible teaches us that the body is created in the image of God 14 , the temple of the Holy Spirit 15, a living sacrifice to the Lord. 16

Some of us have children who have suffered vaccine reactions. Some have children with other serious health challenges. Some have children who have been told not to vaccinate by their doctors for health reasons. Some of us do not believe that one or more of the vaccines on the schedule would be a healthy choice for our family.

In addition, some believers may wish either for health or spiritual reasons to avoid blood products¹⁷ or products from unclean animals in the Levitical Law, such as pigs or monkeys.¹⁸ All of these items appear in vaccines.¹⁹ The scripture states that “to him that esteemeth anything to be unclean, to him it is unclean,”²⁰ and instructs us not to violate the consciences of those convicted over this type of issue.²¹

For those with a sincere belief that vaccination would harm our bodies, it is a duty to God to avoid it

1. Love of Neighbor

Jesus taught, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbor as thyself.”²² Love of neighbor is the second commandment of our faith. It is unloving to ask those families in our community who have already experienced vaccine reactions to risk further injury. There are some families with genetic predisposition to reactions who already have one permanently disabled child and are now being asked to risk injury with their other children.

It is also unloving to force others to violate their religious beliefs.

1. God’s design for the family

Children are a blessing from the Lord,²³ and are given to their parents to raise and teach them.²⁴ This is a great privilege and a serious responsibility. The Bible instructs fathers to “bring [children] up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.”²⁵ There are many charges to parents in how they are to raise their children in the Bible, but no such instructions to the government. Ultimately children belong to God, and He has given the authority to make weighty decisions such as vaccination to the parents and not to the state.²⁶

1. Church Attendance

Attending church is a Biblical practice. The Bible teaches, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” 27

Some churches have childcare centers, schools or other educational facilities on-site. In addition, some churches rent schools and hold their worship services there. Facility-based mandates do not allow unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children to come into school locations. They severely interfere in the practice of faith by discriminating against some Christian youth and preventing them from attending church or participating in church activities.

1. Christian Education

Biblically, Christians are to provide their children with a religious education. 28 Legally, the right of religious parents to enroll their children in schools which provide a private, religious education is also recognized. 29 Those who have a religious conviction against vaccines should not be excluded from private schools that provide this type of education. If we are prevented from enrolling our children in religious private schools, that is not merely a violation of medical or educational freedom, it is a violation of our religious rights. Vaccine mandates may also prevent churches from providing religious instruction by opening a school, thus interfering with the church’s faith expression.

Conclusion

The Bible is very clear that “we ought to obey God rather than men,” 30 and so we cannot sit idly by as laws that violate our beliefs are passed. We will keep our eyes on our “hope of glory” 31 and even when it is difficult seek to find a way to keep a clear conscience toward God. There are multiple levels at which vaccine mandates interfere with the free exercise of religion. As Christians we oppose government coercion in this area and support free choice.

Endnotes

1. Exodus 20:13

2. Genesis 4:10

3. Proverbs 31:8-9

4. Merk, M-M-R ® II (MEASLES, MUMPS, and RUBELLA VIRUS VACCINE LIVE)
https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/m/mmr_ii/mmr_ii_pi.pdf FDA, Package Insert - ProQuad - Refrigerator Stable Version
<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm123793.pdf>
5. Leiva, Rene. A Brief History of Human Diploid Cell Strains. The national Catholic bioethics quarterly 6(3):443-51 · February 2006
https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6704825_A_brief_history_of_human_diploid_cell_strains
6. Ibid. Wadman, Meredith. Medical research: Cell division. Nature 26 June 2013.
<https://www.nature.com/news/medical-research-cell-division-1.13273>
7. Wadman.
8. Ma, Bo et al. Characteristics and viral propagation properties of a new human diploid cell line, wavax-2, and its suitability as a candidate cell substrate for vaccine production. Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics. 2015;11(4)
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4526020/>
9. Farnsworth, Jessica. Development of Vaccines from Aborted Babies.
<https://cogforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/farnsworthvaccines.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3J8ggS2AryzrtWD AWfPu160NCYfWcrwE9r6K3PPHabeMaM5YVjuXslArw>
10. Romans 13:14
11. Proverbs 25:28, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Timothy 1:7
12. Exodus 20:14, Proverbs 5, Matthew 19:4-9, 1 Corinthians 7:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4
13. I Corinthians 6:18
14. Genesis 1:27
15. I Corinthians 6:19
16. Romans 12:1
17. Acts 15:20
18. Leviticus 11

19. See ingredients such as “monkey kidney cells,” “hydrolyzed porcine gelatin,” and “human albumin” in Vaccine Excipient & Media Summary, cdc.gov.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0mMUycZcKCYRcRZM5SG5IOp6CF5r9f8fAnatjIvPYdxbUNfUvr95U2ASc>

20. Romans 14:14

21. Romans 14, full chapter

22. Matthew 22:37-39

23. Psalm 127:3

24. 1 Samuel 1:27, Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 29:17, Isaiah 8:18, Colossians 3:21, etc.

25. Ephesians 6:4

26. Of course, parental authority is forfeited in situations of criminal abuse. Abusive behavior towards little ones is condemned in the strongest of terms in the Bible, which underscores the importance of one’s responsibility to one’s children (Luke 17:2).

27. Hebrews 10:24-25

28. Deuteronomy 11:18-20, Psalm 78:5-7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15

29. US Constitution, Amendment 1. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925). UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960, Article 5. “It is essential to respect the liberty of parents and, where applicable, of legal guardians... to ensure in a manner consistent with the procedures followed in the State for the application of its legislation, the religious and moral education of the children in conformity with their own convictions...” http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12949&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

30. Acts 5:29

31. Colossians 1:27

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:48:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastasia Flanagan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am reaching out to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, a bill that threatens parental rights by removing personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations. Parents, not the government, should have the final say in their children's healthcare.

This bill assumes that one-size-fits-all medicine is safe for everyone, but that is simply not the case. Families must be able to make medical decisions based on their child's unique health needs, prior adverse reactions, and family history. No government official should have more authority over a child's medical decisions than their own parents.

In addition, HB 1118 is unfair and discriminatory. By grandfathering in some students but denying future exemptions, it creates an arbitrary distinction between those who can exercise their rights and those who cannot. This is fundamentally unjust. Many children are looking forward to start kindergarten this year, and if this bill passes, all of a sudden they won't be able to go to school, while their older friends and siblings can go to school. This is wrong and unfair both for the children and parents. This will create emergency situations and many children's hearts broken because all of a sudden they can't go to school that they were supposed to start soon. The parents will have to face a family emergency looking for alternative solutions.

I urge you to stand with parents and protect their right to make medical decisions for their children. Please vote NO on HB 1118.

Thank you for your service and consideration. And here is some additional information to consider:

QUESTION 1: Do unvaccinated children pose a health risk to others, especially immunocompromised children?

ANSWER: No. The vaccination status of other children does not pose a significant risk to your children, even those who are immunocompromised. No study has ever shown that an unvaccinated child puts another child at risk. On the contrary, a 2014 [NVIC \(National Vaccine Information Center\) report](#) documents how a vaccinated child can shed a live virus for up to 7 weeks after injection, depending upon the vaccine given, and therefore poses more of a threat of spreading the disease.

[Physicians for Informed Consent](#) has a great fact sheet about vaccines on their website. In addition, you may want to read an article written by Jean Ghantous, the mother of a child with leukemia, at [Thinking Mom's Revolution](#). What she has to say about this subject is right on.

QUESTION 2: Are vaccines safe? Haven't they been thoroughly tested?

ANSWER: No. In fact, all you need to do to find the answer to this question is to read the package insert for any vaccine. These inserts plainly state that the great majority of, if not all, vaccines contain ingredients known to be extremely toxic, including mercury, aluminum, sorbitol, and others. In animal studies, these ingredients have been shown to cause developmental delays; adverse neurologic events and disorders, such as motor weakness and slowing; and a host of other ill effects. You can find package insert information for many commonly given vaccines at [VaccineSafety.org](#).

QUESTION 3: Are Vaccines 100% effective?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, no. It has been well documented in countless cases that diseases such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough (pertussis) occur in fully vaccinated populations. Vaccinations by no means guarantee a child will not contract the virus or bacteria the vaccine is supposed to protect against.

There are many examples of this:

Measles outbreaks occur regularly in fully vaccinated populations. The [reasons](#) for this are: (a) Vaccine-conferred immunity wanes over time. And contrary to what you have been told, [a third, or booster](#), dose of the vaccine has not been shown to increase immunity. (b) Some people don't respond to the vaccine at all despite multiple shots. In fact, it is estimated that [nearly 50%](#) of schoolchildren and most adults vaccinated with two doses of the MMR vaccine can still be infected with the measles virus and spread it to others, even with mild or no symptoms of their own.

[China](#) is a perfect example of this. For the last decade, China has had a countrywide vaccination coverage above 95% (the threshold for measles elimination). Yet, measles continues to cause large epidemics. One [study](#) shows that despite a measles vaccination rate of more than 97 percent, more than one-quarter of vaccinated children in Tianjin, China, became infected with measles. School systems also see similar outbreaks. Two school systems in Texas—one in [Houston](#) and one in [Corpus Christi](#)—are prime examples of outbreaks among the fully vaccinated.

In addition, we are now seeing generations of children born to vaccinated mothers. These children lack [transplacental immunity](#)—in other words, disease immunity is not passed from the mother to the child, unlike with previous generations, because the vaccinated mother does not have the natural immunity. So, rather than eradicating diseases such as measles and creating healthier children who could fight off a measles infection if they were to acquire it, vaccines are

creating generations of children who become [sicker](#) from these infections than in the past due to an altered host immune response, and we are likely to see higher death rates as well.

In fact, the side effects of the MMR vaccine are worse than getting the measles. For example, data shows that seizures are 5 times more likely to occur in children who have received the MMR vaccine than in children who contract the measles.

Conversely, [naturally acquired measles infections](#) are associated with a reduced risk of Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, as well as a reduced risk of atopic diseases such as hay fever, eczema, and asthma. In addition, measles infections are associated with a lower risk of mortality from cardiovascular disease in adulthood.

In 2016, an outbreak of mumps swept through the student body at [Harvard](#). These students were all fully vaccinated. In 2019, a US Navy warship carrying marines was quarantined for nearly 4 months due to a mumps outbreak. All of the service people on board had been fully vaccinated against it. This is not the first incident of an [outbreak of mumps on a military ship](#).

The current outbreaks of pertussis in this country are taking hold in fully vaccinated children. This is because the current pertussis vaccine doesn't confer much protection at all, and what protection it does provide wanes within 2 years. As is common in the world of viruses and bacteria, the pertussis germ has mutated, making the [DPT vaccine ineffective](#). In December 2019, a Houston school closed due to a [pertussis outbreak](#) among vaccinated children and staff.

QUESTION 4: Are vaccinated children healthier than unvaccinated children?

ANSWER: Sadly, no. A staggering 50% of children today—more than ever before—have a chronic illness including asthma, allergies, ADHD, depression, anxiety, developmental delays, and autoimmune diseases. Controlled clinical trials comparing vaccinated with unvaccinated populations in the United States have never been carried out. And there aren't any studies on the safety of injecting infants, toddlers, and adolescents with up to 6 vaccines in a single visit—a common practice today.

There are now 69 to 72 vaccines recommended by the CDC for all children through age 18.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:49:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It goes against our constitutional right to practice our religion without anyone interfering.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:49:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katrina Ahia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

I am testifying in strong opposition to HB 1118. Eliminating religious exemption of vaccines is a violation of my rights to freely practice my religion. Forcing parents and caregivers to submit their child for vaccinations that are against their religious beliefs is a violation of parental rights.

Currently in Hawaii, the HPV vaccine is required for students entering 7th grade. The state's argument that herd immunity is required to protect the health and life of medically fragile or immunocompromised students fails right there. HPV is a sexually transmitted virus. This is not and should not be forced on children and families. These are not school activities. According to the CDC, 1% of women infected with HPV will develop cervical cancer (the most common form of cancer caused by the HPV virus) in their lifetime. Yet HB 1118 would require ALL children (entering 7th grade) to get the HPV vaccine to attend school in Hawaii.

It is not fair and it is not right to force vaccination on the 165,340 or so students enrolled in Hawaii public schools and approximately 33,500 students enrolled in Hawaii private schools and their families if it is in conflict with their religious beliefs and convictions.

You need to come up with a different solution to protect immunocompromised children. The actions outlined in HB 1118 are unacceptable. I suggest you focus your efforts on vaccine education so that families can make informed decisions based on sound science. There are many approaches that you could take that do not violate our basic freedoms. This proposed legislation is draconian and repugnant.

In conclusion, I strongly oppose HB 1118 for many reasons. Thank you for this opportunity to spend my valuable time and energy sharing my viewpoint on something that is very important to my family and our basic rights.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Katrina Ahia

Lahaina, Maui

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:52:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Bumanglag	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Removing Religious Exemptions for Vaccinations

Dear Legislative Committee Members,

I am writing as a deeply concerned future parent and citizen of Hawai'i to express my strong opposition to the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. This proposed change infringes upon fundamental rights and disregards the deeply held beliefs of many families across our state. As adults, we have a duty to protect our children, and that includes making informed medical decisions that align with our faith, values, and understanding of potential risks.

Parents should have the right to make medical choices for their children without coercion. Many families in Hawai'i hold religious convictions that emphasize bodily autonomy, natural immunity, or ethical concerns regarding vaccine ingredients. Forcing compliance with mandatory vaccinations disregards these deeply held beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for future government overreach into our personal and religious lives.

While vaccines have provided public health benefits, it is also undeniable that there are risks associated with them. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out over \$4 billion to families affected by vaccine injuries, proving that adverse reactions are real and not as rare as many claim.

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation that seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Bumanglag
jennykbu@gmail.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:52:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharise Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai to all communities members,

I am writing in full OPPOSITION to HB 1118, which will eliminate non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements for public school children attendees.

Parents these days like myself have become more educated and aware of how they want to best raise their children. If legislators found that the rate of non-medical immunization exemption more than doubled to 5.3 per cent for the 2023-2024 school year, its most likely because parents are making intentional choices for their families. We are very fortunate to live in a free country where we can express ourselves. People can choose what pronoun they want to be called, so why would Hawai'i choose to eliminate a God given right to choose what we want to put into our bodies and what we don't.

May our Heavenly Father bless you and help you to see the good in his care, if you so choose it.

Mahalo for your time and your commitment to protecting the children, the parents, and the kupuna of Hawai'i.

Sharise Dudoit

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:52:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Jose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Donna Jose and I oppose this unconstitutional bill that's being introduced. As a woman and mother who's kids got affected by a vaccine i oppose This bill. It is not right to force and mandate a poison into our body nonetheless something we don't know what's in the shots. We as Americans should have the right to choose if and when they want a vaccine. I oppose HB 1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:53:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Callie Wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely not! This bill is an encroachment on the rights of the people, for freedom of religion. Plus, the amount of religious exemptions isn't a great enough percentage to interfere with herd immunity. Your duty is to uphold the constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:54:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Pfund	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chairperson and members of the committee,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to this bill which seeks to eliminate the people's right to religious exemptions for vaccines in Hawaii. This bill raises significant concerns regarding our constitutional rights as Americans.

A few bible verses that speak to me on this issue:

“See to it that no one takes you captive through hollow and deceptive philosophy, which depends on human tradition and the elemental spiritual forces of this world rather than on Christ.” -1st Peter 2:16

“But Whoever has doubts is condemned if they eat, because their eating is not from faith; and everything that does not come from faith is sin.” 1 Corinthians 6:12

Medicine is not one size fits all. Food is not one size fits all. Tone and interpretation of conversation is not even one size fits all. We each live in a unique body with our own individual

patterns of thought, action, vitality, and heart. Our conscience is formed by our upbringings along with our own lived experiences and studies.

When I became pregnant with my first child I had the humility to ask myself if there was something I didn't yet know about the vaccine debate. Up until that point I was "normal." My Conscience lead me to look at the information that mainstream messaging labels as quackery. I quickly learned that the quack side of the argument fought hard for endless FOIA documents that prove that the science is not settled. The Children's Health Defense, The Informed Consent Action Network, and The Highwire all provide receipts for all their claims. All you have to do to find out you don't know all there is to know, is get a bit humble, compassionate, and curious. I could spout out loads of facts as fast as possible, but the truth is, you each must become curious within your own conscience to find out what's turning all the Moms MAHA.

Every person I know who has actually researched vaccine safety beyond the so called fact checkers, has landed over here.

I cannot in good conscience put my faith in products that the manufacturers of said product do not even hold liability for. They do not have faith in their own product to make money without government protection, government advertising (some call that propaganda), and in some states - government force.

From 1986 to 2023 VAERS has paid out \$4.6 billion to proven cases of vaccine injury. For a little perspective, despite it being a legal requirement that doctors report potential vaccine injury for data collection and further investigation, most doctors don't know that... or do it. It's estimated that 1-10 percent of injuries ever get reported to VAERS. The taxpayers have paid out \$4.6 billion to protect the vaccine manufacturers from owning up to their safety failings.

Are you aware that most vaccines are not trialed with an inert placebo? Are you aware that the safety study for the Hep B vaccine was only 5 days? How do we know the long term affects of the aluminum adjuvant in that vaccine if the study wrapped after 5 days? Post licensure there are patterned reports of the following potential injuries: Encephalitis, migraine, Multiple Sclerosis, seizures, Bell's Palsy, transverse myelitis, etc. That is only part of the Nervous System category. There are 13 categories. You can find this information on the Vaccine Insert at [FDA.gov](https://www.fda.gov)

If someone else wants to roll the dice with their child's health with a man made injection. That's their choice of faith.

My faith is in God. I don't want money from VAERS, I want thriving children.

From my research I can see that the religion of vaccines is built on a hollow philosophy. It sounds great until it's your own child that's injured and you realize all the information to have kept the child safe was available all along - just buried under pejoratives.

Can it become what people think it is? Yes. Make the manufacturers liable for their product and do studies to identify genetic predisposition to vaccine injury.

Show us real safety data and inserts that don't read like a nightmare, and we would be having a different conversation.

Thank you,

Natalie Pfund

Great resources for curious minds:

ICAN

The Highwire

Just The Inserts

Children's Health Defense

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:54:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Mason	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law should not be passed. It is my right as a citizen to decide what is BEST for my children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:55:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shakti stream	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill is a direct assault on our children and their families. As a mother I am constantly doing what I think and feel is best for my children and my faith is at the front of those decisions. To force a mother to have to choose between her faith or sending her child to school should never be a decision she should have to make.

There is no reason for this bill to be in this position. Has there been outbreaks of preventable diseases killing school age children in Hawai'i? Did I miss something? The last time I checked children were not dying from COVID yet it has been added to the schedule. This makes me weary of our government. You, the government are supposed to be the voice the people but the opposition of this bill is heavy yet it's still moving through legislature. It's absolutely obvious that pharma has an influence here, and if it's money then shame on you. Our children are not for sale, our religious rights are not for sale, and may karma teach you the way.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:55:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darlene S Yoshizumi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill. Vaccines should be determined by parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:58:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi L.	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 as a US citizen. This violates constitutional rights to freedom of religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:58:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose to the bill making vaccines mandatory for our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 10:59:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: The Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Health,
Hawaii State Legislature

Subject: Opposition to HB1118

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong and unwavering opposition to House Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children in Hawaii. This bill is an overreach of government authority that disregards the rights of parents, undermines personal freedom, and fails to account for the complexities of individual health needs and personal beliefs.

The decision to vaccinate should remain a personal one, made between a parent and their healthcare provider, based on their unique circumstances. Many parents have valid concerns about vaccines—whether for medical, religious, or philosophical reasons—and this bill effectively strips them of the ability to make these important decisions for their children. It imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate that fails to respect the diversity of beliefs and medical needs within our community.

Additionally, HB1118 disproportionately impacts families who may have no alternative but to send their children to public schools. Forcing parents to choose between complying with an unjust mandate and denying their children an education is cruel and discriminatory. It creates an unnecessary barrier to education and punishes families who already face financial or logistical difficulties.

This bill also risks eroding the trust between government institutions and the people they serve. Hawaii has long been a state that values personal rights and freedoms, and it is deeply concerning that such a sweeping policy could be considered at the expense of these values.

I urge you to reject HB1118 in its entirety. Instead, I ask that you support policies that protect parental rights, respect individual medical decisions, and prioritize education and public health in a balanced, transparent manner.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:00:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carren Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is our right as parents to make choices for our children, NO ONE ELSE'S.

We are not coparenting with the government.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:01:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charaiya yacapin-naweli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel that we should let the people and there families make that decision it shouldn't be forced to have vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:04:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sai Sooriyakumar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote no on this bill. Religious freedom is a constitutional right. This bill if past seems to invite long and costly litigation that will end up being decided in the favor of those exercising their religious freedoms and personal beliefs. Also, with its amendments this bill will now be effective in the year 3000? People living, and those they have elected at that time to represent them should make choices regarding vaccine exemptions not us! Please focus your time and energy on the issues at hand now and what your constituents want which was made clear by overwhelming testimony in opposition of this bill at the last hearing.

Mahalo,

Sai

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:04:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Moe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a grandmother to 14 grandchildren, it is with great concern that I share my thoughts on HB 1118. As a Christian I OPPOSE HB1118. My religious convictions says no to "forced or mandated" vaccinations to attend public school for the children of Hawaii. Parents have the right to refuse or accept what the government or other agency's are requiring to each child to attend school. Parents have the best interest of their children in mind especially when it comes to their bodily autonomy, so in good faith they will make the best informed decision to choose whats best by using their personal convictions & conscience through their religious beliefs and through science based pros & cons of the products used. Mandating vaccinations & removing religious exemptions is coercion and a draconian act in the guise of public safety/health, it is unconstitutional & a violation of our First Amendent Rights which The U.S. Constitution guarantees our Freedom of Religion. I am reminded, whenever there is risk (to bodily autonomy), there must be choice. There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to vaccinations, studies have shown not everyone responds to medicines/vaccinations the same. Every life is precious and deserving of the opportunity to thrive. So we as parents & caregivers will make the best choice fitting for our children without being forced, manipulated, coerced, or bullied. I highly urge you to reject all forced vaccination mandates upon our children and religious exemptions to continue for all those who choose to exercise their rights.

Once again, I OPPOSE HB 1118 !!!!

Sincerely, Vanessa Moe

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:05:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SusanWadas
1316 Mokapu Blvd
Kailua, HI 96734
Susan.wadas@gmail.com
February 19, 2025

Hawaii State Legislature
Committee on Health & Homelessness
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: Opposition to HB 1118 – Protecting Religious and Parental Rights in Immunization Decisions

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunization requirements in Hawaii. As a Christian, I firmly believe that parents have a God-given responsibility to make medical decisions for their children without government interference. This bill directly threatens religious liberty, parental rights, and bodily autonomy—principles that are foundational to our faith and the freedoms enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

A major ethical concern for many Christians is that several vaccines are developed, produced, or tested using cell lines derived from aborted human fetuses. For example, cell lines such as HEK-293 and WI-38 originate from abortions performed decades ago and continue to be used in vaccine research and development. The use of these cells contradicts biblical teachings on the sanctity of life (Psalm 139:13-16, Jeremiah 1:5), as it directly benefits from the destruction of innocent human life. Supporting or participating in a medical practice that relies on abortion-derived cells is morally unacceptable to many believers, as it implicates them in an industry that commodifies human life.

Additionally, some vaccines are developed using stem cells from animals, raising further ethical and religious concerns. Genesis 1:26-28 teaches that humans are uniquely created in God's image, distinct from animals, and are given dominion over them. The unnatural blending of

human and animal biological material in medical treatments poses serious moral dilemmas for those who believe in the sanctity and purity of God's creation. Many Christians feel a deep conviction that participating in such medical interventions violates God's design for humanity and their duty to remain faithful stewards of His creation.

Furthermore, the Bible calls us to honor God with our bodies (1 Corinthians 6:19-20) and to act according to our conscience (Romans 14:23). Forcing individuals to receive immunizations developed in a manner that conflicts with their religious beliefs is an infringement upon their right to freely practice their faith. The U.S. Supreme Court has upheld religious liberty in cases such as *Wisconsin v. Yoder*, affirming that the government must respect sincere religious convictions even when they conflict with state policies.

Parental rights are also at stake with this legislation. God has entrusted parents with the responsibility of raising their children according to biblical principles (Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4). When the government mandates medical procedures and removes parental choice, it usurps a role that belongs to families and erodes fundamental freedoms. Parents, not the state, are best positioned to make informed decisions about their children's health and well-being.

Moreover, enforcing such mandates has led to significant legal and financial repercussions. Across the United States, numerous employees have been terminated for refusing COVID-19 vaccinations on religious grounds, leading to costly lawsuits. For instance, a federal jury awarded over \$12 million to a former employee of Blue Cross Blue Shield of Michigan who was fired after refusing the COVID-19 vaccine due to her religious beliefs. Similarly, six employees of the Bay Area Rapid Transit (BART) system were awarded over \$1 million each after being terminated for refusing the vaccine on religious grounds. These cases not only highlight the infringement on individual rights but also result in substantial financial burdens on employers and taxpayers due to legal settlements and associated costs.

While I understand the intention behind this bill is to promote public health, religious freedom and personal choice must not be sacrificed in the process. The government should not compel individuals to violate their faith by forcing participation in medical interventions that contradict their deeply held beliefs.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB 1118 and uphold the religious and parental freedoms that are essential to a just and diverse society. I respectfully ask that you consider the rights of all Hawaii residents, including those whose faith convictions lead them to seek exemptions from immunization requirements.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I pray that you will act with wisdom and protect the freedoms that make Hawaii a place of respect and inclusivity for all beliefs.

Sincerely,

Susan Wadas

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:06:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
summer Dillberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it robs people of freedom we have as Americans I could launch into something more lengthy but this is one of the main reasons for my opposition, the slow erosion of freedom

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:07:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaelee Kamakele-Rezentes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern

I would like to start by introducing my self, my name is Shaelee Kamakele-Rezentes. Although to you it may be just another name with opposition I hope you see that it is in fact much more than that. This will be my very first time taking action and putting my name to my voice and opinion on what my family and I live around. We live in this country where there are rights, rules, and regulations. However it looks like the beginning of an end to our rights. This current bill that I am opposing to allows you guys with the higher power to control us and leave us helpless. It goes against laws that you guys have already set forth and now are saying it's okay to ignore because you guys say so. Those laws which I know your aware of are the first amendment and the right to exercise one's religion. My family and I are citizens who should be able to feel like they are being treated fairly, protected, and respected. We won't feels those things and want to reciprocate them neither when bills like these are forced upon us. I am a newly mother who is very concerned for my newborn because of what I witness happening in this life time. My family and many others out there have trust and faith in you guys and we deserve to be heard of our rights. I truly believe if this bill is passed many will pull there children out of school leading to more outcomes of unpredictability which we both know isn't in either of our interests. Don't make decisions for us allow us to be aware by giving us options to choose from. Thank you for your time.

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118 HD1. This bill is government overreach, plain and simple. It threatens our fundamental rights-our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and parents' rights to protect their keiki.

Hawai'i is built on respect-respect for our families, our kupuna, our keiki, and our personal choices. This bill disrespects all of that. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one-especially the government-should have the power to force those risks on anyone.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects-neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is "acceptable" for someone else's child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences.

HB1118 HD1 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? Our keiki are not the property of the state. Parents-not lawmakers-should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawai'i. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our keiki. I humbly ask that you all vote NO on HB1118 HD1.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Caoagdan

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:07:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caitlin Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important we as parents have the right to make decisions for our own families. This bill should not be passed because it should be our say! Enough had been taken from us. Let us have this choice for our own.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:08:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alissa Acasio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill which removes our religious exemptions! This is crazy i refuse to let the government force me to vaccinate my family. That's a personal choice! Taking away our religious freedom of vaccines will force me to home school my children to protect them. This isn't right, what is hawaii turning into?! There is no love or respect!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:10:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mele beter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my Name is Mele Beter, I'm a resident of Kailua, and I strongly oppose Bill HB1118. This bill is a direct attack on parental rights, it challenges our religious beliefs and freedom to uphold those beliefs, and it is a direct attack on medical choice, and physical sovereignty. As a native Hawaiian and as a woman of faith, and someone who has family members who have had extreme adverse reactions to vaccines, I am extremely concerned at the stance this government is taking, by proposing this destructive bill. Please hear our voice and take into consideration the harmful and negative affects this bill will have on freedoms of the people. The people that you are here to serve. Mahalo for your time

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:10:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jena Carvalho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I DO NOT support this bill. We as parents have the right to make our own decisions for our children regarding vaccines. It is NOT ok to allow anyone other than the parents to determine what vaccines our children need. Mandating vaccines is not pono (right). Please show us respect by allowing us to make medical decisions for our children. We are their parents, we know what our child needs and doesn't need. Please.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:10:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Siyuan Wang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for school immunization requirements. While I recognize the importance of public health, I believe that parents and guardians should have the right to make informed medical decisions for their children without government mandates.

This bill infringes on personal freedoms and disregards the diverse beliefs, medical histories, and risk factors that vary among children. The current exemption system allows families to make choices based on their individual circumstances, and removing it forces parents into compliance with medical decisions they may not fully agree with or feel comfortable with.

Furthermore, restricting school access based on vaccination status creates unnecessary barriers to education, potentially discriminating against children whose families have deeply held concerns. Schools should remain a place of learning for all children, regardless of their medical choices.

I urge the committee to vote against HB1118 HD1 and uphold the rights of families to make their own informed health decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:11:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Calpito	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am writing to oppose this bill. It is against our constitutional rights. My child, my decision! How is this okay that the government has the right to decide my child's health and vaccinations? Religious or medical exemptions should ALWAYS be up to the parent!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:12:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benel Piros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill due to the choice alone should be up to the parent/guardian to vaccinate their child or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:12:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Mano'i	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jasmine Mano'i, I am a mother of an 8 year old child and I am strongly opposing this bill. Every parent should have the choice to choose what they see is best for their child/children. It is our God given and constitutional right to choose. I am submitting my testimony to help remind those that will be casting their vote on this bill, to kindly remember that the pharmaceutical industry is not who voted you into office, they are not who you are representing. It is us, the people and citizens of Hawaii that you are to be thinking about when casting your vote with bills such as HB1118. Please do the right thing and allow decisions that involve medical/health choices to be solely dependent on what the individual/parent/legal guardian sees fit.

Mahalo,

Jasmine Mano'i

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:12:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keli Lunasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as this is unconstitutional to force any vaccinations or anything else on our own keikis. We as parents and guardians have the right to choose what is right for them. Vaccinations are not 100% safe and can also cause mild to severe effects.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:14:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
distin Barca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE.

This is unacceptable for politicians to make choices for parents when it comes to what they put in their children's body's. Who is lobbying you folks to pass this?!?

It's unconstitutional and it is also going to set you guys up for lawsuits against the state. when D.O.G.E come for the state of Hawaii. It's going to be scary to see what kind of skeletons are in all the politicians closets.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:15:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Cherry W. L, I am a resident in Honolulu.

I am submitting this testimony to share my strong opposition to HB1118. I strongly oppose this bill.

If this bill passes it will go against my religious belief, also The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution explicitly protects these rights.

I am a mother of 3 and a stay at home mom. I homeschool my children but they also attend a charter school. My children are thriving really well with being apart of a charter school with a mix of homeschooling.

If HB1118 passes, we would be left with no choice but to withdraw my two children from school, as they would no longer be allowed to continue their education there.

My two children who currently attend a charter school here in Honolulu are not a threat to their classmates. My children are hardly ever sick and are very healthy. We strive to be healthy and always go down the natural path of healing. In my experience, I've always noticed that my children who are not vaccinated hardly ever get sick compared to my family members and their children who are always sick and they are fully vaccinated.

I believe that we as parents deserve and should always be about medical freedom! I urge you to stand against HB1118 and protect the rights of families like mine.

I truly thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Cherry W. L

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:21:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esther Gonzales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to this bill as I feel it is within the Parents and the Physicians choice to choose if the child or children should have to be vaccinated.

2/19/2025

Dear Committee and Chair,

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB1118.

I am writing in STRONG opposition to HB1118.

Religious beliefs, whether organized or spiritual practice, is an undeniable freedom upheld by the US constitution. The state should reflect these basic values that our forefathers have set forth for our future generations.

In addition, regardless of safety and efficacy studies (for or against vaccines) a person has the right to bodily autonomy and a parent has the right to discern what enters their child's bloodstream.

And last, mandates with an obvious monetary gain trail will ALWAYS bring into question the motive, even if the message to secure those mandates come from a place of public welfare. Forcing people to have medical procedures to their bodies by threatening jobs, education, and access to other basic human rights WILL create doubt and distrust between the people and the government.

Please uphold our constitutional rights.

Please respect and protect bodily autonomy.

Please VOTE NO on HB1118.

Sincerely,

Jaymie Lewis

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:32:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

At this point it is unconscionable for you people to put this ridiculous unconstitutional and literally abusive bill forward. All the lies will be revealed about the pharma industry that is so insatiable it has to go after children. MAHA.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:33:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Whitney Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi Whitney brown oppose this bill HB1118. I do not agree to pass this bill and take away our parental rights. As parents WE decide to vaccinate our child or not. Where is your Aloha ? Forcing families and creating a broken home we call Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:41:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good evening.

I am writing in **objection** to bill H1118 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

I do not agree with the State government interfering with the health and safety of my child. Parents should have the right to decide what vaccinations and immunizations they feel is safe for their children to receive.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:44:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolynn Batalona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair

My name is Jolynn Batalona, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I have four children; two of them are vaccinated and two of them are not because this is our choice and our religious freedom here in Hawaii. As parents we know what is best for our children and our own family. We should be able to continue to live in Hawaii where our rights are respected.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families, including mines to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Thank you,

Jolynn Batalona

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:50:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charissa Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill!! It is against our religious, moral, and ethical views to impose this on our children! The public educational system is supposed to be for the people!!!! The people should have a say and the people should reserve their right to choose vaccination or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:53:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terrie Armbruster	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Strongly OPPOSE HB1118 HD1 for the following reasons:

It is Unconstitutional--it violates First Amendment Right to Free exercise of Religious beliefs.

It violates Parental Rights. Parents are the guardians of their children's health & well-being, Not government..

It violates the Right to bodily autonomy, and Informed Consent: any time there is Risk of Harm or Death, MUST have Choice to accept or refuse treatment, including vaccines.

Reminder: You will be accountable to Almighty God, our Creator and Supreme Judge, for trying to mandate an action against our God-given Free Will.

I strongly urge you to Vote NO on HB1118 HD1

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:57:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Navarro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing as a mother of two school-aged children here in Hawaii and would like to express my opposition to HB 1118 repealing the religious exemption to the vaccination requirement to attend public/private school in Hawaii. I have one child at a charter school and one homeschooled child, and we've also attended the local public school previously. I was born and raised on Oahu and attended both public and private school for K-12. I love that we have various schooling options here in Hawaii and that parents can choose the best option for each of our children based on their personal needs. Passing HB1118 would mean that my older child (currently in 6th grade in a charter school) would need to remain in a DOE school through 12th grade in order to retain her current religious exemption and my younger child (currently in 4th grade and homeschooled) would never have the option to attend a public/private/charter school at all and would need to remain homeschooled through 12th grade.

In a country that prides ourselves on our First Amendment right to free expression of religion, it is extremely disturbing to me that any state legislature would think it's appropriate to remove our children's right to an education of our choice simply due to our religious convictions. Religious persecution should NEVER occur in the United States of America.

A federal court in Mississippi in April 2023 determined that Mississippi law violated the First Amendment because it provided a process for parents to obtain secular medical exemptions, but not religious exemptions, to mandated school vaccines. It therefore unconstitutionally favored similar secular conduct (medical exemptions) over religious conduct (religious exemptions): <https://icandecide.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/04/077-MEMORANDUM-OPINION-AND-ORDER-GRANTING-PLAINTIFFS-MOTION-FOR-PRELIMINARY-INJUNCTION.pdf>. As you know, the First Amendment of the US Constitution applies to EVERY state, not just Mississippi. Please support the constitutional rights of all Hawaii residents by voting "no" on HB1118.

Also, the text of the bill states that a 95% vaccination rate in a population is needed to prevent transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases (VPDs). And presumably, this bill is necessary to prevent the rise of vaccine-preventable diseases in Hawaii. However, if you take a look at the Hawaii Dept of Health's 10-year Statewide Summary of Reported Cases of Notifiable Disease (https://health.hawaii.gov/docd/files/2025/01/Disease-Summary-Table-2014_2023_State.pdf), you'll see that cases of VPDs have not been on the rise. Diphtheria, poliomyelitis, rubella, and tetanus have had ZERO cases over 10 years. Resident cases of HepA have dropped from 7 in 2015 to 2 in 2023, HepB from 10 to 0, meningococcal meningitis from 3 to 1, mumps from 1 to

0, pertussis from 44 to 3, and varicella from 49 to 8. The only VPDs that had any increase in resident cases were measles, which increased from 0 to 2 cases, pneumococcal disease from 61 to 96 cases, and haemophilus influenza (all 6 types) from 10 to 36 cases. Since the haemophilus influenza stats are not separated out by type and the vaccine only covers Type B, we have no idea if there's been any increase, or even any resident cases at all, of Type B in Hawaii since 2015. In a state with a population of 1.4 million residents, these cases numbers are minuscule and prove that there is ZERO urgent need to increase vaccination rates for the VPDs required for school entry in Hawaii. (I have no idea why HPV isn't included in the linked table, but given that HPV is a sexually transmitted infection and wouldn't be transmitted in a school setting, it makes ZERO sense for it to be required for school admission in the first place.)

In addition to the fact that there has been no rise in VPDs over the last 10 years, the current religious exemption form already excludes children with exemptions from school in the case of an outbreak "until the threat of an epidemic is over or he/she receives the proper immunization". That requirement protects children with both medical and religious exemptions from becoming infected with and transmitting a VPD within the school setting.

Also, the acellular pertussis vaccine currently in use does not prevent colonization and transmission, but does reduce symptoms of pertussis: <https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1314688110>. So children vaccinated with the acellular pertussis vaccine are more likely to attend school while infected (due to only having mild symptoms) and transmit pertussis to other schoolchildren. Whereas, children not vaccinated with the acellular pertussis vaccine are more likely to stay home if infected, which prevents the spread to other schoolchildren. So, while acellular pertussis vaccines have been in use in the US since the 1990s, it was only in the last decade that we began to learn that this form of pertussis vaccine likely doesn't prevent colonization and transmission. How can we guarantee that we won't discover this same issue with other vaccines in the future? How can we mandate vaccines that not only don't prevent transmission, but may actually promote the spread of disease when the goal is to prevent transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases? How does that protect the medically fragile and immunocompromised?

For meningococcal vaccines, according to the CDC (https://www.cdc.gov/meningococcal/vaccines/types.html?revision_id=5107#cdc_vaccine_basics_safe_effective-how-well-they-work), "Experts are unsure to what extent MenACWY vaccines protect the larger, unvaccinated community through population or herd immunity." And, "Experts believe MenB vaccines don't provide protection to unvaccinated people through population immunity." So this is another vaccine that likely doesn't protect the medically fragile and immunocompromised through "herd immunity".

Finally, the varicella (chickenpox) vaccine package insert (<https://www.fda.gov/media/76008/download?attachment>) states in Section 5.3, "Due to the concern for transmission of vaccine virus, vaccine recipients should attempt to avoid whenever possible close association with susceptible high-risk individuals for up to six weeks following vaccination with VARIVAX. Susceptible high-risk individuals include: Immunocompromised individuals". School settings would be considered "close association". However, schools are not requiring students who recently received Varivax to remain out of school for 6 weeks in order to

protect immunocompromised individuals. If this bill is truly to protect the medically fragile and immunocompromised who cannot receive these vaccines, why is there no requirement for students recently vaccinated with Varivax to remain out of school for 6 weeks post-vaccination? Why is there no requirement for teachers to receive the same vaccinations or prove immunity to VPDs via titer count?

Again, I urge you to VOTE NO on HB1118. This bill will only serve to violate our First Amendment right to free expression of religion and will not protect the immunocompromised in a state that already has a history of only a tiny number of cases of VPDs each year.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 11:59:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachael Rickard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in full OPPOSITION to HB 1118 which will eliminate non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements for public school children attendees.

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:00:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriel Lam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this legislation that creates an unreasonable seizure of persons in violation of the US Constitution 4th Amendment, and Hawaii Constitution Article 1 Bill of Rights Section 7.

If you so choose to pass this law, be careful of the ramifications and second/third order effects of dictating law with dubious moral authority. Not only is federal education funding in jeopardy for educational institutions that mandate vaccines, you may very well have created another exodus from Hawaii public schools, accelerating private education with \$10,000 education vouchers per student, and further stripping the Hawaii Department of Education of students and teachers.

This legislation lacks foresight, engages in past rhetoric of failed public health policy and further erodes trust in government.

Aloha,

Adriel Lam

Kaneohe Resident

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:09:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei Duvauchelle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

As a mother of 2 beautiful daughters who are both vaccinated, I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill and any policy that would force parents to vaccinate their children as a prerequisite for attending school. While I understand the importance of public health and the role vaccinations play in preventing the spread of infectious diseases, I believe that imposing such a mandate infringes upon parental rights and the autonomy of families in making healthcare decision.

There are valid concerns about the safety of vaccines that deserve to be addressed through open dialogue rather than mandates. While vaccines have saved lives and reduced disease outbreaks, not every child responds to vaccinations the same way. Some may have adverse reactions, and a one-size-fits-all approach does not take into account children with specific health conditions or family histories that may warrant caution.

I also believe that rather than instituting blanket vaccine mandates, we should focus on improving education about vaccines, providing access to quality healthcare, and addressing individual concerns. Empowering parents with accurate information and the ability to make decisions based on their child's specific needs is far more effective than imposing laws that undermine personal freedoms.

Furthermore, it is important to acknowledge that school attendance should not be contingent upon compliance with a singular health policy. There are many ways to mitigate the risks of infectious diseases, such as promoting healthy lifestyles, supporting alternative education options for families who may opt out of vaccines, and encouraging voluntary vaccination programs. Compulsory vaccination is a heavy-handed solution that could set a dangerous precedent for further government intervention into personal health choices.

I urge lawmakers to reject any proposal that would force parents to vaccinate their children in order to access education. Instead, I encourage a thoughtful and respectful approach that balances public health with individual rights.

Thank you for your consideration.

Mahalo nui,

Kalei Duvauchelle

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:09:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jandie-Lee Hernando	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB1118 ignores the fact that everyone is different, that medical treatment comes with risks and no one, especially the government or anyone for that matter should have the power to force those risks on anyone. Our keikis are not the property of the state. Us as parents should be the one to make that choice for our own children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:12:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Bareng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Judiciary Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118 that would eliminate the option for religious exemptions and attempt to mandate vaccinations for all children regardless of one's religious and spiritual beliefs.

I understand the importance of public health and the need to protect our keiki, but I believe that this proposal overlooks fundamental rights and freedoms that are guaranteed to every individual and family in our state.

First and foremost, the attempt to eliminate religious exemptions raises serious concerns. For generations, religious freedoms have been protected as a core principle of this nation. Families should have the right to make decisions about their children's healthcare based on their deeply held beliefs. Forcing vaccinations on children and removing religious exemptions is an overreach by the state and infringes on the rights of parents to make decisions for their children according to their conscience and values. Where is the respect for "my body, my choice" when it comes to the parental rights to protect their children and make health decisions in the best interest of their families?

Additionally, the state acknowledges that vaccine injuries do exist simply via the state medical exemption forms. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), established by the federal government, has paid over \$4 billion in financial compensation to families who have been directly affected by vaccine-related injuries. This alone is an acknowledgment from the government that vaccine injuries do happen and can have life-altering consequences for children and their families. There is no one size fits all approach to health and spiritual beliefs.

If we truly care about the health and well-being of our keiki, then we should be directing our efforts to areas that significantly impact public health. Rather than focusing on removing exemptions and mandating vaccines, we should be addressing larger environmental and public health issues.

I urge you to reconsider this legislation and stand with the parents and families of this state who want to protect their right to make religious and medical decisions for their children. I believe that a true commitment to the health of our keiki involves a more comprehensive

approach—one that respects parental rights, acknowledges the reality of vaccine injuries, and addresses the environmental and chemical risks to public health that are currently being overlooked.

Please consider the long-term consequences of this legislation and listen to the voices of those who are most affected by it—our keiki, their parents, and the future of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:18:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmyn Lave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this unlawful bill. We the people should have the right to choose what goes into our body. My body my choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:19:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY oppose this bill, HB1118. Our Hawai'i ohana and friends decisions to not vaccinate due to religious reasons should be RESPECTED not striped away! The government needs to understand that these families SHOULD NOT be coerced, influenced, harassed, intimidated and/or forced to act against their sincerely held religious beliefs. It is unconstitutional! Please do the right thing and not pass this bill any further!

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:20:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Drewek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Anna Drewek and I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118.

Removing religious exemptions disproportionately impacts families who have deeply held convictions regarding medical decisions. Informed consent and bodily autonomy are principles that should be respected in a free society. Parents must retain the right to make medical choices for their children without fear of coercion or discrimination.

Additionally, historical and scientific data indicate that communities with religious exemptions have not posed a significant public health threat. Many countries and states that allow exemptions maintain high vaccination rates while respecting individual rights. The focus should be on education and informed decision-making rather than coercion.

It is important to note that attorneys have been actively fighting in court to defend religious exemptions, and in some states, these exemptions have been restored rather than taken away. This demonstrates that the removal of religious exemptions is neither necessary nor justified. States can maintain public health while also respecting constitutional rights. The legal precedent being set in favor of religious freedom should not be ignored.

As of February 2025, several states have recently restored religious exemptions for vaccinations:

- **Mississippi:** In July 2023, under a court order, Mississippi began allowing religious exemptions for state-mandated vaccinations.
- **West Virginia:** In January 2025, Governor Patrick Morrisey issued an executive order permitting religious exemptions for vaccinations in the state.

These changes reflect a shift in vaccination policies, with some states reinstating religious exemptions that had previously been removed.

I urge you to reject HB 1118 and uphold the fundamental right to religious freedom and medical choice. Please allow families like mine to continue making thoughtful decisions without fear of exclusion or punishment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anna Drewek

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:20:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle Blaconiere	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill that is in direct violation of our constitutional rights. We pay taxes which is what funds public school and we have human autonomy. The govt has no place to have an opinion over this matter. Follow the money.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:24:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this proposed rule change. Our country was founded on religious freedom. Citizens should not have to give up their religious beliefs related to vaccinations, just to send their children to school.

Please oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:24:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristan Pangkee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this. I have 2 children that will no longer be part of your Hawaii school system if this passes. But, they will still be part of everyday society. So, any arguments about this being for the better good and public health is bunk. It is the furthering of the rapid decline of individual freedoms in this state and government overreach into unnecessary and experimental health care.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:24:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travisreis Lave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB1118 in the belief that it is my body my right and my right to choose what is right for my family as head of household. No government entities shall dictate my decisions that I deem fit for my family

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:31:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill it's unconstitutional. Please don't take away our rights to choose. I personally know many people who have had strong reactions to the vaccines that have them in wheel chairs now. As a father I have the best interest in protecting my kids. I strongly disagree in putting something in their body that is not 100% effective. Allow parents to be parents!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:32:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Bettencourt-Pedro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. As a mother of 4 and a tax payer, I believe parents should have the final say. This bill will cause parents to trust their local politicians even less and will cause more parents to home school their children.

There should be transparency and evidence proving the safety and effectiveness of each vaccine as opposed to forcing control on people who want to make sure their children aren't being harmed in the process.

2/19/2025

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD FAAP

Testimony for HB1118

In Support

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee,

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson. I'm a pediatrician in Maui, where I have worked with the underserved and Native Hawaiian keiki for over 10 years. I'm speaking today on my own behalf and not representing anyone else, in strong support of HB1118.

The first portion of my testimony is to draw your attention to the fact if we have an outbreak, it is very likely to be measles and likely to occur on a neighbor island. Neighbor islands have much higher rates of religious exemptions but lack intensive care services. All ill neighbor island children (non-Kaiser) are transferred to Kapiolani, which only has an estimated 15 isolation beds (negative pressure rooms). Measles is the most contagious of the vaccine preventable infections and the most common immunization refused by parents.

Measles facts:

- It lives for 2 hours in the air and infects 95% of time if unimmunized.
- Each infected person spreads the infection to 18 others on average.
- 1/20 Develop Pneumonia
- 1/5 Need hospitalization for encephalitis, dehydration, sepsis, pneumonia
- Measles' isolation period is 21 days- meaning no work and no school for anyone exposed, which would cripple working families and students. The economy would suffer from workers needing to isolate for so long.
- Immunization refusal is increasing: Currently only 36% of my 2 year old patients are fully immunized. 64% of keiki are unvaccinated/partially vaccinated/behind schedule.
- The measles vaccine is extremely effective needing only 2 lifetime doses usually at age 1 and 4 years.
- While Oahu has very good rates of immunization, the neighbor islands have much higher rates of religious exemptions.

According to the DOH 2023-2024 data on registered students K-12:

Bid Island has **2,315 unvaccinated students/** 29,761 total students = **7.7% UNVACCINATED**. Or 92.3% vaccinated. Herd immunity to stop measles spread is >95% of the community vaccinated. When you add in the keiki who are too young for school, we have a total population of kids on Big Island of 42,623. If they have a similar rate of vaccination as students, you can expect unvaccinated rate of 7.7% which equals **3,282 total unvaccinated keiki**. An island wide outbreak can be expected to cause about **656 hospitalizations (20%)**. There are no pediatric beds for ill

children on Big Island. Transfer to Oahu would be limited to one at a time, likely up to 15 to isolation beds at Kapiolani. In developed countries with excellent medical care, the mortality rate of measles is 1-3/1000. In developing countries with little health care, **mortality can be 15%**. If our capacity to provide excellent care is exceeded, the remaining children not transferred to Oahu could have high mortality. With 3,282 keiki vulnerable on Big Island, **492 keiki could perish without care**. In reality, we would likely be able to help some but not all. Even at a conservative **3% mortality rate, 98 children would die**.

Even just one school having an outbreak could overload our hospital system, for example:

- **Malamalama Waldorf School** has 61 unvaccinated keiki/97 students
 - = **63% unvaccinated**. This could lead to **12 hospitalizations**, and from 0-11 deaths depending on care.
- **HI Academy of Arts and Science** has 231 unvaccinated keiki/ 776 students
 - = **30% unvaccinated**. This could lead to **46 hospitalizations**, and from 0-35 deaths depending on care.

Maui has **1,153 unvaccinated** / 19,796 kids registered for school = **5.8% unvaccinated**. The total population of kids on Maui is 34,000. With an unvaccinated rate of 5.8% we have about **1,700 unvaccinated keiki**. An outbreak could result in **394 hospitalizations** and between **2 deaths** (if receiving highest quality care) and up to **295 deaths** without care.

Kauai has **735 unvaccinated** / 9,781 kids registered for school = **7.5% unvaccinated**. The total population of kids on Kauai is 15,577. With an unvaccinated rate of 7.5 %, there are about **1,168 unvaccinated keiki**. An outbreak could result in **233 hospitalizations** and between **1 death** (if receiving highest quality care and up to **175 deaths** without care.

Other considerations:

- Hospital PICU beds cost around \$8500/day. One outbreak will overload our capacity and strain our state's financial resources.
- Tourism would be significantly affected by national/international news coverage of outbreaks on our islands with limited hospital care.
- With safer policies like HB1118, Hawaii will be far more attractive to high-quality workers, especially Doctors, who may be fleeing states where they are discouraging vaccine uptake. Retention of local professionals/medical providers will be helped by the policy.
- Unvaccinated teens are often upset when they apply to join the military, sports camps, tournaments, and college as it is often difficult to complete the series on a short timeline.

- DOE education and collaboration around the explanation/collection of exemptions will be crucial to compliance and accurate record keeping of the vaccine status of students
- While access to an education is vital it is also a human right to have freedom from harm caused by others such as spreading disease.

For the second part of my testimony, I want to explain that I love babies. I love their first smiles. I love helping parents find those little moments of joy in between the stress and the worry about whether or not their baby is doing well. As a parent to 3 keiki myself, I know parents never want their babies to feel pain or suffer. Your worst fear is that they could die.

I want to take this opportunity to do something that I should have already done, but was too afraid to do it. I want to apologize to my patients and families who are hesitant to immunize. I have often avoided talking much about immunizations with you out of fear. I didn't want to push you away. I didn't want you to reject me. Recently, I heard from a mother who had lost her daughter to meningitis. She said outright "my pediatrician never told me this could happen. If they would've warned me, I would've given my daughter the immunization that would have saved her life." It dawned on me that in my attempt to be friendly and approachable, that I was doing your child and you a disservice by not clearly telling you what it is like to watch a child to die from meningitis.

Every time a family signs a refusal form, I see her. My memory flashes back to that hospital room and to the moans and wails of her mother and her father screaming her name. He screams and chokes out the words "I am so sorry I missed your birthday party." I see her pupils, fixed and staring, from the pressure of pus in her brain. My hand holding my stethoscope to her chest, hearing her heartbeats come further and further apart until they stop. I look up, still with my hand to her chest, and nod an acknowledgement to the family and nurse that she is gone. "Time of death." May you never hear those words. May I never speak them again. Every time you sign a immunization refusal, I relive this. And yet I haven't told you that story. I am a coward and I am sorry. I am here today to promise I will do better. I owe you an apology for the brief conversations about immunizations and for not better helping you process your feelings, your fears, the rumors that you've heard. I should've given you my time, my energy, my patience because each of your keiki are worth it. Every keiki deserves protection. HB1118 can help provide it.

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee for your time.

Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed House Bill 1118 that seeks to restrict medical freedoms, specifically the right of parents to decide whether or not to vaccinate their children.

As a family who has homeschooled for many years due to our own personal desires, I am deeply concerned about the implications this bill would have on both our children and families across the state.

Our family has made the informed decision to homeschool our children. Three days after my daughter received the MMR vaccine at only 3 years old, she suffered seizures that required 12 hours of observation in the hospital.

This personal experience has made us vigilant and thoughtful about our decisions regarding medical treatments, and we have the right to make these choices based on what we believe is best for her health.

While it's true that vaccination rates in Hawaii may be low, this should not be used as any type of justification to infringe upon parental rights. It's disheartening to see politicians and doctors prioritize their own financial interests, including kickbacks, over the health and safety of children. What happens when more families, like ours, are forced to withdraw from the public school system due to such measures? The state will lose significant funding for each student, and unfortunately teachers and other school personnel will lose their jobs.

I urge you to consider the long-term consequences of such legislation. VOTE NO! Be Brave ... do the RIGhT Thing!

We are not just talking about numbers; we are talking about real children, families, and their futures. I ask you to reflect on how you would feel if a child you loved had an adverse reaction to a vaccine. Shouldn't parents have the ultimate say in decisions affecting their child's well-being?

Please reconsider this bill and the impact it will have on the freedoms of Hawaii's families.

Sincerely,

Lynelle McElhannon

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:42:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dereka Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please No! these are the shots that are killing us and now you want to force it on our children?
NO NO NO!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:46:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear State Representatives,

I respectfully submit my opposition to HB1118 as it would provide unchecked overreach of government into the privacy and medical decisions of citizens. If you do not strike this bill down you will lose my vote and my children will be homeschooled rather than submitting to the tyranny of an increasingly overbearing nanny-state.

Respectfully,

Joshua D Nelson

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:52:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha this is Shyann Yacapin-Samson ,

I am a proud pacific island who has three children. This HB1118 bill that they are tryna pass of it being a "MANDATORY" thing that our children has to take all vaccine shots in school is NOT ACCEPTABLE!

Why? We , Us parents should have every power & control when it comes to our children & for this bill trying to ENFORCE our keikis & us PARENTS to do something we have no control of it's RIDICULOUSLY STUPID DISRESPECTFUL UNCALLED FOR NO HUMANITY DISCRIMINATION HOLD AGAINST OUR OWN WILL!!

I am a parent and I absolutely DO NOT support this bill. It's like me coming to your house and saying you have no choice but to give me all your money and everything you have if not your outta this world? How does that sound? That's basically what this bill is tryna do! I don't appreciate that this bill is just been stuck on vaccinations when Covid first came out then we had a flu going around and now 2025 there's 2 more viruses going on ?

what is really going on? If you ask me it seems like vaccines are not helping people or protecting people from getting sick like it claims I feel it' was created to ELIMINATE PEOPLE KILL PEOPLE yet we are used as "EXPERIMENTS" for there new creating virus's!

DO NOT PASS THIS BILL!

KIDS ARE INNOCENT!!!

WHY HURT KIDS?

DONT YALL HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO!!

BUILD HOMELESS SHELTERS!

FIX POTHOLES

FOCUS ON DRUGS

FOCUS ON THE WRONGFUL THINGS OUR SYSTEM IS DOING!!

COME ON HAWAII STATE COME ON

BILL HB 1118 YOU HAVE BETTER THINGS TO DO THEN TO MAKE INNOCENT
CHILDREN SICK MAYBE EVEN DEATH!!!

Sincerely,Shyann Yacapin S.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:54:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahina Ibarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to whom it may concern,

As a fellow resident,kanaka and Mother, I oppose to this bill. We as parents should not be forced to vaccinate our children. My child had a very bad reaction to vaccines at just 2 months old. Since then she has seen permanent skin damages. Also as a Christian and follower of Christ, I absolutely will not be vaccinating my children. This bill takes away our rights as parents and their rights .

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:08:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maly Gella	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

My name is Maly Gella and I am registered nurse of 28 years. I am writing to express my Strong Opposition to HB 1118. I am submitting my 2nd testimony in Opposition to HB 1118 because the will of the People in the first committee was ***completely ignored!*** When over 85% of the testimonies received Opposed this bill, yet the Committee overwhelmingly voted in Support, something is terribly wrong with this process! **Parents**, NOT Elected Officials, get to decide based on their deep held beliefs whether or not they want to vaccinate their children. Hawaii, with our **dictatorial** governor Green at the helm, continues to have NO Regard For the Citizens of Hawaii and our Right to Bodily Sovereignty! Our founding fathers put in place safeguards around such **tyranny** to protect us from the need to fight for OUR INALIENABLE RIGHTS, ENDOWED BY OUR CREATOR! This bill to remove our RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION FROM ALL SCHOOLS is in direct violation of our religious freedoms protected by the First Amendment! The United States of America is a Constitutional Republic, not a Pure Democracy! One of the fundamental principles of a constitutional republic is “the protection of Minority Rights against the Potential Tyranny of the Majority”!

Our DOH Director (who drafted this bill), the doctors who testified, and all those who spoke in support of the bill completely disregarded what this bill is about, A Parent’s Right to exercise their religious beliefs/convictions as protected by our Constitution! Their arguments were all focused on their medical concerns for the 296 immunocompromised student while failing to acknowledge the thousands of students and families that will be harmed if this bill passes. I did not hear a single Representative, Health Care Provider, or the Dept. of Health Director mention the possibility of a vaccine injury. Could it be because they are in complete denial of any potential risk? Their belief in a Perfect Medical Intervention, all benefit, no risk sounds more like a Religion to me than Science! Our Governor, Dr. Fink, and every single person responsible for supporting this bill must be held responsible for any and all vaccine injury if this bill is Passed. If none are willing to take on this responsibility then they have No Right mandating Vaccines for the students of Hawaii!

SO I IMPLORE EACH AND EVERYONE OF YOU CONSIDERING VOTING IN SUPPORT OF THIS BILL. PLEASE RETHINK YOUR DECISION.

Thank You.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:14:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Kaea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE HB1118.

This is a severe overreach by the government. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution **guarantees** individuals the right to practice their religion **freely**. For some, vaccinations conflict with their religious beliefs, and allowing exemptions respects this constitutional right.

Even if you are "PRO-VACCINE" - By supporting HB1118, you are violating constitutional rights protecting ALL citizens (amendment 14). If HB1118 is approved, there will be further erosion of personal liberties! The government CANNOT dictate any aspect of personal health decisions amongst families. Allowing religious exemptions can help foster a more inclusive society where diverse religious perspectives are respected, ensuring that people are not forced to act against their conscience or faith.

People from different religious traditions may have varying interpretations or teachings regarding health practices, including vaccines. For some religious groups, there are concerns about the ingredients in vaccines, such as the use of fetal cell lines in development, which may lead them to reject vaccination on religious grounds.

We continue to hear the slogan "my body, my choice!" Where is the bodily autonomy and individual rights activists now? The right to make decisions about one's own body is a fundamental principle in liberal democracies. Forcing individuals to undergo medical procedures, like vaccinations, is an extreme violation of personal autonomy. Each person should have the right to make informed choices about their own health and medical treatments, without coercion. The government has programs for vaccine adverse event reporting system as well as a national vaccine injury compensation program. These programs prove the government acknowledges that all vaccines are not given without potential for serious injuries. Personal choice (and namely, HB1118, Religious values) allows people to consult their healthcare providers to assess the risks and make an informed decision based on their unique medical circumstances.

Now, let's get down to the nitty gritty of why some people oppose vaccines. I've seen the same people at whole foods, carefully studying ingredient labels, argue the need to mandate vaccines! Unbelievable! Do you know what ingredients are in those shots? Are you studying the labels to something injected directly into your body, your blood stream, your cells, but you're worried about the plastic your sandwich is wrapped in. One notable example of ingredients many

religious (and/or common morals and values!) is the use of fetal cell lines derived from abortions. These fetal cell lines are used in the development and production of certain vaccines! Do they realize this? What about vegans, who cannot eat any food item with ANIMAL parts, they refuse to eat chese or drink milk but yet they'll inject aborted human (or animal) fetal cells into their body? Make it make sense! These cell lines were originally taken from aborted fetuses decades ago and have been used in research to produce vaccines, such as those for rubella, chickenpox, and some other illnesses. For some people, using vaccines produced in this way raises not only religious conflict but general moral or ethical concerns!!!

Infections after vaccinations also occur because immunity can take weeks to develop after vaccination. People can become infected in the days or weeks following their vaccination! Vaccinated people can still get infected!

During the last hearing, Rep Terez Amato spoke mockingly at the community accusing them of abusing the religious freedom how do we distinguish between "real religious exemptions and fallacious medical speculation" - it's not up to YOU to determine their religious beliefs, it is THEIR Constitutionally **PROTECTED** Right to BELIEVE!!

You are public servants, sworn to protect the freedoms granted to United States Citizens and residents of the great state of Hawai'i. You are a government by the people, FOR the people. This is a **PROTECTED FREEDOM**. YOU MUST OPPOSE AND FULLY REJECT HB1118 AND PROTECT OUR FREEDOMS!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:21:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I opposed hb1118 for I believe that everyone has a right to choose to be or not to be vaccinated.

sincerely Sam

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:35:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Medley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 violates our constitutionally protected rights.

- 1st Amendment = ***Prohibits*** Congress from making laws that establish a religion or prohibit the free exercise of religion
- **Protects** freedom of religion (& speech, press, assembly, *petition*)
- 14th Amendment = Ensures **equal** protection under the law for **all** citizens

We are ALL to be treated EQUAL! I OPPOSE HB1118 as I support religious groups who believe individuals should have the right to make personal health decisions according to their religious beliefs. They have constitutionally protection over their religious freedom and autonomy in health decisions.

This “vaccinated vs unvaccinated” comparison is not protecting citizens as being equal. This causes separation in community. This causes a divide in which not all citizens are protected equally. Those with strong religious beliefs to not mark their body with tattoos or injections or piercings have their rights stripped away from them!

Those that have religious views to choose what goes into their body are not protected if this bill gets passed. This is a violation of amendment 14’s protection of ALL citizens.

Additionally, we have freedom to exercise religion and those beliefs. If a sincerely held religious belief is to not mark or inject your body, let them be! If religious beliefs do not put certain chemicals or drugs in their body, let their religion be free to decide!

Without any discussing any data from vaccines or vaccine injuries, HB1118 at its core, is a VIOLATION of our constitutionally protected rights !!!! Even if you are "pro vaccine" you should seriously question the government's overreach in stripping away your freedoms. If we allow the government to take away religious exemptions for vaccination, it will embolden them to impose restrictions in other areas, potentially infringing on the broader rights! If we allow this bill to pass, it will extend into a tyranical governing authority controlling and dictating other personal health or moral decisions. We will all be more vulnerable to government-imposed mandates in various aspects of life and lifestyle regulations.

One main concern that I personally feel and that I hear within my community is HB1118 will take away parents rights. This is another reason I strongly oppose HB1118. Parents have the best interests of their children at heart and should not be coerced into making decisions that conflict with their deeply held religious beliefs. Parents should be trusted to make decisions regarding their child's health and upbringing, especially when those decisions are guided by their religious convictions.

I value personal choice and the everyone having their moral compass and conscience. Religious exemptions is part of respecting an individual's right to follow their conscience or moral compass. We need to be the State that upholds freedom of conscience to ensure the community as a whole fosters trust and cooperation.

VOTE NO HB1118.

HB1118 violates our constitutionally protected rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:36:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arthur hannemann	Father's and mothers for children	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118, which denies parents their God given right to choose what is best for their own children, and not the government.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:39:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Childhood immunizations exist to prevent death and injury/illness in children and reducing spread of disease.

A multitude of studies have demonstrated that there is no link with/between autism and vaccines.

Currently in New York and Texas, there are out breaks of measles due to decreasing numbers of vaccinations by parents combined with an influx of illegal aliens who are unvaccinated.

Please ensure that children in school are vaccinated. Parents who don't vaccinate their children may opt for home schooling, though the state ought to require vaccination even then. Also any parent opting out of vaccinations should be required to see films of children with polio, whooping cough and read brochures of the possible results of infection with each infection. Things like hearing damage or sterilization.

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love

Testimony of Barbara Caballes
Ewa Beach, HI. 96706

February 20, 2025

Committee on Health
Hawai'i State Legislature
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Subject: Testimony in Strong OPPOSITION to HB 1118

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a deeply concerned parent, citizen of Hawai'i, and military veteran to express my strong opposition to **HB 1118**, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. **This bill represents a severe infringement upon our constitutional rights, parental rights, and religious freedoms, and I urge you to reject it.**

Personal Experience with Vaccine Adverse Reaction

From 1997 to 2012, I proudly served in the Hawai'i Air National Guard. Around the Spring of 2007, I received the mandatory influenza vaccination as part of my service duties. Shortly thereafter, I experienced a severe adverse reaction that nearly claimed my life. This harrowing experience led to connecting medical issues, which led to a medical exemption from all vaccines for the remainder of my military career. Since then, I have not received any vaccinations and have maintained good health without further medical complications.

Adverse reactions can have profound and lasting impacts on individuals, such as myself. Personal medical histories and potential risks must be considered in vaccination policies rather than a blanket mandate that disregards individual circumstances.

1. Violation of Constitutional Rights

HB 1118 blatantly disregards and oversteps the fundamental freedoms enshrined in both the United States Constitution and the Hawai'i State Constitution, infringing upon religious liberties and personal medical choices through unnecessary government overreach.

- **The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** protects religious freedom, prohibiting the government from enacting laws that infringe upon the free exercise of religion (U.S. Const. amend. I). The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that

individuals must be free to practice their faith without undue governmental interference, as established in cases such as *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), where the Court ruled that religious exemptions in education were necessary to protect religious freedoms.

- **Article I, Section 4 of the Hawai'i State Constitution** explicitly states: "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof" (Haw. Const. art. I, § 4). The proposed repeal of religious exemptions directly contradicts this protection and sets a dangerous precedent that undermines individual liberties in favor of state control.

The government should not have the power to override personal, deeply held religious beliefs regarding medical procedures. By eliminating religious exemptions, the State of Hawai'i would force individuals to act against their conscience and faith, which is a direct violation of constitutional protections and an erosion of fundamental civil liberties.

2. Parental Rights and Medical Autonomy

Parents, not the government, should have the final authority over medical decisions for their children. Similar government overreach has been observed in states like California, where the elimination of non-medical exemptions in 2015 led to thousands of families either leaving the state or resorting to homeschooling to preserve their parental rights. The consequences of such policies demonstrate the dangers of restricting personal medical choices and the potential for widespread civil discontent. The U.S. Supreme Court has recognized parental rights as "the fundamental liberty interest of natural parents in the care, custody, and management of their child" (*Santosky v. Kramer*, 1982). Forcing parents to comply with a one-size-fits-all medical directive contradicts this principle and disregards the nuanced, individualized nature of medical decision-making.

Furthermore, the principle of **informed consent**—a foundational ethical standard in medical practice—affirms that no individual should be coerced into receiving medical treatment against their will. The repeal of non-medical exemptions indirectly coerces families into compliance by restricting access to education, a clear violation of medical autonomy. Coercion, whether direct or indirect, undermines the very foundation of ethical medical practice, as established by the **Nuremberg Code** and subsequent international bioethics standards.

3. Discrimination Against Religious and Philosophical Minorities

HB 1118 would disproportionately harm communities that hold religious or philosophical beliefs that differ from mainstream medical practices. For instance, following the removal of religious exemptions in California in 2015, reports indicated a

significant rise in families withdrawing their children from public schools, with a 30% increase in homeschooling applications (California Department of Education, 2018).

Additionally, studies have shown that mandates without exemptions lead to lower compliance and increased distrust in public health authorities (Smith et al., 2020).

For decades, families in Hawai'i have exercised their right to exemptions per their faith and personal convictions. This bill marginalizes these individuals, forcing them to choose between violating their beliefs or forgoing public education, which is an egregious **violation of civil rights**.

Additionally, the bill creates an unequal system where students who previously had an exemption can retain it, while new students are denied the same right. This arbitrary distinction is both unfair and legally questionable. If religious exemptions were legitimate for students in the past, why would they suddenly become invalid for new students? Such an inconsistency reveals that this bill is not about genuine public health concerns but rather about increased government control over personal medical choices.

4. The Myth of Herd Immunity Through Mandates

Proponents of HB 1118 argue that repealing non-medical exemptions will increase herd immunity and prevent outbreaks. However, historical and scientific data contradict this assumption:

- Many vaccines, including pertussis (whooping cough) and mumps, do not prevent transmission but only reduce symptoms. Studies have shown that vaccinated individuals can still spread diseases (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention [CDC], 2014). This challenges the notion that mandating vaccines for all individuals will significantly reduce outbreaks.
- According to the CDC, Hawai'i's kindergarten vaccination rate is already above 86% for MMR and over 90% for most other required immunizations, meaning the threshold for herd immunity is already largely met (CDC, 2023). If herd immunity is already at effective levels, there is no justification for infringing upon religious and personal rights.
- Outbreaks have occurred in highly vaccinated populations, proving that high coverage does not guarantee eradication (New England Journal of Medicine, 2017). The assumption that a mandate will eliminate disease ignores historical evidence to the contrary.

5. Potential for Government Overreach

This bill grants unprecedented power to the Department of Health to dictate vaccine requirements without legislative oversight. The language allowing the director of health

to override parental objections in the case of a "public health emergency" creates a dangerous precedent for government overreach. Such broad authority could easily be misused to justify further encroachments on personal freedoms.

If enacted, HB 1118 could pave the way for future policies that erode personal liberties in other areas of health and medical decision-making. Today, it is vaccines—tomorrow, it could be any medical intervention deemed "necessary" by the government. This bill establishes a dangerous framework for state overreach that could be applied in numerous other medical and personal freedom contexts.

Conclusion

Hawai'i has long been a place that values diversity, cultural integrity, and personal freedom. HB 1118 threatens these values by coercing families into medical decisions against their will, violating constitutional rights, and setting a dangerous precedent for government overreach.

I strongly urge the committee to reject HB 1118 and uphold the fundamental rights of Hawai'i's citizens. Mahalo piha for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

//signed//

Barbara Caballes
Concerned Parent, Citizen of Hawai'i, and Military Veteran

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:58:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois J Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: To: JHA Committee Submitted by: Lois J Young SUBJECT: REASONS FOR OPPOSING HB1118 1. in free and ethical societies, BODILY SOVEREIGNTY is a fundamental human right and vaccination should only require a “Fully Informed Consent.” 2. Vaccine Injuries are REAL. Not Rare. 3. Vaccine mandates violate the Hawai’i State Constitution, Section 1.6 “Right to Privacy” by failing to provide a “compelling state interest” for each vaccine currently mandated for children. 4.”vaccine herd immunity” is an unattainable, false theory due to emerging vaccine failures, and the fact most adults are not “up to date”. 5. vaccines can cause injury, death and fail to work just like any pharmaceutical product, BUT are mandated for 72 million children, with all vaccine providers and manufacturers exempt from liability claims (1986 NCVIA). 6. the scientific gold standard, a randomized, double-blind, inert-placebo controlled study, is not required for vaccine safety or efficacy testing. 7. U.S. regulatory agencies have neglected and refuse to commission a total health outcomes comparison study between totally unvaccinated, and those vaccinated according to CDC recommendations. 8. under the oversight, regulation, and recommendations of our current health agencies we have the sickest generation of children in the history of mankind; 54% suffer from 1 or more chronic autoimmune, allergic, neurodevelopmental or other disorders. 9. all manufacturers’ inserts state “vaccines are not tested for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects, or for impairment of fertility.” 10. vaccines cannot be “unavoidably unsafe” and “safe and effective” at the same time. 11. Parents know their children better than any government or public health official and are commanded by our creator to protect those children. 12. Hawai’i’s HAR11-157 just added 5 more vaccines to be required for school eligibility (including HPV/Gardasil) yet this vaccine schedule as administered has NEVER been evaluated for cumulative or long term safety. 13. The U.S. gives more vaccines than any other developed country yet has the highest infant mortality rate. 14. There have been nearly 75,000 adverse reactions and 500 deaths reported to VAERS due to the HPV/ Gardasil vaccine. 15. Merck is currently in federal court accused of FRAUD during their clinical safety trials of HPV/Gardasil. 16. the more the government & health officials use intimidation and coercion, the more vaccine hesitancy, mistrust, and resistance arises. My Body, My Child, My Conscience, My Choice Informed Consent is a Human Right To: JHA Committee Submitted by: Lois J Young SUBJECT: REASONS FOR OPPOSING HB1118 1. in free and ethical societies, BODILY SOVEREIGNTY is a fundamental human right and vaccination should only require a “Fully Informed Consent.” 2. Vaccine Injuries are REAL. Not Rare. 3. Vaccine mandates violate the Hawai’i State Constitution, Section 1.6 “Right to Privacy” by failing to provide a “compelling state interest” for each vaccine currently mandated for children. 4.”vaccine herd immunity” is an unattainable, false theory due to emerging vaccine failures, and the fact most adults are not “up to date”. 5. vaccines can cause injury, death and fail to work just like any pharmaceutical product, BUT are mandated for 72 million children, with all vaccine providers and manufacturers exempt from liability claims (1986 NCVIA). 6. the scientific gold

standard, a randomized, double-blind, inert-placebo controlled study, is not required for vaccine safety or efficacy testing. 7. U.S. regulatory agencies have neglected and refuse to commission a total health outcomes comparison study between totally unvaccinated, and those vaccinated according to CDC recommendations. 8. under the oversight, regulation, and recommendations of our current health agencies we have the sickest generation of children in the history of mankind; 54% suffer from 1 or more chronic autoimmune, allergic, neurodevelopmental or other disorders. 9. all manufacturers' inserts state "vaccines are not tested for carcinogenic or mutagenic effects, or for impairment of fertility." 10. vaccines cannot be "unavoidably unsafe" and "safe and effective" at the same time. 11. Parents know their children better than any government or public health official and are commanded by our creator to protect those children. 12. Hawai'i's HAR11-157 just added 5 more vaccines to be required for school eligibility (including HPV/Gardasil) yet this vaccine schedule as administered has NEVER been evaluated for cumulative or long term safety. 13. The U.S. gives more vaccines than any other developed country yet has the highest infant mortality rate. 14. There have been nearly 75,000 adverse reactions and 500 deaths reported to VAERS due to the HPV/ Gardasil vaccine. 15. Merck is currently in federal court accused of FRAUD during their clinical safety trials of HPV/Gardasil. 16. the more the government & health officials use intimidation and coercion, the more vaccine hesitancy, mistrust, and resistance arises. My Body, My Child, My Conscience, My Choice Informed Consent is a Human Right

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:13:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
patricia chock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Jesus is King and our body is our temple to be governed by Him and not Man. PARENTS are the decision makers for their childrens care and it is our God given right to consent or deny what goes into their bodies. GOD holds you accountable if you don't acknowledge our right to choose. THIS BILL MUST BE VOTED NAY AND NEVER BE BROUGHT UP AGAIN.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:22:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. It is not up to the state to parent my child and say they need to be vaccinated. I am the parent that makes rhat decision. The I strongly feel the state DOES NOT have my kids best interest in mind.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:25:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition, in the highest degree, to HB 1118.

As a mother who gave birth to, knows, loves, and would die for my children, I am entitled to have parental rights, under the constitution, to decide what to put in my children, especially when there are known potential negative consequences. You are aiming for herd immunity and overall public health, but no government entity has the right to strip away our religious freedoms for any reason.

You don't know what every family is going through or what their specific circumstances are. One of my daughters suffered from organ failure and needed an emergency transplant. She is on lifelong medication that has not been fully and properly tested for side effects when taken in conjunction with vaccines. When I asked her doctors and the CDC for studies showing she will be safe after taking the vaccines, I was told they don't have enough research to make the claim that she would be safe. They said there is a risk of injury or death in taking any medication or vaccine. With her medically fragile state, I am not comfortable putting anything in her body that is not scientifically proven. There simply is not enough data on the short and long term effects.

If you are passing this bill to protect our people, please think of my daughter, who may be harmed by her immunocompromised medical condition. This bill is NOT going to keep her safe. It could possibly harm her!

What we do know is that there are people who have experienced bad reactions to vaccines. This is not misinformation or conspiracy theory. These are case studies, individuals from our state. I personally know many who were vaccine injured - one of my friends is now in a wheelchair, one got cancer, another friend has a son that is mentally disabled, just to name a few. If even one person has been negatively affected by vaccines, then the choice to take them should be given to the individual, regardless of how it impacts society. How can you possibly take that right away and force this on someone when there are known consequences? This is just wrong.

I was fully vaccinated as a child and saw the health benefit back then. Now that big pharma has immunity and no consequences when citizens have adverse reactions, the vaccine recommendations are out of control. When I contacted the CDC again to ask for studies that show the side effects of taking all of the vaccines together according to their recommended schedule, they told me they don't have studies like that. They only have studies done for each vaccine individually by the pharmaceutical companies themselves. There is an obvious conflict

of interest here when they stand to benefit financially by forcing drugs on us with insufficient or biased/skewed research.

I normally don't get involved in politics. In fact, I didn't even know your names. I trusted you to be our elected officials who pass bills that are in the best interest of our people. Now that you are even considering passing this bill, which would remove my rights as a parent, you have awaked the mother bear within me who will stop at nothing to protect my children...I now know all of your names, I'm tracking how you vote, and will rally our community together in a vocal, parent-uniting manner to make sure that our rights are protected.

Parents who have already decided not to vaccinate their children will not start doing so because you force this on us. They will take their children out of school, the Dept of Education's concerns of lower educational access will occur, funding will decrease and those families who leave will not go quietly. You will get your herd effect, but not in the direction you are hoping for. There is a larger and wider domino effect than you can calculate.

Please hear us, search your hearts, and do the right thing. Preserve our religious freedom and the freedom to choose what we put in our bodies and in the bodies of our keiki.

Mahalo for your NO vote! We WILL remember you!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:38:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Mattson	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Crystal K. Mattson OPPOSE this bill. My children are the 4th generation in our ohana to not vaccinate because WE don't want to pump of children's body with who knows what, having unknown side affects on MY CHILDREN'S BODY! MY CHILDREN'S BODY, NOT YOURS!!! If you want to vaccinate YOUR CHILDREN, that's all good but THESE ARE MY CHILDREN!!!! We should have the RIGHT to CHOOSE for our OWN children. Again, my name is Crystal K. Mattson and I OPPOSE THIS BILL. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:39:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teon Simmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I fully oppose HB1118. This takes away our right to parent our children and is unconstitutional.

Mahalo

T. Simmons

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:14:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kellsey Kelley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that citizens should have the right and freedom to be able to opt out of vaccinations for our children. Most of the vaccinations required to attend school have toxic and harmful chemicals that affect our children's health and are not proven to be safe and effective by the manufacturers of the products. It should be left up to ur parents on what they choose to do for their constant, but also the government should not be forcing anything upon is citizens.. I do not support this bill, and our keiki should have the freedom of choice in what they inject into their body that could have harmful long term effects on their health.

Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:17:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnathan Van Dyke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a proud parent of 4, I do not agree with mandatory vaccination for children attending the Hawaii school system. I do not trust the vaccination research in the medical field. There are currently more and more research and evidence coming out about vaccinations, and the harmful affects they may cause. I do not want my children taking anymore vaccination just so they can attend the Hawaii school system. I do not agree with this HB1118 Bill and I think it should be stopped.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:22:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sachelle Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Concern Regarding Bill HB1118

To whom it may concern,

I hope this message finds you well. I am writing to express my deep concern regarding the new bill HB1118. As a parent, I feel compelled to voice my rights and the rights of other parents who may share similar sentiments.

While I want to clarify that I am not against vaccinations themselves, I strongly oppose any legislation that mandates parents to force vaccinations on their children. This is a deeply personal decision that should remain in the hands of families, not dictated by the government.

How can we accept a bill that compels us to inject our children with something we may not be comfortable with? It is our fundamental right as parents to make these choices for our kids, and it is alarming to think that this right could be taken away.

I urge you to reconsider the implications of this bill and its impact on parental rights. Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Sachelle Dias

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:25:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adam J Good	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government has no say in me or my family's medical, health or moral decisions. Creating & Enforcing imaginary laws that benefit only godless entities like big pharmaceutical corporations & governments is not why we elected our representatives. When you put false idols like money & self preservation (worship) before the needs of others it becomes an infringement on our natural God given rights to BE as a creation of God. This bill serves no one if it doesn't serve everyone. Using imaginary data from unreliable sources is not okay. Destroy & end this bill immediately.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:31:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill violates a person's basic right to choose and therefore any legislator voting for this bill is violating their oath to the constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:44:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel Centeio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to

HB1118, which mandates vaccines for children in schools. While I recognize the importance of public health, this bill directly infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms and constitutional rights that must be protected.

First, the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. For many families, vaccination decisions are deeply tied to religious beliefs, and forcing compliance disregards these sincerely held convictions. The government should not compel individuals to violate their faith in order for their children to access education.

Second, this bill raises significant constitutional concerns regarding personal liberty and parental rights. The Supreme Court has long upheld that parents have the primary authority in making medical decisions for their children. HB1118 undermines this principle by imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate that disregards individual circumstances and medical autonomy.

Public health policies should respect both science and individual rights. Rather than imposing mandates, policymakers should support informed consent, medical and religious exemptions, and parental choice in healthcare decisions.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the constitutional and religious freedoms that are foundational to our country. Thank you for your time!

mahalo,

Joel Centeio

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:45:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Markee MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a practicing OBGYN in Honolulu, HI. I support this bill. Please pass HB1118 to prohibit unnecessary vaccination exemptions. This will help to protect our young keiki, kupuna, and other immunocompromised or vulnerable people of Hawai'i from outbreaks of preventable illness.

Mahalo

Sally Markee MD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:51:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charelle Bedford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM FULLY AGAINST bill HB1118!!! Parents need to have to choice to vaccinate their children! NO TO HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:55:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ebonee Haprn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Even with the amendments, this measure would fail to allow parents freedom to make informed decisions in line with their religious beliefs with respect to their health and their education. By restricting one right, you restrict both. The measure fails to take into account the reality of available vaccinations in the country and the vaccines that are unnecessarily scheduled required by the state for school-aged children to attend and remain in school under the guise of herd-immunity and protecting immuno-compromised or vulnerable individuals despite the lack of risk posed by lack of such vaccine. For example, the guardasil vaccine is required at 7th grade. Immunocompromised students are not in danger of contracting HPV by simply attending school, yet this vaccine is required for school attendance. This opens the door to further infringe rights by mandating and imposing vaccines on children against their parents wishes and religious beliefs even when there isn't a true threat to public safety or public health.

Furthermore, the existing law allows religious exemptions and clearly states what is required to demonstrate that. The bill as proposed with amendments is vague as to what it means to object in writing due to conflict with bona fide religious tenets and practices, and offers no clear understanding for individuals who do so object. If the state agrees religious exemption should be allowed, as it should to preserve the right to freedom of religion without sacrificing the right to choice in education, the law need not be revised.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:04:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Vaccination for my child to attend school should be I (parent) my choice and my choice alone .

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:07:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chevy Teves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose of Bill HB1118. It's unconstitutional and goes against my religious rights. The choice of vaccination should never be mandatory in any circumstances. It is absurd that this testimony and many others are needed for such a foolish and tyrannical bill. Vaccines have been proven to be unsafe and unsuccessful. With proven facts that it has caused more harm than good. Causing long term health problems and even immediate death. This Bill is "WICKED" I Stand firm on abolishing Bill HB1118. And pray justice be rightfully served by denying forward movement of Bill HB1118. Make the right decision. Our Keiki's lives are at stake. Thank you for your time. God bless!

Testimony in Strong Opposition to Hawaii House Bill 1118

To: Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Veronica Lamb

Date: February 20, 2025

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB 1118 – Protecting Medical Freedom and Parental Rights

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I urge you to reconsider the significant consequences of HB 1118, a bill that would eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. While I understand the desire to promote public health, this bill goes too far, stripping parents of their fundamental rights, removing religious freedoms, and mandating a medical intervention that carries real risks.

A Growing Public Demand for Medical Freedom

This bill is not happening in a vacuum. Across the country, there is increasing pressure to expand medical freedom, not restrict it. In states like West Virginia, public advocacy has led to the restoration of religious exemptions for school vaccinations. If HB 1118 passes, it could fuel a stronger push for individual freedoms like personal choice vaccine policies in Hawaii as people seek to restore the freedoms this bill would take away.

Lawmakers who support this bill should carefully consider whether they want to position themselves against this growing movement for individual rights. Restricting freedoms in the name of public health does not eliminate people's concerns—it intensifies them. Many families who may not have been politically engaged before will now start advocating for broader protections of medical choice & religious freedoms.

Mandating a Medical Intervention That Carries Risks is a Slippery Slope

It is essential to acknowledge that vaccines, like all medical interventions, come with risks. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) has paid out over \$5.2 billion to individuals harmed by vaccines. This is not about questioning the value of vaccines—it is about recognizing that no medical intervention is without potential harm.

For some children, these risks are significant, particularly those with genetic predispositions or autoimmune conditions. Most families that have been affected by vaccine injuries had never reacted to a vaccine until the injury happens. The US does not provide all families with genetic testing or comprehensive labs to rule out predisposition to adverse reactions. Yet, HB 1118 would force all families into a one-size-fits-all approach, removing the ability of parents to make medical decisions.

Is it ethical for the government to mandate a medical procedure with known risks while removing an individual's ability to opt out? When the state assumes control over these decisions, where does the line get drawn?

Threats to Religious Freedom and Parental Rights

Religious freedom is a core constitutional right, and HB 1118 disregards this right by forcing individuals to act against their sincerely held beliefs. Hawaii has long prided itself on diversity and respect for different cultural and religious perspectives. This bill, however, places religious families in an impossible position—either violate their beliefs or forfeit their child's education.

Similarly, parents—not the government—should make medical decisions for their children. Parents weigh many factors when making health choices, including their child's medical history, family values, and potential risks. Government overreach in this area erodes public trust and alienates families who feel unheard and disrespected in their concerns.

Excluding Children from Education is Discriminatory

This bill would effectively bar children from both public and private education based on their medical choices. That is not a policy that fosters inclusivity or fairness—it is a policy that segregates children and families based on deeply personal medical decisions.

Education is a fundamental right, and no child should be excluded from learning due to a parent's informed medical choice. Creating a system that penalizes children for their parents' beliefs sets a dangerous precedent.

A Call for Thoughtful Leadership

This bill raises serious ethical, legal, and social concerns that deserve deeper consideration. Public health policies work best when they encourage trust, education, and voluntary participation, not coercion. Pushing through restrictive mandates will not silence concerns—it will amplify them, driving more families to demand greater medical freedom and autonomy.

I urge you to think carefully about the long-term implications of HB 1118. Removing religious exemptions may seem like a short-term policy solution, but in the long run, it will create more public resistance, more distrust in government policies, and a greater movement toward restoring medical choice.

Please vote against HB 1118 and instead support policies that respect parental rights, religious freedoms, and informed consent.

Sincerely,
Veronica Lamb

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:18:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosie F Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose HB1118.

mahalo nui, Rosie Davis

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:18:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastasia Yamauchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because our rights to free choice is from God and not man but govenor Green wants to be a tyrant and force people to take vaccines and i pray you will stop this bill because you will answer to God on judgement day 🙏🙏🙏

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:22:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arianna Souza-White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You are violating our right to choose! You know what is funny? When the whole election was going on you guys talked about abortion and it was "your body your choice" what happened to that? Our body our choice only when it suits you?! Bunch of hypocrites! Sending DOGE a message to look into every single one of your bank accounts and see who's getting a payout! And I will continue to try my best to reach out to them until the waste of our government is cleaned! You 'shove things down our throats' thinking we should just accept it. You speak so bad about Trump, but you are worse. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:26:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Maukele Grube	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly OPPOSE HB118, medical decisions vaccinations and requirements should be up to the PARENTS and DOCTORS.

You wouldn't like someone coming into your house and telling you what to do with your kids right? BE MINDFUL. Leave it to the parents to decide what's needed and right for their kids and what's injected into their bodies!

OPPOSE HB1118 OPPOSE HB1118

OPPOSE HB1118. OPPOSE HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:30:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Gohier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

How is it at all acceptable to take away the right of a parent to decide what is best for their child? I wholeheartedly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:36:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Inda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of bill HB1118. No one should have the right to make me get my child vaccinated just so he can go to school. This decision should be left solely to the parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:48:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca M. Quezada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. As a parent and grandparent this bill goes against my right to choose whether I vaccinate my children or not. The government has no right to dictate what a person should do with their child.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:56:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Shively	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

1. **THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE.** Every parent and child should have *****THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE***** whether or not they want to take any type of medicine, including the covid vaccines. If you let this ball pass, there will be lots of angry parents pulling their children out of school, and homeschooling, rather than having their dear children get the covid vaccines, if they are mandated to attend school. Whatever your belief, think about it, if you were against the vaccines or against something or for something, wouldn't YOU want the **RIGHT TO CHOOSE** in that situation? **EVERYONE SHOULD HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE, BOTTOM LINE. MY BODY, MY CHOICE, REMEMBER??????** Or does this only apply to certain things, not the covid vaccines????

2. **FACTUAL DATA FROM PFIZER TRIAL SHOWS VACCINES DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD -- ABSOLUTE RISK reduction** (true overall risk reduction in whole population of .84% or less than 1%, vs the **RELATIVE RISK REDUCTION** of 95% (the public saw the 95% and thought that was the **TRUE** risk reduction but it is just the relative risk reduction!!) Please take a look at this Presentation in PDF, or video, it is available on this website, the Canadian Covid Care Alliance. When I saw their presentation and summary of the Pfizer trials, this was the best explanation showing that the **COVID VACCINES** are **REALLY** and **FACTUALLY, DOING MORE HARM THAN GOOD**. This is based on **FACTUAL DATA FROM THE PFIZER TRIALS**, that the Canadian Covid Care Alliance has analyzed and summarized in this presentation in the link attached, watch the video, and look at the PDF. Look at what it shows. The Pfizer vaccines (6 months of trial data) showed that the **ABSOLUTE RISK reduction** (risk reduction in **OVERALL POPULATION**) was only .84%, that's less than 1%!!!!, so your true absolute risk reduction by taking the Pfizer covid vaccines is only less than 1%!! Vs the Relative risk reduction as marketed to the public, is 95%. The Relative Risk reduction is **NOT** the true overall risk reduction, that applied only for the small % of people who actually got covid in the trial group of 40,000+ people. A less than 1% **ABSOLUTE** risk reduction for covid if you took the covid vaccine.

<https://www.canadiancovidcarealliance.org/all/more-harm-than-good/>

3. **VACCINE INJURIES GREATER IN THE VACCINATED PFIZER TRIAL GROUP** (see same presentation from above): Additionally, besides the absolute risk reduction, the true risk reduction for covid, being only less than 1%, there were substantially more adverse events in the

trial, in the vaccinated group vs placebo group. LET ME REPEAT THIS AGAIN. THERE WERE SUBSTANTIALLY MORE ADVERSE EVENTS IN THE VACCINATED GROUP in the Pfizer trial. 6 months of Pfizer trial data showed 5,241 Related adverse events in the Pfizer vaccinated group, vs 1,311 Related adverse events in the Placebo (unvaccinated) group. That is 300% more related adverse events in the VACCINATED group vs the unvaccinated group. 300% MORE RELATED ADVERSE EVENTS in the VACCINATED PFIZER TRIAL GROUP!!! As well as 75% more SERIOUS ADVERSE EVENTS in the Pfizer vaccinated group (262 serious adverse events in vaccinated group, vs 150 adverse events in the Placebo unvaccinated group).

4. 95% of people who died with covid had an average of 4 comorbidities, and 85% of the people at risk for covid are 75 years and older. This alone right there, should make you TURN DOWN THIS BILL IMMEDIATELY, YOUNG CHILDREN and anyone under 75 years old especially, should not be mandated to take this vaccine. If the vaccine protects you, let that person make their own decision if they want to protect themselves, do not push this on young children or other people. The vaccines do not prevent transmission, and do not prevent sickness.

<https://www.canadiancovidcarealliance.org/all/more-harm-than-good/>

Respectfully a U.S. Citizen of the United States and born and raised in Hawaii, did you read and look at the presentation (link above) and watch the whole video please? That is all I am asking, that you read the presentation/watch the video in its entirety. Do not turn a blind eye to information please, before you make a decision on this bill.

Shannon

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:06:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose House Bill 1118, which mandates that all children be fully vaccinated in order to attend school and eliminates religious accommodations for those who object to vaccination on religious grounds.

While I fully acknowledge the importance of public health and the role vaccinations play in reducing the spread of preventable diseases, I firmly believe that HB1118 represents an overreach of government authority into the personal and religious freedoms of families. This bill fails to recognize the fundamental right of parents to make medical decisions for their children based on their personal, ethical, and religious beliefs. The elimination of religious accommodations would create an environment where families who have long-held religious convictions about vaccines are forced to choose between their children's education and their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our society, and it should be protected, not infringed upon. For many parents, the choice to not vaccinate their children is not a decision made lightly, but one rooted in their faith, their moral compass, and their understanding of the world. Forcing them to disregard these beliefs in order to comply with a one-size-fits-all mandate is unjust, harmful, and sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of individual liberties.

Moreover, HB1118 does not account for the varying medical conditions and personal health circumstances that may make vaccination unsafe for some children. Every child is different, and health decisions should be made in consultation with parents, healthcare providers, and, when appropriate, religious leaders. A mandate that does not take these individual needs into account risks causing harm to vulnerable children and families.

By removing religious exemptions, this bill also undermines the trust between parents and the healthcare system, as it forces compliance rather than fostering understanding and dialogue about vaccination. It disregards the important role that religious convictions and personal health choices should play in the healthcare decisions of families.

I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB1118 and to respect the rights of parents to make decisions in the best interests of their children without coercion. We must find a way to balance the needs of public health with the protection of religious freedom and parental rights.

Thank you for your time and attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Makani Kela

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:06:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michaela Friel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Michaela Friel, and I am a mother of four young children. I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to HB 1118, which seeks to mandate vaccinations for children. This bill threatens medical freedom, constitutional rights, and legal protections for individuals and families. I urge you to reject this bill and instead uphold the principles of informed consent, personal choice, and parental rights.

As a military family, we understand the value of freedom and sacrifice. My husband, a Native Hawaiian and an active-duty service member, has dedicated his life to defending our country and the very freedoms this bill seeks to take away. It is deeply concerning that while he serves to protect our constitutional rights, Hawai'i's lawmakers are working to strip those same rights from its people. This is not the Hawai'i our kūpuna envisioned, nor is it the freedom my husband has sworn to defend.

The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, yet HB 1118 eliminates religious exemptions, forcing individuals to violate their sincerely held beliefs. This is unconstitutional and an overreach of government power.

This bill is incredibly unjust to families like mine, who previously had approved religious exemptions for our children. Before leaving Hawai'i, our children were granted religious exemptions in compliance with state law. However, our children will not be grandfathered under their previously approved exemptions upon our return because we had to move off-island for one year due to military obligations. Why should military families be penalized for serving their country? This policy is discriminatory, unjust, and fundamentally un-American.

Under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, vaccine manufacturers are shielded from liability. Parents cannot sue the manufacturer if their child suffers an injury from a mandated vaccine. Instead, they must go through the slow and often unsuccessful Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP). No other pharmaceutical product enjoys this level of immunity. Why should the government force individuals to take a product when even the manufacturers refuse to be held accountable for harm?

If you pass HB 1118, WILL YOU TAKE RESPONSIBILITY for those injured by these mandates?

This bill excludes unvaccinated children from schools and childcare facilities, unfairly punishing families who exercise their right to medical choice and religious beliefs. It disproportionately impacts Native Hawaiian and lower-income families, who rely on public education, further marginalizing children whose parents have legitimate concerns about vaccine safety.

The principle of informed consent is a cornerstone of medical ethics. HB 1118 undermines individuals' fundamental right to make medical decisions for themselves and their children.

A one-size-fits-all mandate is reckless. Some individuals have genetic predispositions, autoimmune conditions, or past vaccine injuries that make them more susceptible to adverse reactions. Forcing a medical intervention while ignoring individual health risks is irresponsible and dangerous.

HB 1118 is an unconstitutional overreach of government power. As a military family, we sacrifice daily for the freedoms of this country, yet Hawai'i's lawmakers are actively working to take those freedoms away from its people.

Hawai'i should not mandate a medical procedure while simultaneously removing individual rights and legal protections. I urge you to vote against HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, parental rights, and the values of informed consent.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. I strongly urge you to oppose HB 1118 and defend the rights of Hawai'i's residents.

Respectfully,
Michaela Friel

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:10:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gauranga Anthony	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am an American citizen born in Wahiawa, Hawaii as a Hindu and I fully believe that religious freedom should be granted to every American citizen which is one of the things the founders fought for. Do not pass this bill in the House rather it is time to fix our failing infrastructure, homelessness, rising crime and violence and the cost of living. Pass the bill that legalizes recreational cannabis while also making Government more efficient. Please do not take away our freedoms anymore.

Sincerely,

Gauranga

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:26:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposal to remove religious exemptions for vaccines for school children. While I understand the importance of public health, I believe this policy change would infringe on fundamental rights and have unintended negative consequences. Below are my primary concerns:

1. Religious Freedom is a Fundamental Right

- The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. For many families, religious beliefs play a central role in decisions about medical care, including vaccinations.
- Removing religious exemptions would force families to choose between their deeply held beliefs and their children's access to education. This creates an unfair and unnecessary burden on religious communities.

2. Parental Rights in Healthcare Decisions

- Parents have the right to make healthcare decisions for their children based on their values, beliefs, and understanding of their child's needs.
- Removing religious exemptions undermines parental authority and sets a concerning precedent for government overreach in personal and family matters.

3. Potential for Increased Homeschooling or School Withdrawal

- Families who cannot reconcile their religious beliefs with mandatory vaccination requirements may choose to withdraw their children from public or private schools.
- This could lead to an increase in homeschooling, which may not be feasible for all families and could negatively impact children's social and educational development.

4. Lack of Evidence that Religious Exemptions Significantly Impact Public Health

- Data shows that the vast majority of children are vaccinated, and religious exemptions are used by a very small percentage of families.
- Instead of targeting religious exemptions, efforts should focus on improving vaccine education, access, and addressing vaccine hesitancy in a way that respects individual rights.

5. Potential for Legal Challenges

- Removing religious exemptions could lead to costly legal battles, as it may be seen as a violation of constitutional rights.
- These legal challenges could divert resources away from more effective public health initiatives.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I urge you to preserve religious exemptions for vaccines in schools. While public health is undeniably important, it must be balanced with the protection of fundamental rights, including religious freedom and parental autonomy. Removing these exemptions risks alienating religious communities, increasing homeschooling rates, and creating unnecessary legal conflicts. Instead, I recommend focusing on education and outreach to address vaccine concerns in a way that respects individual rights and beliefs.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:33:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs Tarnas, Poepoe, and Members of House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiiin Affairs:

My name is Dr. Gerald Montano. I'm a Hawai'i-licensed physician with board cetification in Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine. I write in **strong support** for HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

I practice on the island of Maui. The only major hospital on island has very few pediatric beds and no pediatric intensive care unit. If a vaccine-preventable disease breaks out (like measles), it would overwhelm the hospital system, and the people of Maui would suffer. Please protect the neighbor islands who do not have a robust healthcare infrastructure like O'ahu and **pass HB1118**.

Regards,

Gerald Montano, DO

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:39:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devan Wilhelm	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This goes against our rights as citizens to choose what we do with our bodies and what we put in our bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:40:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ilihia Kawai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

God chose US to be the parents of our children and to lead them, love them and guide them— it is NOT the responsibility of the government to make these choices for them. I believe it's important to stand up against anything that will interfere and limit our parental rights. I OPPOSE this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:46:27 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Poakalani Rangel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Poakalani Rangel and I oppose HB118. I believe in the freedom of choice for parents and physicians. I believe that safety comes first especially when children are involved. Unless vaccines are proven to be 100% safe and have zero side effects this law should not pass. The freedom of religious choice is a US citizen's right. If our religion supports NO vaccinations then you're taking away our rights by passing this bill. In conclusion I am against HB118 because I believe in the freedom to choose what's right for the health of our children.
Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:47:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie A	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed HB1118, as a mother, the only one making medical decisions for my children are the parent/parents based on their beliefs/knowledge and not having to worry if they will make it into the school without jumping through hoops! No one should be forcing these vaccines on anyone let alone children just so they won't get denied education!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:57:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
valerie freitas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We do not approve of this bill! It is our right to choose , not the government's. We have strong beliefs against these vaccines, as there is no proof they do no harm. The ingredients are such that we cannot in good faith put this into our or our child's body!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:59:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaun Matsuo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Shaun Matsuo. Please see below for my testimony in opposition to HB1118.

HB1118 violates the First Amendment of our Constitution. The "freedom of religion." Simply, the right to practice any religion you want, or no religion at all in America. It is amazing that this bill has made it this far knowing that it does not align with our rights as citizens of the United States of America.

Many citizens in our country lost their trust in vaccinations after COVID-19 because people died and suffered from side effects caused by the vaccine. I personally have lost family and friends over the last year because of the vaccine. Fortunately, many of my friends and family have survived, but continue to struggle with side effects and complications from the vaccine. With that being said, if you're not going to consider religious exemptions as an option for our keiki to attend school in Hawai'i, then pharmaceutical companies should be held liable for any side effects and or complications that these kids suffer from after taking the required vaccines.

A few years ago, I nearly lost my job because I refused to take the COVID-19 vaccine. My family and I were not allowed to eat in restaurants. I was not allowed to do many things because I refused to get the vaccination. It was a terrible time in my life all because of a mandate for a vaccine that did not work. But that time is done. Let's move on to normalcy. Passing Bill HB1118 is just moving the goal post to normalcy. More importantly, it is targeting the keiki, the future of Hawai'i!

I hope that you consider my testimony during this process. I am upset about this bill, but I have faith that all of you will make the right choice.

America, land of the free. Home of the brave.

Aloha,

Shaun Matsuo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:02:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Bailey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccine mandates in educational institutions. As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I believe this bill infringes upon fundamental rights, undermines personal freedom, and disregards the cultural and spiritual diversity that makes our state unique. I urge you to reject this legislation and preserve the religious exemption that has long served as a critical protection for individuals and families across the Aloha State.

The right to religious freedom is enshrined in both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution. Article I, Section 4 of our state constitution guarantees that "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Removing the religious exemption for vaccine mandates directly violates this principle by forcing individuals to choose between their sincerely held religious beliefs and access to education—a cornerstone of opportunity and growth in our society. This is an unacceptable burden to place on families who rely on these exemptions to align their medical decisions with their faith.

Hawaii prides itself on its rich multicultural heritage and respect for diverse beliefs. For many, including Native Hawaiians and other religious communities in our islands, spirituality is deeply intertwined with daily life and decision-making. HB1118 dismisses this reality by imposing a one-size-fits-all policy that fails to accommodate those whose religious convictions preclude certain medical interventions. By eliminating the religious exemption, this bill sends a message that conformity matters more than conscience, eroding the Aloha spirit of inclusion and understanding.

Furthermore, removing this exemption sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach. If the state can override religious freedoms in the name of public health today, what other rights might be curtailed tomorrow? Vaccine mandates already include medical exemptions, acknowledging that not every individual can or should comply. Extending the same respect to religious exemptions is a matter of fairness and consistency, ensuring that no one is arbitrarily excluded from education based on their beliefs.

Opponents of exemptions may argue that this change is necessary for public safety. However, Hawaii has consistently maintained high vaccination rates, and the small percentage of

individuals claiming religious exemptions has not been shown to pose a significant threat to community health. Advances in medicine, voluntary vaccination campaigns, and public education can address any concerns without resorting to coercive measures that alienate and penalize law-abiding citizens.

In conclusion, HB1118 threatens the core values of freedom, diversity, and respect that define Hawaii. I respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and preserve the religious exemption for vaccine mandates in educational institutions. Let us uphold the rights of all residents to live according to their conscience while continuing to promote a healthy and thriving community.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony and for your service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,
Rachel Bailey

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:04:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronnie Texeira	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Ronnie Texeira, and I am a board-certified obstetrician-gynecologist practicing in Kaneohe. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of HB1118

Sincerely,
Ronnie Texeira, MD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:07:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phil Davidson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's truly disturbing the the length at which our state is actively pursuing to destroy our religious and medical freedoms. Anyone supporting HB1118 are no longer hiding the fact they are tyrants and should be removed from their political positions in the state and should stop seeking further positions in the future. Shame on you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:10:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Paez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aside from removing a religious right being unconstitutional. I oppose this bill because when someone has a sincerely held religious belief in which we trust, practice, and obey; it is unconstitutional for a government to decide whether that belief is "sincere" enough to not allow us to make a choice with our own bodies or our children.

Hawaii is known for its diversity in many aspects including religion, beliefs, and respect for each other and our cultures. Implementing this bill would not only go against what many religions believe but it also stands for the opposite of what Hawaii stands for in supporting one another's beliefs.

Parents should have the right to practice their religion, beliefs and implement the practices that come with those religions freely as stated with constitutional law. I sincerely believe this bill should not pass and it should ultimately be up to parents and God what should be done with our children's bodies/medical decisions. Every decision made on this earth will one day be brought in front of God and we will have to explain as to why the decisions we made were made. And I cannot knowingly stay quiet about something that goes against my belief and not be held accountable for not speaking up on what God has placed in our hearts as wrong. Ultimately each and everyone of us will face judgement day, including those making this decision and removing the right to freely practice our beliefs. This bill should not pass and should be removed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:12:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Kim	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

JUST STOP IT! If you have seen a huge decrease in vaccination rates in the past few years then that means that that is what the people want to do. The same people you Have been elected to represent. So why would you vote against the people You represent?

hello, do you guys not remember the history of why people left Europe?

In 1620, the Pilgrims arrived in North America aboard the Mayflower and established the Plymouth colonies.

* Over time they became frustrated with the lack of representation and autonomy under British rule.

* In 1776, the American colonies declared independence from Great Britain and established a new system of government based on democratic principles.

* In 1787, the US Constitution was written and ratified, establishing the framework for the US government and enshrining the rights and religious freedoms that the Pilgrims had sought in coming to North America.

Now that we understand the reason for the constitution, let's learn how being a constitutional republic makes America so beautifully different from a simple democracy.

* In a direct democracy, citizens vote directly on laws and policies, with the majority vote determining the outcome.

* In contrast, a democratic republic, like the United States, is a representative democracy, where citizens elect representatives to make decisions on their behalf.

* The US Constitution establishes a system of government where power is divided between three branches - the executive, legislative, and judicial - to ensure a balance of power and prevent any one branch from becoming too powerful.

* Citizens have the right to vote for their representatives in government, BUT (And it's a BIG BUT!) the Constitution also includes safeguards to protect individual rights and RELIGIOUS freedoms, even if they are not supported by the majority!!!

* In this way, the United States is both democratic - in that citizens have a voice in government through their elected representatives - and republican - in that it is based on a constitution that PROTECTS individual rights and religious freedoms and limits the power of government.

That means YOU CAN'T TOUCH OUR FREEDOM OF RELIGION TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT WE WANT TO INJECT OUR CHILDREN WITH VACCINES!!! MY GOD TELLS ME BY HIS SACRIFICE I AM HEALED AND DO NOT NEED TO BE AFRAID OF YOUR WORLD SHUTDOWNS. SO you are not constitutionally permitted to revoke this freedom that people have died for and wrote a constitution for.

If you don't like it move to a country that doesn't have religious freedom and STOP TRYING TO MAKE AMERICA ONE.

Thank you Jesus for blessing you with wisdom and discernment and Jesus bless your children with continued freedom to worship you in your covenant country America. Amen

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:13:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacque Yoshizumi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HB1118.

This bill goes against the US constitution and takes away our religious freedoms and choices.
Please vote against HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:14:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Rapoza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:16:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Kauwalu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:17:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'eo Ortiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not believe this legislation is trying to remove the right of the people of hawaii to choose how they raise their kids in accordance with their religious and medical beliefs!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:18:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Gage	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Parents have the right to choose. And when there's a risk, there should be a choice. And yes, we don't approve of what these vaccines are made of. Our religious rights will be infringed upon should this become law. The vaccine schedule has gotten way out of control.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:19:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison christensen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Families of children in Hawaii and their physicians should be the only ones who decide on this matter. We should have the choice of which vaccines we would like to choose for our children some based on medical reasons or conditions. This is a very person health choice of individuals and should never be a mandate by the state.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:19:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. The administration should not get a say in my children's vaccination status and it shouldn't impact their ability to go to school. Josh Green does not care about our freedom, he cares about a paycheck. I refuse to sit back silently while my children's health, safety, and freedom are being threatened. My children will not be science experiments for ever-changing vaccine formulas. My children will never again be possible statistics for vaccine injuries. Regardless of the outcome of this bill, I will not comply and I will continue to do what I feel is best for my kids based on facts and my faith.

Hawaii is our home. We should feel safe and heard at home. Please, let us keep our freedom and let us have a voice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:20:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlisa molina	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is our Rights to make this decision regarding our children. I DO NOT AGREE WITH NOT
HAVING THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:21:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Committee,

My is Nani and I strongly oppose this bill HB1118 along with its companion bill SB1437

It is a violation of constitutional rights to take away any parents ability to decide for their underage child. In a state that is determined to say “my body my right” were the government and legislation should not interfere with decision between a doctor and a patient, this should also apply to vaccines.

If you guys are going to continue to pass bill that the majority of the population disagrees with. Then please consider removing all strikethroughs the following sections:

Section 1, #3

Section 2, #2

As a person who has had to live with multiple complication from allergies due to medications and forced vaccines. The potential for possible Health risk should ALWAYS be considered. After the fact, it is to late, and the person has to live with all complications without any concern or liability from its legislature & government.

Thank you,

Nani B

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:22:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The government don't have control over our children's body. This is our God givin right to not be mandated us to get our children vaccinated

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:24:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This Bill is absolutely ridiculous. Just another example of the corrupt liberal views that are destroying our state. People should have the right to choose what they want for their children. Not be forced to do things. This is an absolutely ridiculous bill and i strongly oppose this bill. Our state should be ashamed for even trying to pass this bill through.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:24:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawehi Kaaialii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't don't agree to having my child vaccinated for school !!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:25:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arianna Scalera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Arianna, I am an aunty of 23 nieces and nephews, 1 grand-nephew and 1 grand-niece. I Oppose HB1118 HD1 on behalf of Hawaii's keiki.

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:29:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1118 that seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements in schools. As a concerned pediatrician, I believe that this measure is a critical step toward safeguarding public health and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and their families.

Vaccines are among the most effective tools we have to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough—once nearly eradicated—are making a troubling comeback in communities where vaccine coverage is not robust enough. These preventable diseases can be especially dangerous for vulnerable individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. When a significant number of people opt out of vaccinations, it creates gaps in herd immunity, making it easier for diseases to spread and put everyone at risk.

Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccination in schools ensures that children who are not yet old enough to be vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to receive vaccines, will be protected. By mandating vaccinations for all students unless medically contraindicated, we create an environment where the collective health of the community is prioritized, and the risk of outbreaks is minimized.

The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. The overwhelming consensus of health experts—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and numerous other public health organizations—is that vaccines are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and maintaining public health. Non-medical exemptions contribute to lower vaccination rates, leaving children and families more vulnerable to preventable diseases.

It is important to recognize that the decision to opt-out of vaccinations based on non-medical reasons does not just affect the individual child, but the broader community. When unvaccinated children attend school, they put those who cannot be vaccinated—such as children with serious allergies, immune system disorders, or medical conditions—at greater risk of contracting these diseases.

By removing non-medical exemptions, we will foster safer educational environments where all children can learn without the added risk of preventable illness. This policy will bring our community closer to achieving higher levels of immunization, which will help us protect future generations from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I urge you to support this important bill and work to ensure that the health and safety of our children, teachers, and communities come first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Ching, MD, MPH, FAAP

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:33:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:35:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherise Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislative Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1118 that seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements in schools. As a concerned pediatrician, I believe that this measure is a critical step toward safeguarding public health and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and their families.

Vaccines are among the most effective tools we have to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough—once nearly eradicated—are making a troubling comeback in communities where vaccine coverage is not robust enough. These preventable diseases can be especially dangerous for vulnerable individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. When a significant number of people opt out of vaccinations, it creates gaps in herd immunity, making it easier for diseases to spread and put everyone at risk.

Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccination in schools ensures that children who are not yet old enough to be vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to receive vaccines, will be protected. By mandating vaccinations for all students unless medically contraindicated, we create an environment where the collective health of the community is prioritized, and the risk of outbreaks is minimized.

The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. The overwhelming consensus of health experts—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and numerous other public health organizations—is that vaccines are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and maintaining public health. Non-medical exemptions contribute to lower vaccination rates, leaving children and families more vulnerable to preventable diseases.

It is important to recognize that the decision to opt-out of vaccinations based on non-medical reasons does not just affect the individual child, but the broader community. When unvaccinated children attend school, they put those who cannot be vaccinated—such as children with serious allergies, immune system disorders, or medical conditions—at greater risk of contracting these diseases.

By removing non-medical exemptions, we will foster safer educational environments where all children can learn without the added risk of preventable illness. This policy will bring our community closer to achieving higher levels of immunization, which will help us protect future generations from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I urge you to support this important bill and work to ensure that the health and safety of our children, teachers, and communities come first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Cherise Saito

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:35:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Waipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1118 that seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements in schools. As a concerned pediatrician, I believe that this measure is a critical step toward safeguarding public health and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and their families.

Vaccines are among the most effective tools we have to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough—once nearly eradicated—are making a troubling comeback in communities where vaccine coverage is not robust enough. These preventable diseases can be especially dangerous for vulnerable individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. When a significant number of people opt out of vaccinations, it creates gaps in herd immunity, making it easier for diseases to spread and put everyone at risk.

Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccination in schools ensures that children who are not yet old enough to be vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to receive vaccines, will be protected. By mandating vaccinations for all students unless medically contraindicated, we create an environment where the collective health of the community is prioritized, and the risk of outbreaks is minimized.

The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. The overwhelming consensus of health experts—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and numerous other public health organizations—is that vaccines are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and maintaining public health. Non-medical exemptions contribute to lower vaccination rates, leaving children and families more vulnerable to preventable diseases.

It is important to recognize that the decision to opt-out of vaccinations based on non-medical reasons does not just affect the individual child, but the broader community. When unvaccinated children attend school, they put those who cannot be vaccinated—such as children with serious allergies, immune system disorders, or medical conditions—at greater risk of contracting these diseases.

By removing non-medical exemptions, we will foster safer educational environments where all children can learn without the added risk of preventable illness. This policy will bring our community closer to achieving higher levels of immunization, which will help us protect future generations from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I urge you to support this important bill and work to ensure that the health and safety of our children, teachers, and communities come first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jasmine Waipa, MD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:39:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lichelle Fernando	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am against this bill. We should have a choice. There has been so many children directly affected by some of these vaccines, some have been life threatening, life altering or short term damages. The government should not be able to dictate whether a fellow human being receives a "vaccine". Our bodies are the lords temple!! We should be able to reserve the right to make our own choices. If it is argued that a teenager's brain is not developed enough to meaningfully consent to a relationship with an adult, why are we allowing this coercion to happen in this case? Why is this any different? This directly affects our children, they are shot up at birth, throughout their childhood.....now the government wants to leverage their education against them with this. Shame on anyone who is for this bill!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:40:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karyn Hopper	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair! My name is Karyn Hopper and I am testifying against HB1118.

As a parent, my job is to make choices for my children that are in their best interest--physically, spiritually, and emotionally.

Taking away parental choice negates the parent's responsibility to make decisions that align with the families' religious convictions. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their religious convictions and accessing education for their children.

Please vote against this bill and uphold Hawaii's long tradition of parental and religious choice.

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:42:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher_hyde@hotmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. While I understand the importance of public health, this bill raises serious concerns regarding personal freedoms, informed consent, and parental rights.

Medical decisions, including immunizations, should be made by families in consultation with their healthcare providers, not mandated by the government without consideration for individual beliefs or unique health circumstances. HB1118 removes this fundamental right by forcing compliance with a one-size-fits-all approach, disregarding legitimate concerns held by many families in our community.

In a society that values diversity and personal autonomy, it is essential to protect the right to make informed medical choices without coercion. By eliminating non-medical exemptions, this bill unfairly penalizes families who, for religious, philosophical, or personal reasons, choose to delay or decline vaccinations.

Moreover, there is no clear evidence that removing these exemptions would significantly improve public health outcomes, especially given existing high vaccination rates and the availability of alternative measures to protect vulnerable populations. Instead, HB1118 risks creating division, driving families away from public education, and undermining trust in the healthcare system.

I respectfully urge you to vote NO on HB1118. Protecting public health and preserving individual rights are not mutually exclusive, and a more balanced approach is both possible and necessary.

Thank you for your time and thoughtful consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:42:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon R Garrison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February, 19, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325

415 S. Beretania, St. Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB1118 Relating to Non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements – Oppose

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to register my strong opposition of bill HB1118, relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. This bill removes the right to use a Religious Exemption for people attending public or private schools in the State of Hawaii. If passed, this bill will affect all educational institutions, from pre-school to post-secondary education, including trade schools. If a person does not qualify for a Medical Exemption, HB1118 would force students to have all required vaccines prior to starting school. HB1118 is unconstitutional as it infringes on our First Amendment right to Freedom of Religion. This Constitutional Law was written to protect the people of the United State of America and our right to live by the rules, requirements, and practices of our own religious traditions.

It is my sincerely held religious belief that each person is created in the image of God and that our bodies are to be treated as a temple. Injecting toxic vaccines into my body or my children's bodies go against my religious belief. I strongly believe that all life is precious and should be protected. Some vaccines contain aborted fetal tissue. I consider the practice of harvesting and using aborted fetal tissue in vaccines as unethical and immoral. Parents should not have to defend their right to religious freedom. Parents need to be the ones making all decisions related to their children's health, not the government or education system!

If bill HB1118 passes, thousands of people will be forced to choose between their religious convictions or access to education for themselves and/or their children. I believe many people will follow their convictions and withdraw their children from schools, which will drastically affect enrollment and funding.

I am urging law makers in the State of Hawaii to continue accepting Religious Exemptions for those attending public and private schools. Access to education should never be denied because of a person's religious beliefs or practices that do not permit them to receive vaccines!

Sincerely,

Shannon R Garrison

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:50:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Lamb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Legislators,

I am James Lamb, a resident of Manoa in House District 24 and Senate District 12, President of Ka Ulukoa, and Owner of ProspectsHI—two organizations dedicated to youth development in our community. I write with deep concern to urge you to reject HB1118 and SB1437. These bills, which eliminate religious exemptions for school vaccinations, threaten the constitutional rights, parental authority, and cultural diversity that make Hawaii special. With respect, I ask you to protect our ohana and vote NO.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of both the U.S. Constitution and Hawaii's Constitution (Article I, Section 4). For many families, including those I serve, faith guides healthcare choices—decisions rooted in conscience, not defiance. Removing this exemption forces an impossible choice: betray our beliefs or lose access to education. This isn't Aloha—it's coercion that risks dividing our community and punishing diversity.

The bills' rationale doesn't hold up. The 21% exemption rate blends medical, religious, and incomplete records, exaggerating any crisis. Hawaii's vaccination rates are strong, and outbreaks are rare—states like Oregon show exemptions and safety can coexist. Vaccines, while vital, carry risks (e.g., federal compensation programs) and variable efficacy (e.g., pertussis waning). Parents deserve informed consent, not mandates that dismiss their values.

The process adds insult to injury. HB1118's 48-hour hearing notice silenced voices, eroding trust. The grandfather clause is a hollow fix—it delays the loss of rights for future keiki. As someone who works with youth, I know public health matters, but not at the cost of liberty and fairness.

As your constituent in District 24 and District 12, I respectfully implore you: balance safety with freedom. Reject HB1118 and SB1437 to keep Hawaii a place where faith, family, and education thrive together. Mahalo for hearing me—please act to uphold our shared values.

Sincerely,
James "Lee" Lamb
lee.lamb@icloud.com
(808) 741-1276

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:51:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Roxanne Lee, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a mother and someone who has religious beliefs that do not align with the current vaccination schedule, this violates my parental rights to choose what is best for my family.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:57:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This it's against our constitution. It's our right as parents to decide whether or not we want our children to be vaccinated. The state is not going to take responsibility for any harm done by vaccinations therefore they should not mandate it.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:10:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sara kimball	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1118 because | believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions. Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions.

Furthermore, certain vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and

manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

I strongly oppose Bill 1118. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

MANY vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which is absolutely against everything I believe in. How can you say vaccines "protect" children while using aborted children as a means to the vaccines? This backwards thinking alone warrants the continuation of religious exemptions.

MANY vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:11:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly appose this bill for MANY reasons. It's unconstitutional and will be overturned. Vaccine safety is in question because it's not a one size firs all solution. Some children have horrible, long term side effects from them. Some vaccines have human DNA from aborted fetuses which is against my religion to participate in that. Look no further than the mandatory Covid -19 "vaccines"! Have you learned nothing?How many people died because they were coerced through government mandate to take it!?!?

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:12:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1.
- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.
- This bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?
- The **Department of Education has valid and serious concerns** yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:12:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Takizawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 as I believe it needs further discussion by all interested parties. I feel some rights may be taken away by individuals opposed to vaccinations that have not gone through stringent testing and data. My concern with this bill is that the government may be overstepping their power over an individual's right to choose and in what other areas are those in government going to want to control in their constituents lives? More discussion on this matter, please! Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:14:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lainie Cox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you both to let you know that myself and the members of my family all strongly oppose this bill. Everyone has the right to medical freedom. What you are considering right now is Immoral, unethical and illegal.

Children should not be forced to be vaccinated or not have an education. This will be the wordt downfall effect. The students will not attend school, get into trouble and the Hawai'i education statistics will drop significantly.

please do not pass this bill!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:16:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyana L.K Ontai-Machado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To All Representatives,

I oppose HB1118. This bill takes the rights away from parents on how to raise their children. This is complete government overreach. I am a Christian and I believe I have civil rights on what I put into my body. Christian parents also have that right to make the choice for their child. This is discrimination against any person who practice religion, not only Christians. Therefore, please vote no on this bill.

Respectfully,

Dyana Ontai-Machado, Ed.D.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:18:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Nixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 2 school age children and I oppose this ridiculous bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:18:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Gellert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i Lawmakers,

My name is Jessica Gellert , and I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. As a parent, I firmly believe that the government should not have the power to override my rights when it comes to making decisions for my children. I know my children better than anyone. The old saying “mother knows best” is accurate. HB1118 is a dangerous overreach that strips parents of their fundamental right to make informed choices based on their religious beliefs and personal convictions.

HB 1118 is unconstitutional. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, and this bill directly infringes upon that right by eliminating religious exemptions for vaccinations. Our nation was founded on principles that protect individuals from government interference in matters of faith and personal conscience. Parents—not the government—are best equipped to decide what is in the best interest of their children’s health and well-being.

Furthermore, science itself acknowledges that vaccines are not 100% effective or without risk. Every medical procedure carries potential side effects, and there have been documented cases of vaccine injuries, as recorded in the CDC’s Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). Adverse effects are also under reported. Some vaccines have been linked to serious adverse effects and even death. When there is risk, there must be a choice.

Despite injuries and death from their products, vaccine manufacturers have zero liability. In 1986, Congress passed the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA), which granted pharmaceutical companies full immunity from lawsuits related to vaccine injuries. This means that if a child is injured by a vaccine, parents cannot sue the manufacturer. Instead, they must file a claim through the government-run Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), which has paid out over \$4.9 billion to families of those injured or killed by vaccines. So, our tax dollars are paying for injuries caused by vaccine manufacturers and they get off scott free and don’t need to make sure their vaccines are truly safe and effective??? How is this in the best interest of the the American people?

Most do not realize that several common vaccines were developed using fetal cell lines derived from aborted fetuses. These fetal cell lines, such as WI-38 and MRC-5, originated from abortions performed in the 1960s and 1970s. These cells have been replicated in laboratories for decades and are used to grow viruses needed for vaccine production.

Vaccines that have been developed or tested using fetal cell lines include:

- Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR) – Uses WI-38 and MRC-5 fetal cell lines.
- Chickenpox (Varicella) – Uses MRC-5 fetal cells.
- Hepatitis A – Uses MRC-5 fetal cells.
- Some COVID-19 vaccines – The Johnson & Johnson vaccine used PER.C6 fetal cell lines in production, while Pfizer and Moderna used fetal cell lines in early testing.

Using a vaccine developed from aborted fetal cells is a direct violation of my deeply held religious beliefs. It is morally unacceptable to force parents to inject their children with a product that was derived from the destruction of innocent human life. Religious exemptions exist to protect the right of parents to refuse medical treatments that conflict with their faith and moral convictions.

Removing this exemption forces families to choose between their religious beliefs and government mandates—a clear violation of religious liberty.

A Real Focus on Public Health

If the government truly cares about public health, let's focus on real solutions in school guarantee to improve the well-being of our keiki:

Healthier food options – Childhood obesity and diabetes are on the rise due to processed foods and poor nutrition. Instead of government mandates, let's invest in better school lunches and local agriculture programs.

More physical activity – Kids today spend more time on screens than ever before. Instead of restricting parental rights, let's promote outdoor activities, community sports, and active lifestyles.

Mental health awareness – Anxiety and depression among children are at crisis levels. Let's provide better resources for families to support their children's emotional and psychological health.

Protect Parental Rights – Vote NO on HB1118

Parental rights and religious freedom are cornerstones of our democracy. HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent by allowing the government to dictate what is best for our children, rather than trusting parents to make those choices.

I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB1118 and stand for parental rights, religious freedom, and medical choice.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony and for serving our great state as leaders.
God bless you all!

Sincerely,
Jessica Gellert
Mother of 4
Wahiawa Resident

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:18:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Yadao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

President Trump signed an executive order not allowing any states to mandate vaccinations in schools.

Try to make this an actual law and we will make sure it never happens to our keiki in Hawai'i.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:21:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zachary Garrison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February, 20, 2025

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair

Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325

415 S. Beretania, St. Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB1118 Relating to Non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements – Oppose

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to register my strong opposition of bill HB1118, relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. This bill removes the right to use a Religious Exemption for people attending public or private schools in the State of Hawaii. If passed, this bill will affect all educational institutions, from pre-school to post-secondary education, including trade schools. If a person does not qualify for a Medical Exemption, HB1118 would force students to have all required vaccines prior to starting school. HB1118 is unconstitutional as it infringes on our First Amendment right to Freedom of Religion. This Constitutional Law was written to protect the people of the United State of America and our right to live by the rules, requirements, and practices of our own religious traditions.

It is my sincerely held religious belief that each person is created in the image of God and that our bodies are to be treated as a temple. Injecting toxic vaccines into my body or my children's bodies go against my religious belief. Parents should not have to defend their right to religious freedom. Parents need to be the ones making all decisions related to their children's health, not the government or education system!

If bill HB1118 passes, thousands of people will be forced to choose between their religious convictions or access to education for themselves and/or their children. I believe many people will follow their convictions and withdraw their children from schools, which will drastically affect enrollment and funding.

I am urging law makers in the State of Hawaii to continue allowing Religious Exemptions for those attending public and private schools. Access to education should never be denied because of a person's religious beliefs or practices which do not permit them to receive vaccines!

Sincerely,

Zachary Garrison

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:23:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael H.T. Sia, MD, MPH, FAAP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1118, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements in schools. As a concerned pediatrician, I believe this measure is a critical step toward safeguarding public health and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and their families.

Vaccines are among the most effective tools we have to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough—once nearly eradicated—are making a troubling comeback in communities where vaccine coverage is not robust enough. These preventable diseases can be especially dangerous for vulnerable individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. When a significant number of people opt out of vaccinations, it creates gaps in herd immunity, making it easier for diseases to spread and put everyone at risk.

Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccination in schools ensures that children who are not yet old enough to be vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to receive vaccines, will be protected. By mandating vaccinations for all students unless medically contraindicated, we create an environment where the collective health of the community is prioritized, and the risk of outbreaks is minimized.

The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. The overwhelming consensus of health experts—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and numerous other public health organizations—is that vaccines are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and maintaining public health. Non-medical exemptions contribute to lower vaccination rates, leaving children and families more vulnerable to preventable diseases.

It is important to recognize that the decision to opt out of vaccinations based on non-medical reasons does not just affect the individual child, but the broader community. When unvaccinated children attend school, they put those who cannot be vaccinated—such as children with serious allergies, immune system disorders, or medical conditions—at greater risk of contracting these diseases.

By removing non-medical exemptions, we will foster safer educational environments where all children can learn without the added risk of preventable illness. This policy will bring our community closer to achieving higher levels of immunization, which will help us protect future generations from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I urge you to support this important bill and work to ensure that the health and safety of our children, teachers, and communities come first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Michael H.T. Sia, MD, MPH

Pediatrician

Assistant Clinical Professor: Dept. of Pediatrics, John A. Burns School of Medicine

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:26:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roxanne T Jim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members:

I am opposed to HB 1118 as it infringes on parents rights for religious exemptions for their child. Whether public or private parents need to have the right to choose religious exemption - to make healthcare choices for their child(ren) that should not preclude participation in education programs. Especially for the public school system, serving the general public, taking vaccines or not should not preclude a child from participating in the public school system.

There are sides effects of vaccines that should not make them a requirement of school enrollment and participation. Parents and families have the right of freedom of religion to abide by their faiths which may include exempting themselves from medical interventions. Not allowing participation in public programs due to this choice to not vaccinate a child goes against freedom of religion.

Please vote NO.

Mahalo for reading this.

Aloha,

Roxanne Jim

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:26:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Omori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Jamie Omori, and I am a resident of Kāne'ohe, Hawai'i. I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118, which aims to eliminate new non-medical exemptions for immunizations required for school attendance.

HB1118 infringes upon personal and religious freedoms by removing the right of parents to make medical decisions for their children based on personal or religious beliefs. The bill acknowledges existing religious exemptions but seeks to prohibit new ones, effectively limiting the rights of future families to exercise their deeply held convictions.

The bill emphasizes the concept of herd immunity as a justification for eliminating non-medical exemptions. However, it is important to recognize that certain vaccines, such as the COVID-19 vaccine, have not consistently prevented transmission of the virus, calling into question the applicability of herd immunity in such cases. Therefore, mandating vaccines without considering their transmission dynamics may not effectively achieve the intended public health outcomes.

Parents have the fundamental right to make informed medical decisions for their children. By removing non-medical exemptions, HB1118 undermines this right and may force parents to choose between adhering to their personal or religious beliefs and accessing education for their children. This coercive approach could erode trust in public health initiatives and infringe upon individual autonomy.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1118. Preserving non-medical exemptions is essential to uphold personal freedoms, parental rights, and informed consent in medical decisions. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Jamie Omori

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:27:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Gabrielle Pacheco, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. Rights being removed from parents will only result in lack of participation in public schools, facilities, etc. Parents only want what's best for their own keiki and that means being able to choose what goes into their bodies. There is no liability from pharmaceutical companies when it comes to vaccinations. There should always be a choice when there is adverse reactions or ingredients listed in said vaccinations conflict with religious beliefs.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:27:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB 118, Vaccines don't carry the trust of the people like it used to, And as an American citizen I have a right to want what's best/safe for my child.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:30:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaysee spencer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a firm believer in religious freedom and parental rights, I strongly oppose any bill that seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in schools. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the right to freely exercise one's religion, and forcing families to vaccinate their children against their deeply held beliefs is a clear violation of this fundamental right. Many families make health decisions based on their own beliefs, and removing religious exemptions would place an unfair burden on them, effectively forcing them to choose between their convictions and their children's education. Absolutely NO parent should have to sacrifice their beliefs in order for their child to receive an education.

Furthermore, eliminating religious exemptions does not take into account the diverse and personal reasons behind these exemptions. Families who seek religious exemptions are often well-informed and make their decisions based on INFORMED CONSENT. The government should respect these choices rather than impose a one-size-fits-all mandate that disregards religious diversity. Schools have long accommodated various religious practices, from dietary restrictions to dress codes, and this should extend to medical decisions as well. Singling out vaccinations as an exception to religious freedoms sets a dangerous precedent for further government overreach into personal and family matters.

Instead of removing religious exemptions, lawmakers should focus on creating policies that respect both public health and religious liberty. There are already measures in place to address public health concerns, such as quarantine protocols during outbreaks and alternative educational options. A balanced approach would ensure that students can continue their education without being forced to violate their beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:32:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Here's the testimony:

Aloha Chair, my name is Grace and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms which I am sure you didnt have to worry about in previous times and may not have experience with this in relation to children.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. Why pose the ultimatum to parents whose children utilize the public school system?!

I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Aloha

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:33:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kauionalani Mead	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting my testimony in opposition of HB1118 on behalf of the voices of Hawaii that are trying to be silenced. If the slogan for abortion is "my body, my choice," then it should be the same for vaccines. Parents should be the ones making decisions on behalf of their children, it should not be a forced act on behalf of the government. This is stripping people of their freedom in a land that is supposed to be free. For Hawaiians that have been living in this land that was stolen from our people, this act will be like experiencing that same tragedy all over again. I am not in opposition of vaccines, I am in opposition of mandating them without a second thought and forcing them on our children because you can. This will be another reason for our people leave. Please do not do this.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:34:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daysha Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and and a part of the fitness industry, I strongly oppose any bill that impedes on parent's right to choose if their child should be vaccinated or not. We all know what the Covid vaccine mandates did to this Country, and it was based on lies. No more of this! Shame on you, Josh Green!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:40:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rosimar duca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Rosi Duca, I write to you to express a **strong opposition to HB1118** and to defend a core principle that lies at the heart of our nation: religious freedom. The right to practice one's religion freely, without interference, is enshrined in the **First Amendment of our Constitution**. **This right protects not only our ability to worship but also our ability to live out our faith in all aspects of life, including in our schools.**

Religious exemptions in schools allow parents and students to opt out of certain requirements or activities based on deeply held religious beliefs. These may include exemptions from specific vaccinations, health mandates, or curriculum elements that contradict a student's faith. **It is important to understand that these exemptions are not about rejecting public education, but about respecting the diverse beliefs that make up our society.**

Religious exemption is not only a matter of personal choice but a constitutional right. The First Amendment guarantees that no law shall prohibit the free exercise of religion. In the case of students and parents seeking exemptions, the law should protect their right to act in accordance with their faith.

Some may worry about the impact of these exemptions on public health, safety, or the quality of education. It's crucial to note that exemptions do not mean neglecting the needs of others. There are ways to accommodate religious beliefs without compromising the overall safety of our students and **we right now do have a system in place for RE** to keep kids that have some or no vaccines home in the case of an outbreak. The system is working and it has for years. Schools can offer alternative arrangements for students who, for religious reasons, cannot participate in certain activities. **This ensures that all students are respected and that no one's rights are infringed upon.**

Schools are environments that should celebrate diversity, including religious diversity. By offering exemptions, we not only uphold the rights of students to follow their beliefs but also create a space where students of all faiths can feel welcome and respected. It is a reflection of the values of inclusion and mutual respect that we cherish as a society.

In conclusion, religious exemptions in schools are not just about giving students the ability to opt out of certain requirements. They are about preserving our constitutional right to religious freedom. By supporting religious exemptions, we can ensure that schools remain spaces of learning, respect, and fairness for all students, regardless of their faith.

Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:41:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastacia Thomas	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Date: 02/05/2025

To: Committee on Health

Subject: Opposition to Bill HB1118 on Mandatory Vaccination Requirements for Public School Attendance

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which seeks to require all children in Hawaii to be vaccinated in order to attend any public school, effectively eliminating religious exemptions and repealing non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements.

While I understand and respect the importance of protecting public health, I firmly believe that parents should have the right to make informed decisions about their children's health care, including the choice to refuse vaccinations based on religious beliefs or personal convictions. Requiring all children to be vaccinated, with no consideration for individual or family circumstances, infringes on fundamental parental rights. It is essential that parents, not the state, maintain control over decisions about their children's health and bodies, especially when it comes to something as personal as vaccination.

By removing the ability to opt-out of vaccinations for religious or personal reasons, this bill would limit the freedom of families to make choices that align with their beliefs. The government's role should be to support families, not to impose policies that infringe upon their constitutional rights. For many, vaccines can be a deeply personal issue intertwined with religious beliefs, and those beliefs must be respected, just as any other form of religious expression is respected under the law.

Furthermore, non-medical exemptions allow for flexibility in cases where parents may have valid concerns or beliefs that don't align with the prevailing medical or public health stance. Repealing these exemptions could create an environment of division and fear, as families are forced to choose between complying with a policy they morally object to or facing the potential of exclusion from education.

I urge you to reconsider the passage of this bill and to respect the rights of parents to make decisions about their children's health. If the goal is to protect public health, it can be done through education and dialogue, rather than mandating a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards personal and religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Anastacia Thomas

4271 Independence Loop, Kapolei Hi 96707

anastaciaanisa@gmail.com

(808) 225-7422

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:42:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Webb	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Against HB1118

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which proposes the removal of religious exemptions to mandatory vaccination requirements. I urge you to carefully reconsider this bill, as it infringes on deeply held religious beliefs and personal freedoms.

1. Violation of Religious Freedoms:

One of the fundamental rights guaranteed by the Constitution is the freedom of religion. By eliminating religious exemptions to mandatory vaccinations, HB1118 undermines this right. Many individuals and families hold religious beliefs that prohibit the use of certain vaccines, and forcing them to comply with medical mandates that conflict with their faith violates their right to religious expression. This bill disregards the principles of religious liberty that our nation was built upon.

2. Infringement on Personal Autonomy:

In addition to religious concerns, HB1118 poses a significant threat to individual autonomy. People should have the right to make medical decisions based on their own values, beliefs, and circumstances. Compelling someone to undergo medical procedures—such as vaccination—without the ability to opt-out based on religious or personal grounds is a dangerous precedent. Personal medical choices should remain within the purview of the individual and their trusted healthcare providers, not the government.

3. The Importance of Medical Choice:

Vaccination is a personal and complex decision that should involve informed consent. Every individual and family has unique health concerns and should be empowered to make decisions based on their needs. Eliminating exemptions could lead to unintended consequences, as people may be forced into making medical decisions that contradict their values or health needs, potentially leading to harm or distress.

4. Potential for Overreach:

HB1118 represents a troubling step toward government overreach into personal healthcare decisions. If we allow the government to mandate vaccinations without respecting religious exemptions, where do we draw the line? This bill sets a dangerous precedent for future legislation that could further erode personal freedoms and autonomy in the medical field.

Conclusion:

I strongly urge you to reject HB1118 and protect the rights of individuals to make their own informed medical decisions, including maintaining religious exemptions. Vaccination should remain a personal choice, and it is essential that our laws respect the freedoms of all citizens to follow their religious convictions and protect their bodily autonomy.

Thank you for considering my testimony. I hope you will act in favor of protecting individual rights and religious freedoms.

Sincerely,

Jessica Webb

Mililani Resident

540-840-1051

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:48:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sydney Woolery	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My body, My choice!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:48:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Austin	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Have you thought of the legal ramifications not just from violating constitutional rights, but HIPPA AND FERPA.

What about my body my choice?

The second ammendment?

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:48:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Kawamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1118. I believe that we have a right to choose for our children what should go into their body.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:50:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Blomfield	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:50:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah McKay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is a violation of a citizen's constitutional rights, religious rights and fundamental human rights to force vaccinations in order to attend school.

A student's private medical records are private. As a teacher, I could have a student who is positive for hepatitis B or HIV in my class and never know, but somehow an unvaccinated student poses a greater threat? An unvaccinated child is not a threat to themselves or others. Vaccination should not be a forced requirement to attend school.

During Covid, many children were not allowed to attend school because their parents chose not to have their child vaccinated. These healthy students were forced to "quarantine." This bill is going to hurt an entirely different minority of children.

Every child should be allowed to attend school regardless of vaccination status. Religious beliefs around vaccination should not be a barrier to education in a school setting.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:51:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lila Marantz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I frequently hear the slogan "my body, my choice". Hawaii has has codified "reproductive freedom" i.e. the right to obtain an abortion for any reason, at any time. Is it not possible to allow parents to keep the right to abstain from vaccinating their children when they have a religious right to do so?

HB1118 would eliminate our constitution right to practice our religious faith, set a bad precedent, and violate rules you have on the books supposedly protecting our bodily rights.

Please vote down this bill.

Lila Marantz 96813/96744

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:51:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Daugherty	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of my family, I oppose bill 1118 and would be incredibly disappointed if it passes. Religious freedom is of utmost importance and having that right taken away would force our family to consider moving out of state.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:53:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments: As an American citizen and mother, I absolutely oppose HB1118 as it is a direct infringement on my First Amendment right to exercise religious freedom. Also, I have multiple children. To allow existing religious exemptions for my school-aged children but not allow exemptions for my younger children when they become school-aged is wrong and I strongly oppose this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:54:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Likeke Landford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To All;

I oppose this bill as it violates my constitutional rights. I have every right to chose what i put into my body. No one should be told what to do with there bodies.

Aloha

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:54:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheslei Akima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support my keiki having to take vaccines just to go school. Can you imagine how many people will end up homeschooling their kids because of a vaccine that could possibly decline our children's health or even kill them. It should be a decision that my family and our physician makes.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:55:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STEPHEN A. MARTIN	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSED

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:56:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Dano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Brittney oppose this bill. I'm not for ANTI vac or Vac that isn't the problem! The problem is NOT giving US parents a choice for our own KEIKI. They are our kids which means we should 100% have a say on what goes into their bodies or not!!!! This is literally insane that this bill is even brought up. This is seriously sick and evil and I do not support this bill AT ALL!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:56:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brianna Ansley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern I vehemently oppose Bill HB1118. I believe every parent must have the right to make medical decisions regarding vaccines for their children and it should not affect whether they can receive an education for their children as a result of that choice. We should all have the right of body autonomy whether that means someone chooses to have themselves or their children vaccinated, partially vaccinated or not vaccinated at all. This should be a personal informed choice and decision. Not a decision mandated by our government.

Mahalo,

Brianna Ansley

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:57:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naoko DeCosta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

Because this bill is obviously against the National Constitution 1st Amendment, freedom of religion. The government cannot establish a national religion or prohibit the free practice of religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:58:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela dail	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118

I oppose this measure, I believe this goes against our constitutional rights to choose what we do with our bodies, and we should not make parents choose between schooling and individual religious beliefs. Please oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:58:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Caporoz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which mandates vaccines for children in schools. While I recognize the importance of public health, this bill directly infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms and constitutional rights that must be protected.

First, the First Amendment of the U.S.

Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. For many families, vaccination decisions are deeply tied to religious beliefs, and forcing compliance disregards these sincerely held convictions. The government should not compel individuals to violate their faith in order for their children to access education.

Second, this bill raises significant constitutional concerns regarding personal liberty and parental rights. The Supreme Court has long upheld that parents have the primary authority in making medical decisions for their children. HB1118 undermines this principle by imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate that disreards individual

circumstances and medical autonomy.

Public health policies should respect both science and individual rights. Rather than imposing mandates, policymakers should support informed consent, medical and religious exemptions, and parental choice in healthcare decisions.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the constitutional and religious freedoms that are foundational to our country.

Thank you for your time and consideration."

-Chad

I agree with this statement and believe in this view. I oppose this bill for all the same reasons. -
Ashley Caporoz

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:02:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am a medical professional licensed in the State of Hawaii and I STRENUOUSLY OPPOSE this bill. To suggest that people should obey the government over obeying God is hubris. God, who created our bodies, knows better than politicians how they work and what we should put in them. I hold two science degrees and a doctorate. I have always been pro-vaccine and when my hospital was offered the COVID vaccine in late 2020, I signed up to receive it. But when I was contacted to schedule an appointment to get the vaccine, God spoke to me and told me not to get it. At the time I didn't understand why, but obeyed. Now we have mountains of evidence, VAERS data, and peer-reviewed studies showing just how ineffective and harmful the COVID vaccines are. Other states are banning vaccines and Hawaii is still trying to mandate them. There is mounting evidence that most, if not all, of our vaccines cause more harm than previously reported. Why are we trying to ramrod this through when nationally we are beginning to question vaccine safety? Our children are our most precious resource. We should not be injecting them with substances that cause harm and we definitely shouldn't be trampling all over religious liberty in order to do so. If you believe that God is real, then you must trust that He knows all things better than we do. Please VOTE NO on HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:06:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brody santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don not support. Born and raised in Maui my whole life. We should be able to choose for our children. Not the government

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aldarah Kumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill does not support the constitutional rights of Americans and leads us into dictatorship of freedoms. Please do not pass this bill. As a native Hawaiian and mother of two, this gravely impacts my family and families across the state. Your intentions may seem right, but those affected by this will be wronged. Please protect our Keiki and freedoms as Americans and Kanaka of our Aina. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:07:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Lally	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it.may concern,

The people of Hawaii should be the ones voting on this not you guys. If this passes the state of Hawaii will not stand for it. I and many , many others oppose this bill and do not want it to pass. Please cancel it or be looking for new jobs soon. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:07:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albert Ainuu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:09:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katja Bajema	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable chair, vice chair and committee members,

Thank you for your time and the opportunity to express my strong OPPOSITION against HB1118. I am a wife, a mother, a Christian and most importantly an AMERICAN citizen. I became a citizen through the naturalization process and I love this country, what it stands for and its constitution. This country believes in personal freedom and personal responsibility. Our freedom is protected in the constitution, and religious freedom specifically. Passing this bill will go AGAINST THOSE FREEDOMS.

It is very disheartening to see how Hawaii is fighting so hard, especially our governor, Dr. Green, to take freedom away. As the nation is starting to discuss vaccines on a grand scale and science, or the lack thereof, HI is pushing several vaccine bills through the legislature. This creates a lot of distrust of the government. People are paying attention to what you are doing. WE THE PEOPLE are telling you to not take our right away. Do not take our right to express our sincerely held beliefs around vaccines away. We are telling you loudly, make the right decision and listen to the people who you work for, the people who elected you just recently. You work for us, not for Dr. Green!

I urge you to vote against HB1118.

Thank you,

Katja Bajema

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:10:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherilyn Wells	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to blocking religious exemptions. In fact, let's remove all injection mandates instead - see Section 1.

NO to HB1118. See THREE sections below.

Section 1. Begin with the requirement that ALL vaccines have proof of double-blind, neutral placebo testing for safety, with an adequate timeline to assess potential negative effects.

As our new HHS RFK Jr. has proved by asking the federal government to produce evidence of such testing and by their subsequent admission this testing does not exist, we know that more scientific investigation MUST first be conducted.

Let's start by removing the near total protection from liability that the vaccine manufacturers currently possess.

Section 2. I would not take any medical proposal from Gov. Green seriously, given his appalling deficiencies during the Covid situation (as Lt. Gov).

Here are some of those deficiencies in leadership and medical integrity (questions I submitted to him in election season 2022 that then-Lt.Gov Green never answered):

When you are a doctor elected (?) to statewide public office and your state embarks on a medical agenda with a dubious genesis and an even more suspect trajectory (Covid, obviously)... AND...

(1) you never challenge the censorship and intimidation of your fellow doctors and nurses who have serious professional concerns and dissent with the official narrative's "foregone conclusions,"

(2) you never challenge the suppression of effective early treatment drugs with a long history of safe use, even after towns eliminate their "pandemic" almost overnight by widely dispensing these same drugs to their population,

(3) you endorse/participate in the public being manipulated (shamed and coerced and scared and lied to) into taking an experimental medical product that - as it turns out - DOES alter their DNA

(and God only knows what long-term effects of THAT will look like).. perhaps the Nuremberg Code was rejected in Hawai'i and none of us heard about it?,

(4) when the injection does NOT prevent infection or transmission, and you are not front and center admitting this - nay, shouting it from the rooftops(!),

(5) when data from around the globe has been revealing that, the more injections a person gets, the more likely that the damage to/changes to their immune system will put them in the hospital far more often than the unjabbed or minimally jabbed (consider Antibody Dependent Enhancement, Pathogenic Priming, Cytokine Cascades, etc. revealed in previous attempts to develop mRNA "vaccines"),

(6) when you don't acknowledge, as the data pours in from around the world, the errors this government made and continues to make (e.g., the fact that there are STILL signs to "Vax to Da Max" near government facilities!!), NO "Mea Culpa,"

(7) when you don't take issue with the fact that the PCR test was never to be used to detect infection (as its inventor vociferously asserted), but the state used it.. and ran it at cycles high enough to "guarantee" supportive statistics would be produced,

(8) when you did not question whether the payments made to hospitals to produce higher "Covid" diagnoses were a serious conflict of interest that could easily have produced erroneous statistics (e.g., from Covid vs. with Covid),

(9) when you never openly question why the jabs' manufacturers would seek to suppress their experimental data for 75 years (luckily, a position rejected by a court),

(10) when you never challenge the complete lack of federally-required **Informed** Choice (I use "choice" instead of the programming inherent in using the foregone-conclusion-word of "consent"),

(11) when you don't seem to find anything odd about the fact that they had to dramatically redefine words like "pandemic" and "vaccine" in order to keep using them,

(12) when they toy with statistics by calling someone "unvaccinated" during the first two weeks after injection and you don't publicly find that disingenuous,

(13) when embalmers (and hospital autopsies) are pulling massive clots out of the circulatory systems of the jabbed, and you don't publicly raise the alert,

(14) when the all-cause mortality is now off-the-charts, according to insurance companies paying out record amounts, including to a cohort (working age adults) whose deaths rose catastrophically, to previously unheard-of levels, and you fail to discuss such "real world feedback,"

(15) when jabbed students and professional athletes are dropping dead on the playing field or are sidelined with heart damage and other serious side-effects and you have no comment about this phenomenon,

(16) when the military's medical database (far superior to VAERS, as the military database mandates a report versus the voluntary nature of the VAERS system) revealed a great deal of harm being done to the jabbed, including very serious impacts to male/female reproduction and to pregnant women/fetuses, and you expressed no public concern (despite the fact we have a large military population here in Hawai'i),

(17) when it was revealed that 1,291 side-effects had been catalogued by the federal agencies AND that the deaths from this experimental gene-altering product, in roughly two years time, dramatically surpass the deaths from ALL the other vaccines for the last three DECADES... and you had no comment, raised no alarm...

YOU HAVE NOT DONE YOUR JOB TO PROTECT AND SERVE THE PUBLIC... IN FACT, IT WAS AN APPALLING FAILURE.

PLEASE EXPLAIN WHY THIS INCREDIBLY POOR PERFORMANCE JUSTIFIES YOU NOW TAKING THE REINS OF THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH AND CONTINUING TO "LEAD" THIS STATE (BUT as the servant of the people, according to our Constitution - just a reminder in light of the Medical Dictatorship we recently lived through and of which you were a part)?

I invite you to begin your response by reading the information below and sharing your thoughts...

https://www.theepochtimes.com/vaccinated-at-higher-risk-of-serious-adverse-events-reanalysis-of-original-trial-data_4707356.html

https://www.theepochtimes.com/exclusive-fda-refuses-to-provide-key-covid-19-vaccine-safety-analyses_4722586.html

Section 3. As far as ANYONE in government continuing to promote the Covid injections, mRNA injections, in fact – most injections, **a much better education around these topics obviously needs to be pursued.**

(a) Very short reading list essential to become better informed legislators:

The Pfizer Papers by Dr. Naomi Wolf,

Cause Unknown by Edward Dowd,

Lies My Government Told Me by Dr. Robert Malone (inventor of the mRNA vaccine platform technology),

The Real Anthony Fauci by RFK Jr.,

Turtles All The Way Down: Vaccine Science And Myth.

(b) Let's consider this new study (one of thousands of such studies and reports emerging, now that anti-Official-Narrative censorship is not quite as prevalent as a few years ago) –

Yale Study Finds Immunological and Antigenic Signatures Linked to Chronic Illnesses Post COVID-19 Vaccination

The study identified several key immunological alterations in PVS participants. Altered T cell immunophenotypes were observed, with reduced memory and effector CD4+ T cells, including both Th1 and Th2 subsets, alongside a significant increase in TNF α + CD8+ T cells, indicating heightened inflammatory responses. Lower anti-spike IgG titers were also noted, correlating with fewer vaccine doses received, and in infection-naïve PVS participants (PVS-I), these levels declined significantly over time post-vaccination. Additionally, a subset of PVS patients exhibited serological evidence of recent Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) reactivation, marked by elevated anti-gp42 and anti-gp350 antibodies, with increased gp42 reactivity associated with higher TNF α + CD8+ T cell frequencies, suggesting potential immune dysregulation. Persistent circulating SARS-CoV-2 spike protein was detected in some PVS participants up to 709 days post-vaccination using the SPEAR immunoassay, paralleling findings in long COVID studies where persistent antigenemia has been linked to prolonged symptoms. Autoantibody profiling revealed elevated anti-nucleosome IgM and anti-AQP4 IgA antibodies in PVS participants, suggesting possible autoimmunity, while controls exhibited higher histone H1 IgG reactivity, an autoimmune marker not linked to PVS. Finally, a machine learning model identified key immune features predictive of PVS, including increased TNF α + CD8+ T cells, elevated MMP1 levels, lower IL-4+ and IL-6+ CD4 T cells, and decreased neuropeptides (oxytocin, neurotensin, and β -endorphin), achieving 78.1% accuracy in distinguishing PVS from controls.

Potential Implications

Emerging research on persistent post-vaccination syndromes (PVS) is raising critical concerns about long-term immune responses in a subset of individuals. One of the most striking findings is the presence of circulating spike protein months to years' post-vaccination, suggesting that in some cases, vaccine-derived antigens are not efficiently cleared. This persistent antigenemia could be driving chronic inflammation and prolonged immune activation, mirroring mechanisms observed in long COVID. Compounding this issue, evidence of Epstein-Barr Virus (EBV) reactivation in PVS patients has been identified, a troubling finding given EBV's well-documented role in autoimmune diseases such as multiple sclerosis and systemic lupus erythematosus. Elevated autoantibody levels further suggest that dysregulated immunity post-vaccination may trigger or exacerbate autoimmune responses, raising significant concerns about long-term health implications. Additionally, increased TNF α + CD8 T cell activation points to an ongoing inflammatory state that may underlie the systemic fatigue, neurological symptoms, and immune dysfunction reported by PVS patients—an immune signature that closely resembles long COVID.

Bhattacharjee et al.'s study provides compelling evidence of immune dysregulation in individuals with chronic illness post-COVID-19 vaccination, including altered T cell populations, EBV reactivation, autoantibody production, and persistent spike antigenemia. While the findings warrant further investigation, they raise important questions about the mechanisms underlying prolonged post-vaccination symptoms. Future research should focus on validating these biomarkers, exploring therapeutic interventions, and refining vaccine strategies to minimize adverse immune responses.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:14:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chalsea Sadorra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

WE THE PEOPLE DO NOT SUPPORT HB1118.

IT SHOULD BE THE PARENTS TO MAKE THESE KIND OF DECISIONS FOR THEIR CHILDREN, NOT THE GOVERNMENT.

STOP TAKING AWAY THE PEOPLE'S RIGHTS AND FOCUS/DO WHAT'S BETTER FOR THE ISLAND. TAKE CARE OF THE PEOPLE, NOT GO AGAINST THE PEOPLE.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:14:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Toriki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 and SB1437 (related bill).

This is gross government overreach and a blatant violation of our individual rights and freedoms given to us through our Constitution and by God.

If this bill is pushed through, I can guarantee there will be years of costly litigation of which our State cannot afford and for which the outcome will be in the people's favor based on our Constitution.

Why would our "elected" officials want to put our State through this? What gives our "elected" officials the right to interfere with parental decisions?? Who benefits monetarily from all these bills being put forth this session regarding vaccinations????? Any "elected" official who votes in favor of this or similar bills clearly is not doing this for the benefit of the people.

Passing this bill would be tomfoolery at its finest!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:14:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinaala Tuifua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why are you trying to TELL me what I can and cannot do with my children? That's between the Dr. My child and myself. I OPPOSE THIS BILL!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:14:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:14:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avery Dail	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this. I believe this goes against our constitutional rights of free choice. As humans, with many different beliefs and religions, we deserve to choose what we do or do not do to our bodies. This would take that away, forcing people to comply with something they do not believe in, or force them to sacrifice schooling and/or work opportunities. I myself am able to go to college because this exists. If it did not, I wouldn't be graduating in a couple months. I wouldn't have been able to experience some of the most pivotal years of my life, and probably would never get my dream job. I oppose this because I know there are others out there like me that want to be able to maintain their free will, and choose what they do with their bodies in accordance with their beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:15:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Salamasina Benedicto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which mandates that all children in Hawaii receive a full schedule of vaccines in order to attend school. As a parent of two children, both of whom is unvaccinated, I am deeply concerned about this bill and its implications on our rights and freedoms.

Firstly, the decision to vaccinate should be a personal one, made by parents who know their children best. It is our responsibility to weigh the risks and benefits and to make informed choices that align with our family's health beliefs and practices. By mandating vaccinations, the government is overstepping its boundaries and infringing upon our right to make autonomous decisions about our children's health.

Secondly, education is a fundamental right that should not be conditional upon medical procedures. Every child deserves access to free and public education, regardless of their vaccination status. This bill, by imposing mandatory vaccinations, effectively denies unvaccinated children this right. It is unjust to exclude children from educational opportunities based on their medical choices.

Furthermore, it is essential to recognize that vaccine schedules are not one-size-fits-all. The current vaccine schedule includes a higher number of vaccines than ever before, and many parents, including myself, have legitimate concerns about the long-term effects and cumulative impact on our children's health. My children, who are currently unvaccinated, are thriving and perfectly healthy. This anecdotal evidence should not be discounted when considering the necessity of mandatory vaccination.

Moreover, mandating vaccines can erode trust between the public and healthcare providers. It is vital to maintain an environment where open dialogue and voluntary consent are prioritized. Coercion through legislation does not foster trust and may lead to increased resistance and skepticism toward vaccinations and the medical community.

In conclusion, I urge you to vote against Bill HB1118. Parents should have the freedom to make informed health decisions for their children without government interference. Education should remain accessible to all children, regardless of their vaccination status. Let us respect individual rights and prioritize voluntary consent over coercive mandates.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:16:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Schnabel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1118. I strongly advocate for the preservation of the rights of Hawai'i citizens and their dependents who choose to pursue non-medical exemptions from immunization. It is essential to protect individual healthcare autonomy and uphold the freedoms that are fundamental to our society. Every citizen should have the ability to make informed choices regarding their health without facing restrictions.

Historical evidence indicates that past mandates have often been implemented in a manner that disregards individual rights. We must learn from these experiences and prioritize the protection of personal freedoms in our healthcare decisions. Maintaining these rights is not just a matter of personal choice; it is a reflection of our commitment to safeguarding the principles of freedom and responsibility within our community.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:16:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandonlee Ellis-Rivera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of a child who attends public school I oppose this bill because I feel it is unfair and unconstitutional for the state to determine if my child has to get mandatory vaccines just to attend school. It goes against my and many others personal as well as religious beliefs as a parent and as a citizen of the United States. We use the term "Land of the free" but choose to want to be a state that wants to force its people to do such things by trynna make it to law. I find this bill as a personal attack upon our children and therefore I Brandonlee Ellis-Rivera oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:16:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tricia Rocillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose "HB1118" I have children who are school age. We not allow any sort of injection and that is our religions belief as well as constitutional right. I believe all children deserve the same opportunity to go to school in the United States, regardless of their religion and beliefs.

-Tricia Rocillo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:17:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tennille kanahele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:18:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Caporoz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly Oppose! No child should be left behind regardless or religion!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:19:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Botello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

Have we not learned any lessons from the Covid Era? Companies were held liable for backpay for firing employees who refused the vaccine but the state is going right back to mandating children be vaccinated to attend school. Do not put pressure on families to vaccinate their children, it is wrong.

Do not remove religious or other non-medical exemptions. Provide more options for families, not less.

Families with seriously immunocompromised children will need to make more stringent decisions regarding their children but it should not involve unreasonable accommodations that violate the bodily autonomy of others. This is wrong.

Other accommodations could be made but this is the 5% dictating what the 95% must do when it should be the reverse. Reasonable accommodations do not include forced vaccination to go to school that I pay for with my taxes.

I see no provision for allocating educational funds to follow each child. This would at least give parents more options on where to send their children. The only thing I see is forcing people to do what the legislators want them to do and ignoring the outcry of opposition. I expect that you will pass this bill regardless of how many residents oppose it. The legislature passes what it wants and ignores the will of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:21:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie M. Lawson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill raises serious constitutional concerns. This was not addressed by the DOE-and needs to be. It has been rushed through the legislature-there needs to be more time to discuss this bill. The impact will hurt those who for deeply held religious beliefs oppose mandatory vaccination.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:22:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Honda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:23:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina Small	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is total government interference in the freedom of citizens to choose what is best for them and their family. stop trying to control every aspect of our lives because you think you know what is best for us. You are shamed because of what our government has forcibly done to people in the past and don't see that you are doing it here yourselves. Vaccines are not 100% safe, no medication is, and you should be liable for all injuries if you pass this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:24:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shai A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118 and I strongly urge you to vote against this bill. What you are considering by proposing this bill, is blatantly immoral, unethical and illegal. This bill undermines our fundamental rights as parents and as American citizens, giving unjust influence to corporations, specifically big pharma - over OUR children's body and healthcare decisions. These type of decisions should be made by parents and parents alone! HB1118 infringes on personal freedoms, parental rights and religious liberties. Medical decisions, including vaccinations should remain a matter of personal choice, guided by informed consent - not imposed by FORCE or by mandate. HB1118 is a alarming overreach of government authority and it is undoubtedly unconstitutional. Every child should have a right to an education, regardless of vaccination status and should NOT be discriminated against for lack thereof. No state or government should possess the right to dictate what vaccines any child should receive. HB1118 is unacceptable and shameful. I urge you to reject HB1118 and stand firm in defense of our God given liberties.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:24:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
denise woods	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to express my strong disapproval of this bill. Many vaccines on the childhood vaccine schedule have never been tested against a placebo, we do not know how safe these are for children. Furthermore, our right to refuse vaccination and medication we take is what separates us from being animals that are owned like livestock. To be free people in a free country we need the right to refuse to be injected with anything. Particularly when that substance is developed by companies who contribute to the political campaigns of our politicians. I'm speaking to you, Mr. Green, and countless others of you. I realize that you are beholden to the companies and industries that market these medications. Trying to eliminate the option to refuse these medications reeks of corruption.

Please do not support this bill. Those that do are complicit in stripping US citizens of freedom, and likely complicit in deep corruption and should be investigated.

Thank you.

Denise Woods

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:25:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GEORGE ROSS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a retired physician in the state of Hawaii, I support this bill to repeal Non-Medical Exemptions for School Vaccinations. For a vaccine program to be most effective it is essential that the greatest number of individuals possible be vaccinated to assure herd immunity. Consequently, this protects not only those having vaccinations, but also those in our community who cannot be vaccinated due to an immunocompromised state.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:25:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to vote NO.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:26:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie M.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the HB 1118 because its goes against the constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:27:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE ! ! !

Do you know that NONE of the childhood vaccines have been safety tested?! And that some vaccines contain mercury, aluminum and other metals. And that childhood vaccines are suspected to cause sudden infant death syndrom (SIDS), autism, ADD, ADHD and others.

Special programs should be created for the "medically fragile children" to keep them safe rather than endangering the majority of children with potentially dangerouse vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:27:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth German	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe it is wrong to deny children the right to education based on their vaccination status - which is a personal choice that should be made by the child's parents, not by the state or federal government. I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:28:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118. This is in Violation of The Constitutional First Amendment. You took an Oath to protect The Constitution of The United States of America. Please honor your Oath. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:28:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Enos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

These are not your kids and this is not your choice! Hawaii continues to stretch and take away more rights. You work for us... you should represent our wishes! Do your job and kill this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:28:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiana lolotai	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am a mother of six children who will do everything in my power to protect my children. I strongly oppose HB1118! If we take out the huge topic of science of the pros and cons of vaccinations we can go at it all day. The biggest issue that I see here is this bill goes against our very own constitution, taking away our Medical Freedom. Where there is a risk there should always be a choice not the governments choice.

What happened to "my body my choice"?! Why does that only apply to certain topics? I strongly oppose this bill and I pray you all soften your heart and do the right thing. Let us continue to stand by our constitutional rights and keep our medical freedom, religious beliefs, and freedom of choice.

Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:30:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beloved Tamafuta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am disagree with this bill because I believe, we as parents have the CHOICE, and also have full consent of what is allowed in our school systems, it's our children that attends these schools on a daily basis, leaving our homes knowing that the teachers and staff is taking full responsibility and being accountable for not only what is being taught but also their well being at schools, it's not right to have children vaccinated by force without any consent under any circumstances no matter what the reason may be... Without us the people, there will be none of you that are in office today as Mayor, Governor etc.. Do the right thing according to our rights as lawful citizens of this great state of Hawaii!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:30:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Paulon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a parent and a health care worker and I am writing to strongly OPPOSE Bill 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for childhood vaccinations as a requirement for school attendance. While I fully support public health initiatives and informed medical decision-making, this bill infringes upon fundamental parental rights, informed consent, and bodily autonomy.

First and foremost, parents have the right to make medical decisions for their children in consultation with trusted healthcare providers. Removing non-medical exemptions forces families into a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare, disregarding religious convictions, and deeply held personal beliefs. This sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal medical choices.

Additionally, vaccine injuries, though rare, are a real and documented risk. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has paid out billions of dollars to families of children who suffered adverse effects from vaccinations. Parents who have experienced or fear such injuries should not be forced to subject their children to medical procedures they believe could cause harm. Mandating vaccines without exemptions denies families the ability to weigh these risks against the benefits.

Furthermore, this bill unfairly punishes children by denying them access to education, which is a fundamental right. Public schools exist to serve all children, and no child should be excluded from their education due to their family's medical decisions. Rather than coercing families, efforts should be made to ensure open dialogue, transparency, and education about vaccines, fostering trust rather than enforcing compliance through exclusion.

Public health policies must balance communal well-being with individual rights. History has shown that trust in medical systems erodes when coercion replaces informed choice. I urge you to oppose Bill 1118 and instead seek policies that respect parental rights while promoting voluntary, informed medical decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:31:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tony Dail	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This law cannot happen. It completely goes against the First Amendment passed in 1789 stating *congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the exercise thereof*;... If our religious rights are protected and our religious beliefs prohibit vaccinations how can Hawaii set in place a law like this? It also goes against the fourteenth amendment, section 1.

We, as people of this free state/country have the right to determine how to best raise and protect our children. The state has no right to dictate that process!

I vehemently oppose this move and hope many others here in the beautiful state of Hawaii do so as well.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:32:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Thornbrue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in opposition to HB1118. Using our government to coerce individuals into receiving medical treatments against their will is both morally and legally wrong. The intention of this bill is to keep people from using their free will to determine what medical procedures to give their children. Whether or not to vaccinate is a highly personal decision, and even if this legislature believes vaccines are good, they do not have the authority to make that decision for anyone besides themselves. There are many instances where you, our lawmakers, have stood in defense of bodily autonomy, and we thank you for that. This issue is no different. No child should be discriminated against based on his/her parents choice of medical interventions.

You state that this is to protect a small number of immunocompromised students. However, you are not protecting the students who are unvaccinated by excluding them. I believe we are creative enough and compassionate enough to find solutions for everybody. Thank you for your time and efforts to secure a bright future for our keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:33:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please protect our children and our constitutional rights to religious freedom. Keep the religious exemptions to mandated vaccinations in schools as 46 other states have done. Mandates on medical products are oppressive and illiberal. For products with risk, there must be informed choice. I strongly oppose this bill, as it is a violation of our constitutional rights and I urge others to do the same.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:34:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tashya Whitehead, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. The negative effects of non-medical vaccine exemptions can be seen currently in west Texas with the growing measles outbreak among the unvaccinated population. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:34:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raynell Koverman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118 as it violates fundamental constitutional rights and religious freedoms. As a concerned citizen, I firmly believe that government should not compel individuals to act against their faith in order to access education for their children.

It's deeply troubling that this bill raises several constitutional concerns, especially regarding personal liberty and parental rights. Parents, more than anyone else, have the primary authority to make medical decisions for their children. HB1118 undermines this essential duty and the family's role in these critical decisions.

Compelling parents to follow mandates that conflict with their religious beliefs is an infringement on their personal liberties. It is not just a matter of principle but a serious encroachment on our individual rights enshrined in the Constitution.

I urge you to consider the broader implications of this bill and its potential to erode the foundation of religious freedom and personal liberty. Rejecting HB1118 is necessary to protect the rights of all citizens and preserve the integrity of parental authority in making informed and conscientious decisions for their children.

Thank you for considering my perspective on this important matter. I trust you will stand against HB1118 and support the constitutional rights and freedoms that we hold dear.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:37:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorrie Carr Ohashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully submit this testimony in opposition of HB1118 which attempts to deny religious exemption against vaccination for public school children.

The U.S. 2024 election results showed an overwhelming desire by the American people to support and protect our constitutional republic.

While the rest of our nation moves forward in support of constitutional rights, and personal and religious freedoms for our citizens, why are you once AGAIN proposing a previously failed bill that seeks to push our state backwards and deny religious freedom?

This morning's local news headline claims we are facing a shortage of hospital beds here as hospitalization rates are way above pre-pandemic numbers.

Why is it that the more you push vaccinations and the more the people comply here in Hawaii the sicker our population becomes?

This is a question that you should be asking yourselves rather than pushing your unconstitutional agenda on the people .

We the people want the right to fair and balanced information so that we may continue to make informed decisions for ourselves and our families. If a person's religion prevents them from taking a vaccine, then you must honor that decision not threaten them and take it away from them.

You have seen the people show up in large numbers, hearing after hearing to voice their concerns and opposition to this bill. start listening to us rather than trying to force a partisan agenda upon us.

You work for us not the other way around.

You cannot take away our Religious freedom, nor the right to make choices about our own body and health. That is not the role of government.

We the people urge you to listen to the mandate of the American people and vote against any bill that would take away our constitutional rights or silence our religious freedom.

Please stand with us against HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:40:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Porter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:40:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapua Castro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chair my name is Kapuaalii Castro and I testify in OPPOSITION to HB1118. This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal religious freedoms which is against our American constitution. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between faith and accessing education. For myself personally, my first daughter was negatively affected by vaccinations (she is now 8) which led my husband and myself to opt against them for our second child (now 5 months old) While public health is important, policies should also respect individual's religious freedoms. For these reasons I testify in opposition to bill HB1118. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:40:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shirley Simao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118, repealing non-medical exemptions to immunizations, as I believe the bill violates religious freedoms guaranteed by the US Constituion and would cause costly legal repercussions to the State.

As an American, taxpayer, and grandmother of shool-age children, I believe parents should continue to express their religious beliefs and not be forced to comply with unnecessary government overreach.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:41:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmin McCracken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

It is wrong to not offer children education based on their religious practice.

You should never be forced to take a medical product in order to receive any kind of public services!

It is wrong to take away family's right to choose what's best for their family.

It is wrong to force vaccines on someone who's body may react adversely to it.

Everyone has the right to medical freedom.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jasmin McCracken

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:42:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Kaneakua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm a mom of 3 young children, my husband and I have chosen not to immunize for many reasons namely our religion. The key word there is CHOICE, they are our children we have a responsibility for them to do what we feel is best for them. Taking away this choice from parents that will affect their education options will cripple the school system statewide. We stand as many strongly opposing this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:43:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelii Simmons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This Bill should not be passed. It takes away our rights as Citizens of the United States of America.

Each Parent(s) and Family should have the Freedom of Religion to choose if their child or children should be vaccinated or not in order to attend any School in Hawaii - Private, Public or Charter here in the State of Hawaii. It is our right to stand firm in belief of our religion. And if vaccine(s) is not within accordance to our beliefs then The State of Hawaii or City and County of Hawaii should not be allowed to enforce our compliance as a requirement for our child or children to have access to education.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:43:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalahikiola Costales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a parents right and it should be the parents choice wether they want to vaccinate or not. This should never be mandatory. The government wants so much control that they dont want to give us (we the people who it affects) a say. & that's bogus. Do better.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:44:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Treskon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 3 and wife of a 25 year navy veteran, and I strongly oppose HB1118 as it conflicts with my religious and moral beliefs.

Each vaccine on the childhood schedule includes cells and debris from various animals, aborted fetals cells, chemical waste and carcinogens which is in direct violation of treating our bodies as temples in the very Spirit of God.

In addition, my husband was born and raised in Hawai'i, he served in multiple deployments in war zones directly fighting for our freedoms and as a result is deemed disabled after a 25 year career of sacrifice. We are deeply grieved that we now face our rights being stripped right before our eyes. We have children in the public school system and will have to remove them from their schools should this bill pass. Not only is it unconstitutional to deny our children education for a system that our taxes pay toward, but it is unconstitutional to punish us for our religious beliefs.

I'd like to conclude my testimony with pointing out that the public school system is already struggling and we are seeing some schools facing possible closures and dreaded budgets a result of lowered enrollment. If this bill passes it will only equal decreased funds for our schools, so all children in Hawai'i will in fact suffer the consequences. Our children are not a threat, they are not spontaneously breaking out in disease, in fact they are healthy and thriving as we make exercise and food a priority. I reviewed information on the state website which lists the religious exemption rate for each school in the state, and for the last decade there were many with a rate above 5% (which is the number always cited for infectious disease to return) - however, not at any of the schools have we had a resurgence of these diseases. The hysteria is unfounded according to the statistics. We also have a measure in place should there be reoccurrences of these diseases that have been effective.

I thank you for reading and respectfully ask that you oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:47:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JOHN L PANG	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill on multiple levels. I do understand the importance of vaccines as a health care provider but mandating the Covid vaccine which modifies our mRNA is not like other vaccines that supplement our bodies normal immune response. This is modifying the original version of our creation. No court, legislative nor executive order has the right to do this. The consequences we don't yet know. A Pandemic does necessitate emergency action but we are no longer in a pandemic. When the pharmacodynamic definition of vaccines are restored to what they used to be (immune response stimulators) rather than DNA modifiers, I object to bypassing current checks and balances within our legislative process to railroad a bill that is bypasses the foundational principles of our constitution. If the majority of Americans do not support this, who are you to say you know best? Only our Creator knows best.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:49:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government should not be allowed to override the legitimate non-violent beliefs of its citizens especially when it comes to being forced to pit drugs into their bodies.

Thats what authoritatrian societies do, .

Vote no on this bill for many reasons, not the least of which is its an infringement on personal rights our country was founded on.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:50:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Toni L-Lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one has the right to force any type of medical procedures on me. My body, my choice. My right to religious freedom and my beliefs are guaranteed by the constitution. This bill is unconstitutional and needs to be stopped.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:50:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa Shelby	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1 as it appears to remove parental rights, religious freedoms and is an over-reach of government that will not accomplish it's purpose of protecting **all** keiki.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Theresa Shelby

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:51:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joslyn Hanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do you not know that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit who is in you, whom you have from God, and you are not your own? For you were bought at a price; therefore glorify God in your body and in your spirit, which are God's. 1 Corinthians 6 NKJV

Who is anyone to judge the conviction of the Holy Spirit other than God himself? The price was the death of Jesus Christ on the cross. The God of Abraham, Isaac, and Jacob will not be mocked. A few years ago, governor Green accused the local community of anti-semitic fueled hatred towards himself and his family. How is this bill not an attack on the family of Jesus Christ? For the gentiles were grafted in to the family of Jews, through Jesus and the shedding of his blood. Jesus told his disciples that he must go, so that the helper may come; the Holy Spirit. He explained that the Holy Spirit would be our advocate. I strongly oppose this bill which discriminates against people upholding religious exemptions from forced coercion, compliance and vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:51:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Dail	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a resident of Hawaii i wish to submit a testimony for the right to uphold an individuals religious belief. In our constitution we are provided this right and it is without argument to how we hold our religious beliefs aside from those that would violate the laws of our land and this is not one of those. Please keep the vaules of a family to a family.

Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:52:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Y Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed to this bill due to the fact that it goes against what the our country was build on having freedom of religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:53:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pamela Vera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill which will take away the rights of families to decide for themselves if their child should receive a (or any) vaccines. Vaccines are NOT one size fits all... there are SO many factors to consider, besides religion. As a person who has severe allergies and had adverse reactions to many products, I can not imagine forcing ALL children to take a vaccine in order to attend school.

It seems to be the Overreach of government to Demand/Require so many things now that SHOULD be left for individuals to determine for themselves. My body, My choice... I can't imagine keeping a child from Learning...unable to attend educational classes because they won't take medication....

Please, I urge you to Oppose this bill. Let us parents continue to make choices for the health and well being of our keiki.

Respectfully,

Pamela Vera

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:56:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Kitahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do NOT take away our First Amendment right of religious freedom.
Where there is risk, there must be choice!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:56:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leina f	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If my child will still spread disease or sickness with or without the vaccine, we the parents, should not be forced to make our children take vaccines. It should be a parents choice if they want their kids to be vaccinated or take any shots. This is a violation to our constitutional rights as well as parental rights. I did not have a child so that the government could tell me what I can and cannot do as a parent. Especially if it's not harming the child or anyone else. If the government has the power to tell parents what to do. If th government has a say on how we raise our children, then the government should pay as child support. I Leina Fisher is very much agaisnt HB1118 . I truely believe I, as well as many other parents will be forced to home school our children, which will have a decline in numbers for our local/public schools, and eventually public school will close down because of this lack of participation as well as funding. This will be a huge mistake if HB 1118 passes. Wether it passes or not, parents who feel strongly against vaccinations will STILL not make their children get it.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:56:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nash Witten	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Family Physician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:57:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Kitahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do NOT take away our First Amendment right of religious freedom.
Where there is risk there must be choice!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:58:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jr Tupai	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Jr Tupa'i, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights.

For these reasons I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.
Aloha

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:02:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
adam poʻolua	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha mai e nā alakaʻi o ka ʻAhaʻōlelo Mokuʻāina,

As a parent and citizen, i want to thank you for the platform to contest this bill and to, firstly, express my grievance with this bill as I feel it to be an over reach and I do believe that not only myself but other fellow opposers are acting in protest (via these testimonies) for we are concerned that this bill alienates our religious beliefs and religious freedoms we have available and ingrained through the us constitution-'to practice religious freedoms'. Secondly, ,as a parent, I feel I (we) have the law on our side, and I with that want to protect my (our) child (children) by not having them injected with anything that could be terminal. I (we) will not risk that-simple put! Thank you, again, for this avenue to express this and hope you will take the right steps to eliminate bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:03:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlee Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Freedom of choice? What happened to that. It is up to the children's parents & family physician if we would like our child to be poked with poison or not. To mandate it to go to school and have an education for the future? How crazy is that! You are trying every which way to kill off our children, our future! Let this be a choice! Just like you have the choice to wake up every morning and take vitamins or not, let vaccines be a choice! Promote healthy living, not this poison bull.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:04:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrin W. Scott Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Darrin W. Scott Jr., am opposed to infringing upon anyone's constitutional rights. I defended against this very issue while serving in the military. Having wronged us, the federal government is now offering reinstatement and full back pay for everyone who had to separate due to the vaccine mandate. What you are doing here is even worse; you are forcing vaccination on our children as well as anyone who wishes to pursue higher education. Again this is ridiculous that we are even having this conversation, this is the land of the free.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:06:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Kelway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly object to this bill. Removing the religious exemption for child immunization is in direct conflict with my freedom of religion rights guaranteed to me under the first amendment of the United States Constitution. Immunization conflicts with my bona fide religious tenets and practices.

Furthermore, this measure appears to be in direct contradiction to the American Indian Religious Freedom Act 1978, which was enacted to return basic civil liberties and religious freedoms to previously marginalized groups, including the native Hawaiian people. Religious practices are varying amongst native groups, but general consensus is for body autonomy (i.e.: the Government should not be dictating on issues such as abortion or vaccines). Regardless of the efficacy and positive impact of certain vaccines, it should remain a choice of the people, and not contradict religious freedom, guaranteed by the US constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:06:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamarin McCartin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines are vital to public health and saving lives. So many people - mainly children - suffer and even die unnecessarily from the politicization of vaccines. I support this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:08:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aysiah Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

JHA

1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**IN OPPOSITION**

Hello, my name is Aysiah Kim and I am testifying against Bill 1118 HB.

Reasons being that I believe the parents know whats best for their own children and should be the only ones to make such a decision for them. I believe to make vaccinations mandatory pulls away from our freedom of choice and belief it's unethical given that every person has different religious beliefs. Some people may have medical situations where certain vaccinations may affect them such as my children with autoimmune diseases.

Ultimately this Bill takes away freedom of choice from parents and families of all Hawai'i children, in which involves their health and their religious and medical situations. A choice that does not belong to the state regarding our children, and only belongs to the families who know whats best for them. It is my earnest belief that this would be wrong and I greatly Oppose this Bill. Thank you Chair and committee, I hope you consider my testimony.

Aysiah Kim

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:08:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy treskon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Religious exemptions do not pose a threat to vulnerable children or teachers - but it does pose a threat to the people of Hawaii. We currently have in place a measure should there be an outbreak of infectious disease in the schools. The current law calls for children with religious exemptions to temporarily leave school grounds, this practice has successfully worked and in fact my daughter was instructed to leave school grounds almost 10 years ago when a chicken pox outbreak occurred at the school. We knew the families that had chicken pox (all vaccinated) and after 5 days my daughter returned to school. There was not hysteria about this childhood disease and the process was seamless.

There are schools all over the state that have (according to the state's website) had over 5% religious exemptions yet infectious disease has not broken out as a result. We are told the reason for this bill is because we are now about a 5% threshold overall, yet the schools with over 5% religious exemptions have not had any more outbreaks than schools with than 5%.

I urge the committee members to uphold the constitution, one that I served in special forces for over 20 years in war zones to uphold as well. I urge the committee members to look at the data instead of the hysteria - we have already had schools with over 5% religious exemptions for many years without a threat to anyone, without outbreaks aside from the ones that have always occurred.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:08:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Allagonez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Againts the HB 1118 BILL because it goes against my religious beliefs and rights. It is in direct violation of the commands in the Holy Bible for believers in, and followers of, Jesus Christ.

Please know that i do not in any way wish to be labeled as "anti-science," as we serve the God of science, Who in scripture has made it very clear in no uncertain terms that our bodies are "the Temple of God the Holy Spirit."

- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17, "Don't you know that you yourselves are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in your midst?
If anyone destroys God's temple, God will destroy that person; for God's temple is sacred, and you together are that temple."
- 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your body."
- 2 Corinthians 7:1, "Therefore, since we have these promises, dear friends, let us purify ourselves from everything that contaminates body and spirit, perfecting holiness out of reverence for God."

It's for this reason that as Christians, we are forbidden to allow the contaminants that are now documented to have been found in all of the vaccines and even tests into our bodies, lest we defile, or worse, destroy our aforementioned Temple, in which God the Holy Spirit resides and indwells.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:09:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill should never see the light of day . It totally goes against human rights and our freedom of choice. I haven't given my child a vaccine and hes a healthy above average growing boy. If this bill comes to pass I will definitely home school my child which im sure a lot of other parents will do adding another injustice and struggle against parents living in Hawaii. I Strongly oppose this bill; parents should not be told nor forced to do anything to their children that they don't approve of. All schools should be required to do is teach and educate our children nothing else, its a parents responsibility to worry about the health of the child not the state. Let parents have a choice over their own children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:10:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shan Kekua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

What happen to freedom of rights?! Keiki should not be forced to take unnecessary vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:10:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sara mcdiarmid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I strongly oppose this bill because I don't want our rights of choice to be taken away from us. This is NOT right for to be taking away a human right to exercise faith without question, and taking away the rights of an education based on the forced beliefs of our current state elected officials. Please listen to the people you serve as the last fort there was about 1000 written testimonies opposing and only about 100 or so for it. This choice to vaccination should be between the parent and the physician and not the state forcing it upon our keiki!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:10:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cody K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118 and I strongly urge you to vote against this bill. What you are considering by proposing this bill is blatantly immoral, unethical and illegal. This bill undermines our fundamental rights as parents and as American citizens, giving unjust influence to corporations, specifically big pharma - over OUR children's body and healthcare decisions. Where there is risk there should be choice and these type of decisions should be made by parents and parents alone! HB1118 infringes on personal freedoms, parental rights and religious liberties. Medical decisions, including vaccinations should remain a matter of personal choice, guided by informed consent - not imposed by FORCE, by law or by mandate. HB1118 is an alarming overreach of government authority and it is undoubtedly unconstitutional. Every child should have a right to an education, regardless of vaccination status and should NOT be discriminated against for lack thereof. No state or government should possess the right or the power to influence, control or dictate what vaccines any child should receive. HB1118 is unacceptable and shameful. HB1118 is a direct violation of our rights found in the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

U.S. Constitution

Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well-informed conscience.

Hawaii State Constitution**Article I. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION**

Section 4. NO law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances

I urge you to reject and vote NO on HB1118. I urge you to stand firm in preserving our constitutional right of freedom of religious liberty and stand in defense of our God-given inalienable liberties.

February 20, 2025

To the Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Sena Dever, and I am here to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which mandates that all children must be fully vaccinated to attend schools in Hawaii. I believe that the decision regarding vaccinations should remain a choice for parents, not a mandate imposed by the state. This decision is between parents and their child's pediatrician.

First and foremost, the health and well-being of our children is a priority for every parent. Parents have the right to make informed decisions about their children's health care, including vaccinations. Each child is unique, and their health needs can vary significantly. Mandating vaccines removes the ability for parents to assess what is best for their own children based on their medical history and individual circumstances.

Additionally, the proposed bill undermines the fundamental principle of parental rights. Parents are the first and foremost advocates for their children, and they should have the authority to make medical decisions that align with their values and beliefs. By allowing the state to dictate these choices, we risk eroding the trust that parents have in the educational and health systems.

Moreover, we must consider the potential consequences of such a mandate. It may lead to increased distrust of the medical community and diminish the willingness of parents to seek necessary medical care for their children. Instead of fostering an environment of cooperation and understanding, this bill could create division and fear among families and having their children attend schools in Hawaii.

I urge the legislature to consider alternative approaches that respect parental rights while still promoting public health. Education and open dialogue about vaccinations can empower parents to make informed choices without coercion.

In conclusion, I respectfully request that you reconsider Bill HB1118. Let us preserve the rights of parents to make health decisions for their children and work together to find solutions that respect individual choices while promoting the health of our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sena Dever, M.Ed.
senabelgard@yahoo.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:11:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

Please vote no on SB 1118. Everyone should have a choice as to what goes into their bodies. If you are Pro Choice for abortion, then it would be consistent to be Pro Choice not to take a vaccine. Not all vaccines are proven safe and effective and herd immunity hasn't been proven. Thank you for having empathy for those who choose not to take the vaccine and desire a good education to become leaders for Hawai'i.

May God visit you personally and bless you and protect you,

Linda

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:11:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karissa Racoma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to you all with high hopes of open mindedness and understanding to the concerns that this bill may pose to those within our communities. The bill that is proposed is subjecting the Keiki of Hawaii to unnecessary pharmaceutical vaccinations that are not absolutely necessary to their health and safety. Vaccinations becoming mandated may affect some of our Keiki in unimaginable ways. I have had to experience family members Keiki suffer from irreversible affects, such as autism, directly caused from a vaccination that is highly pushed by all pediatricians. Vaccinations were meant to help, but bulldozing people into thinking they are helpful is manipulation at it's highest point. Once again, your actions have shown that the money going into your pockets are more valuable than the health and wellbeing of our next generation.

My opposition stands firm. As someone who has had numerous, negative reactions caused by some of the vaccines mandated here, I do not believe that this is a way to protect the health of our babies. The mandate will not only violate the choices of parents, but completely eliminate the choice of free will. This mandate is not created with best intentions, and is taking away the rights of the people who know their babies best. As the government, you have absolutely no right to make any health and medical decisions for my child.

I truly wish you would consider opposing against this bill. It is hurting the future of our Keiki. Taking away the rights of our people. We are making it impossible for the people of Hawaii and the remaining Hawaiians to continue their heritage in a safe, respectful place.

Mahalo,

Karissa Racoma

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:12:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Akko T	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is a direct attack on **religious freedom, parental rights, and bodily autonomy**—fundamental liberties that should never be infringed upon by the government.

Hawaii has always been a place that values diversity and respects individual beliefs. By removing religious exemptions, this bill forces families to choose between their deeply held faith and their children's access to education. This is not a choice that any parent should have to make. **Religious freedom is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, and no law should coerce individuals into violating their faith in order to receive a public education.**

Furthermore, bodily autonomy is a basic human right. Medical decisions, including vaccinations, should be made by parents and individuals in consultation with their healthcare providers—not dictated by government mandates. Every medical procedure carries potential risks, and families must be allowed to make informed choices based on their personal circumstances, religious convictions, and ethical beliefs.

HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent by prioritizing government control over personal rights. If we allow this infringement today, what other freedoms will be stripped away tomorrow? **The government should never have the power to force medical interventions on individuals against their will, especially when it contradicts their faith.**

I urge you to **reject HB1118** and uphold the rights of Hawaii's families to make medical and religious decisions free from coercion. Please stand for freedom, choice, and the values that make Hawaii a place of respect and inclusivity.

Sincerely,

Akko

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:14:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chabrielle Quezon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of my family of 4, I, Chabrielle Quezon, STRONGLY oppose this bill because it goes against our first ammendment with the right to practice religion. But regardless religion, parents should have the RIGHT to choose what's best for their children. Not the Governor. My children attend private school and have a religious exemption. They have not taken a vaccine since 1 years old. And my children rarely get sick because i allowed them to build their immune system naturally to fight any sickness. Most vaccines no doctor can explain all the ingredients.. we highly oppose because we are believe that vaccinations are not enough to keep a child from public learning, That's coercion and it's wrong to mandate this and say if you don't get vaccinated, your child will not be able to go to school. Which means they lose the right to free public education. Please do not pass this bill. The education system will probably drop a lot of children going to public school and we will be the laughing stock of the USA.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:15:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1118 that seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements in schools. As a concerned pediatrician, I believe that this measure is a critical step toward safeguarding public health and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and their families.

Vaccines are among the most effective tools we have to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough—once nearly eradicated—are making a troubling comeback in communities where vaccine coverage is not robust enough. These preventable diseases can be especially dangerous for vulnerable individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. When a significant number of people opt out of vaccinations, it creates gaps in herd immunity, making it easier for diseases to spread and put everyone at risk.

Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccination in schools ensures that children who are not yet old enough to be vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to receive vaccines, will be protected. By mandating vaccinations for all students unless medically contraindicated, we create an environment where the collective health of the community is prioritized, and the risk of outbreaks is minimized.

The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. The overwhelming consensus of health experts—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and numerous other public health organizations—is that vaccines are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and maintaining public health. Non-medical exemptions contribute to lower vaccination rates, leaving children and families more vulnerable to preventable diseases.

It is important to recognize that the decision to opt-out of vaccinations based on non-medical reasons does not just affect the individual child, but the broader community. When unvaccinated children attend school, they put those who cannot be vaccinated—such as children with serious allergies, immune system disorders, or medical conditions—at greater risk of contracting these diseases.

By removing non-medical exemptions, we will foster safer educational environments where all children can learn without the added risk of preventable illness. This policy will bring

our community closer to achieving higher levels of immunization, which will help us protect future generations from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I urge you to support this important bill and work to ensure that the health and safety of our children, teachers, and communities come first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,
Vince Yamashiroya**

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:16:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donald P. McDiarmid IV	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Taking away our freedom of choice, the choice to choose what we want for our children is the parent's choice only. If you feel that is wrong, you don't belong here in our islands. What maybe good for you, might not be good for me!! When you can tell me that 100% of all keiki taking this shot will have zero side effects, nor harm them in any way will we ever support a pharmaceutical's agenda. All you elected officials back with payout checks to push agenda's on our children will indeed, be struck down by the lord for your wrong doings

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:16:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Edmonds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Children should not be forced to vaccines just to get education. The government does not have a say in what we do with our bodies. My body, my choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:17:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Calabrese	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Brian Calabrese, and I testify in **opposition to HB1118**.

This bill removes the religious exemption for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long standing personal and religious freedoms. This bill is dangerous, and the timing is odd at best.... we are seeing the vaccines from COVID be removed and halted for distribution not only domestically but globally as well. There is no coincidence that Gov. Green is trying to mandate these death shots and further go after our children and strip parentals of their God given rights to make choices for THEIR children. The dirty little secret is out about vaccines and what the "PAID FOR" Medical community has done to our children over the last 30-40 years with the alarming increase in Vaccine schedules. It is absolutely insane!

What I would like answered by the so-called Doctor / Gov. Green.....explain the Amish community data from the CDC on the autism and the vaccine correlation.....ZERO autism cases and ZERO vaccines administered. Pretty simple....we are shooting up our kids with a ton of toxic metals!!! Per the CDC, by the age of 18 our kids (if they stick to the vaccine schedule) will have received over 79 doses in today's standards. For some perspective, in 1962 the vaccine schedule was a recommended 5 doses! You are REGULATING the POISONING of our kids!!!

The bottom line of HB1118 debacle of a bill, you are forgetting the State has no right to our children or right to make any medical choice for them.....this is like China's one girl policy! This is evil and purposeful...why are you targeting religious exemptions? Are you now going to push forced abortions because you feel the population is too high? You see the slippery slope you're opening?

Why do vaccine manufactures have a Liability Free Mandate? Especially if you say their products are so beneficial....why does PFIZER have the largest pay out in medical fine history?

We know that the physicians (and most likely the politicians) are financially incentivized to push these death shots, because a healthy patient isn't a good business model.

WE are born FREE and FREE WE will REMAIN.....any officials in support of this bill will receive the FULL weight of the community and be primaried! **WE HAVE HAD ENOUGH OF THIS TYRANNY!!!!**

Sincerely,

WE THE PEOPLE of HAWAII

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:20:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Kuratko	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This is unconstitutional to take away my religious rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:21:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing today to strongly oppose HB1118. Every single keiki in this country should have the right to an education, regardless of their vaccination status. I believe I can offer a unique perspective on this bill, as my ohana has experienced firsthand the detrimental effects of living in a state that passed a similar bill, such as California with SB277.

First, I want to say that this bill will not achieve the compliance that Governor Green is hoping for. Parents will absolutely choose to pull their keiki out of school in mass numbers, and I believe this trend will continue to grow over time. Most families do not have the luxury of having one parent who can stay home and dedicate their life to homeschooling, especially here in Hawai'i.

In California, it is common for single mothers or dual-working parents to go to work all day while their kids stay at home and are homeschooled during weekends. I will be the first to say that homeschooling is an incredible option for many families and can foster thriving, well-educated, free-thinking members of society. However, homeschooling is not the best option for everyone.

During our brief time in California, our constitutional rights were stripped away, and I was forced to choose between our deeply held religious convictions and education for my children. One of my keiki especially struggled immensely. After returning to Hawai'i, we were able to exercise our constitutional right to a religious accommodation and use the public education system we contribute to. After an in-depth series of evaluations, my son was diagnosed with a learning disability. Thanks to returning him to school, he is now receiving the help and services he should have been receiving all along.

This bill does not benefit keiki in Hawai'i in any way. I would also like to point out that Governor Green's argument is that this bill is about protecting immunocompromised children. However, if a child is severely immunocompromised, attending school every day is already a significant risk for them. What about all the other viruses and illnesses for which we have no vaccines? There are many. The risk of hospitalization from a common cold is much higher for immunocompromised children than the risk of contracting chickenpox, for example.

Our current exemption system has worked well for decades. It specifies that children with exemptions will stay home in the event of an outbreak. Instead of violating constitutional rights, the state should focus on providing more options for immunocompromised children, such as distance learning or blended programs, given that attending school daily is a risk for them due to the many communicable diseases that are common in schools. For example: flu, COVID-19, streptococcal infections, coxsackievirus, mononucleosis, and many more. None of these viruses have vaccines available or require vaccines that prevent transmission.

Mahalo for reading my testimony. Please vote NO on HB1118.

HB1118

Aloha from a mother of three boys that are all updated on their vaccines. They are vaccinated because that was my choice as their mother. You should never mandate something for our keiki without our consent or opinion. You did not give them life, you do not care for them, you do not pay their bills. There is no reason you should be able to mandate keiki getting vaccinated to attend school. If this bill goes through, be ready for strikes, push backs and a lot of keiki not in school.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:25:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:26:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandi deSouza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson,

I am writing in strong support of Bill 1118, regarding vaccinations for school-aged children. As a healthcare professional with extensive experience in population health and health equity, I have seen firsthand the critical importance of vaccines in preventing illness, promoting public health, and ensuring the safety of our communities.

Vaccination is one of the most effective public health measures available to us. Immunizations not only protect the individual child but also the wider community by reducing the spread of infectious diseases. When children are vaccinated, we help protect those who are most vulnerable, such as infants, immunocompromised individuals, and the elderly, by establishing herd immunity. This collective protection is especially crucial in school settings, where close proximity and interaction can facilitate the rapid transmission of diseases.

The importance of public health measures like vaccination is deeply rooted in Hawai'i's history. King Kamehameha V was proactive in his efforts to protect the people of Hawai'i from the devastating impacts of infectious diseases. In 1854, when smallpox threatened the Hawaiian population, he established strict quarantine regulations and mandatory vaccination protocols to prevent the spread of the disease. His foresight and commitment to protecting public health helped save countless lives at a time when infectious diseases posed a major threat to the Kingdom of Hawai'i. Today, we continue to uphold this legacy of proactive health measures to safeguard our keiki and the community.

We have witnessed in recent years the resurgence of preventable diseases such as measles, mumps, and pertussis, primarily in communities where vaccination rates have declined. These outbreaks place an undue burden on our healthcare systems, disrupt education, and can result in serious health complications, hospitalizations, or even death. By requiring vaccinations for youth in school, this bill will help prevent such outbreaks and protect public health.

Opponents of vaccine mandates often raise concerns about personal choice and parental rights. While we respect individual freedoms, public health measures like vaccinations must prioritize the collective welfare, particularly in environments where children and staff gather, such as schools. The overwhelming scientific evidence supports the safety and efficacy of vaccines. Allowing exemptions without legitimate medical reasons undermines public health and increases the risk of outbreaks.

By passing this bill, you will be protecting the health of our children, promoting safer learning environments, and safeguarding our broader communities from preventable diseases. I urge you to support Bill 1118 and help ensure a healthier future for all.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Mandi DeSouza, MHA, CPHQ, CPSS

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:27:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aurora Muir	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:28:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nani Kaaihili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly **oppose** HB 1118

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY
HB1118 HD1 - NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Good Afternoon, House Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to House Bill 1118 HD1.

This House Bill removes religious exemptions and other non-medical exemptions for children attending school in Hawaii.

The measure notes that religious requests have increased two-fold in 2023. It does not cite any scientific evidence that these granted exemptions have increased diseases of concern in Hawaii schools. Let's be sure there is a problem before we even consider such sweeping action.

The CDC childhood vaccine schedule has exploded over the past decades. Parents are rightly concerned for their children and have a God-given right to their children's bodily autonomy based on their sincerely-held religious beliefs. This right is enshrined in our First Amendment to the US Constitution, as well as in the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Vaccines and Other Immunizing Agents in the Child and Adolescent Immunization Schedule*

Monoclonal antibody	Abbreviation(s)	Trade name(s)
Respiratory syncytial virus monoclonal antibody (Nirsevimab)	RSV-mAb	Beyfortus
Vaccine	Abbreviation(s)	Trade name(s)
COVID-19 vaccine	1vCOV-mRNA	Comirnaty/Pfizer-BioNTech COVID-19 Vaccine
		Spikevax/Moderna COVID-19 Vaccine
	1vCOV-aPS	Novavax COVID-19 Vaccine
Dengue vaccine	DEN4CYD	Dengvaxia
Diphtheria, tetanus, and acellular pertussis vaccine	DTaP	Daptacel
		Infanrix
<i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine	Hib (PRP-T)	ActHIB
		Hiberix
Hepatitis A vaccine	Hib (PRP-OMP)	PedvaxHIB
		Havrix
Hepatitis B vaccine	HepA	Vaqta
		Engerix-B
Human papillomavirus vaccine	HepB	Recomblivax HB
Influenza vaccine (inactivated: egg-based)	HPV	Gardasil 9
Influenza vaccine (inactivated: cell-culture)	IIV3	Multiple
Influenza vaccine (live, attenuated)	ccIIV3	Flucelvax
Measles, mumps, and rubella vaccine	LAIV3	FluMist
Meningococcal serogroups A, C, W, Y vaccine	MMR	M-M-R II
		Priorix
Meningococcal serogroup B vaccine	MenACWY-CRM	Menveo
		MenACWY-TT
Meningococcal serogroup A, B, C, W, Y vaccine	MenB-4C	Bexsero
		MenB-FHbp
Meningococcal conjugate vaccine	MenACWY-TT/ MenB-FHbp	Penbraya
Mpox vaccine	Mpox	Jynneos
Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine	PCV15	Vaxneuvance
		PCV20
Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine	PPSV23	Pneumovax 23
Poliovirus vaccine (inactivated)	IPV	Ipol
Respiratory syncytial virus vaccine	RSV	Abrysvo
Rotavirus vaccine	RV1	Rotarix
		RV5
Tetanus, diphtheria, and acellular pertussis vaccine	Tdap	Adacel
Tetanus and diphtheria vaccine	Td	Boostrix
		Tenivac
Varicella vaccine	VAR	Tdvax
		Varivax
Combination vaccines (use combination vaccines instead of separate injections when appropriate)		
DTaP, hepatitis B, and inactivated poliovirus vaccine	DTaP-HepB-IPV	Pediarix
DTaP, inactivated poliovirus, and <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b vaccine	DTaP-IPV/Hib	Pentacel
DTaP and inactivated poliovirus vaccine	DTaP-IPV	Kinrix
		Quadracel
DTaP, inactivated poliovirus, <i>Haemophilus influenzae</i> type b, and hepatitis B vaccine	DTaP-IPV-Hib-HepB	Vaxelis
Measles, mumps, rubella, and varicella vaccine	MMRV	ProQuad

I am also concerned that this bill has not been assigned to the House Committee on Education. This is a perplexing oversight on the part of our House Leadership. Our Superintendent of Education, Mr. Keith Hayashi, rightly observes that, if passed, such a measure will disproportionately affect communities with a higher proportion of citizens who hold deep religious and cultural beliefs.

I do not see a distinction made for private, faith-based schools. These schools will definitely be harmed. All private schools should be allowed to be self-determining with respect to this issue, even if the legislature disappointingly votes to approve such a bill as this.

I ask that you please stand up for our families and keiki, and oppose against any attempt to erode our precious religious freedoms.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:32:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reynelle Viernes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Reynelle Viernes. I'm a mom of 4 and I strongly oppose bill HB1118. I believe all children in Hawaii should have access to free public education without discrimination for their medical and religious beliefs. HB1118 would take away religious exemption for our keiki to go to school. This would make it a challenge & hardship for my and other families whose children would no longer be allowed to go to school because of this bill. We have just transitioned back to school after the covid lockdowns protocols, and now our keiki face being kicked out of school because of medical & religious beliefs.

My oldest child had multiple reactions after getting vaccinations from febrile seizures, eczema, adhd, fevers, and also catching the chickenpox after getting vaccinated for it, then got shingles twice all in a span of 2 months after the chickenpox. I was not aware of vaccine injuries & reactions until it happened to my own child. Many families are like mine whose kids have had reactions to vaccines but don't know or qualify for the medical exemption.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on personal and religious beliefs. Policies should respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration!

Reynelle

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:33:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophie Sidhu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a proud resident of Hawaii, a compassionate educator, a conscientious community member, and as a mother to young children here, I urge you to listen to the outpouring of objections that have already been shared about this bill and vote No on it. As a longtime democrat, I will also add that this bill is being strongly opposed by constituents on both sides of the aisle, due to its discriminatory nature. If passed, Hawaii would be taking a huge step backwards as the inclusive, caring, aloha state we all take pride in being part of.

This bill is a direct attack on religious freedom and would put thousands of parents across the state in an impossible and devastating situation of having to choose between honoring their faith practices around vaccination and being able to provide an education for their keiki. The "grandfather" clause in the current bill is vague and discriminates against families who have kids not old enough to already be in school, those looking to expand their families, etc. etc. and of course the bill itself discriminates against all future generations of keiki who would be affected. The result will be less enrollment in schools across the board, along with all of the associated detrimental consequences of that.

In terms of safety of those 300 or so keiki with medical exemptions in HI, there is already a clause in place of the current religious exemption policy which states that in the event of an epidemiological outbreak, objections will not be recognized (and those without immunizations will stay home). This is a reasonable accommodation for those with a religious exemption for vaccines and a thoughtful safeguard for all.

There are so many reasons why HB1118 and it's companion bill in the senate is an unjust and outrageous overreach towards the people of Hawaii. It will **not** create the desired outcome of better safety, rather it will result in less keiki in our aloha state having the opportunity to receive an education due to their parents' faith practices, meaning lower DOE enrollment rates, horrible economic consequences, and a tremendous blow to equity and inclusion efforts which our Aloha state prides itself on. It will also certainly be challenged in the courts. There are far better, more inclusive ways to work together on better health initiatives in the spirit of malama and care for **all**, without putting the right to education on the chopping block. Please, listen to the outpouring of objections to this and vote No.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:36:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tonya Marie Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose. Please retain the exemptions. As a former public school teacher, a former state and county government employee, an immune compromised person, friend of vaccine injured, and Covid injured, vaccinated and unvaccinated, and as a US citizen and resident of Hawaii, I am in opposition of this measure.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:38:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rise Doi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 1118 HD1. This bill prohibits new non-medical exemptions for school-aged children.

It is 2025, and decades of scientific research have proven vaccines to be safe and effective. However, due to the current president and his administration, misinformation and conspiracy theories are rampant. The erosion of trust in science is truly alarming. To achieve herd immunity and to keep children and those who medically cannot be vaccinated safe from diseases that have been eradicated due to vaccines, it is important to require vaccinations.

I respect freedom of religion and freedom of choice, however, I am deeply concerned when religious beliefs and choices resulting from misinformation impact the health of my child, other children, and the community.

There is currently an outbreak of measles in Texas due to a low vaccination rate of children. This situation would have been completely preventable if parents had vaccinated their children. Children should not have to suffer and be hospitalized due to their parents' choice not to vaccinate on the recommended vaccine schedule. Hard lessons will be learned if parents continue not to vaccinate their children.

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

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:39:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill.

Is this a free country?

We will not be free to decide if we can choose not to vaccinate our children if this bill becomes law. Then what? This will affect their participating in school which also includes participation in athletics and clubs, further affecting potential scholarship opportunities for our keiki.

Absolutely NOT ok.

God made us perfect just the way we are; we do not need man-made vaccines that have potential risks forced onto our children who may or may not have life long negative effects from said vaccines.

I am very mindful of the things I purchase for our home, from food, to skin care, household cleaning products and more to ensure what is in and around our bodies is safe, from nature as God intended.

I believe in emergency medicine and support that aspect of the medical industry; however if the government supported God-given ways to stay healthy, I believe our country and state would be in a much healthier position today.

My great-grandparents of Hawaiian, Portuguese and Filipino and Purto Rican decent all lived well into their 90s. They were not vaccinated at all and lived off food from the earth, food they grew most of the time and natural healing methods.

This bill is wrong, wrong for me as a Christian and as a Hawaiian. Our ancestors would not support these, in my opinion exirimental practices. Let's go back to tried and true health practices.

Also, for reference I am educated in the medical field, graduating with my BSN in 2014 from HPU.

I beg you all please, do not pass this bill, we should never be put in this predicament to force our children to have shots to participate in school, all children should be able to attend school without such mandates.

Mahalo for hearing my testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:39:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly support HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:41:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandy Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to **HB1118**, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements. I remain deeply concerned about its broader implications for **bodily autonomy, religious freedom, and parental rights**.

I. HB1118 Violates Constitutional Protections

The First Amendment guarantees the **free exercise of religion**, but HB1118 disregards this right by eliminating religious exemptions. While case law such as *Prince v. Massachusetts (1944)* has recognized limits on religious freedom in cases of “**compelling government interest**,” the Supreme Court has also emphasized that **such restrictions must be the least restrictive means available**.

- The **compelling interest test** requires that government actions restricting religious rights must be **narrowly tailored** to achieve their goal.
- Herd immunity **does not require the removal of all religious exemptions**, as many states maintain high immunization rates while still allowing parental choice.

Furthermore, **bodily autonomy is a recognized constitutional right**. In *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health (1990)*, the Supreme Court upheld the right to refuse medical treatment as a fundamental liberty. HB1118 undermines this precedent by **forcing medical procedures on children without parental consent**.

II. HB1118 Violates the Principle of Informed Consent

Medical ethics and legal precedent uphold the necessity of **informed consent**—a principle that mandates that no medical intervention should be administered without voluntary agreement. This principle is foundational in U.S. law:

- *Schloendorff v. Society of New York Hospital (1914)* established that individuals have the right to **decide what happens to their bodies**.
- The **Nuremberg Code** and **Belmont Report** reaffirm that **forced medical procedures** violate ethical and legal standards.

If passed, HB1118 would force parents to choose between complying with **government-mandated medical procedures** or **denying their children access to education**, effectively penalizing them for exercising their rights.

III. There Are Less Restrictive Alternatives

If the goal of HB1118 is to **protect public health**, there are **less intrusive** and more effective alternatives:

1. **Educational campaigns** that encourage voluntary vaccination rather than coercion.
2. **Medical accommodations** for immunocompromised students that do not require banning others from school.
3. **Opt-in immunization programs** with parental involvement rather than forced mandates.

Many states successfully **balance public health with individual freedoms** without resorting to eliminating religious and personal exemptions. Hawai'i should **follow that example rather than setting a dangerous precedent**.

Conclusion: HB1118 Sets a Harmful Precedent

HB1118 **oversteps government authority** by infringing on bodily autonomy, religious liberty, and parental rights. If the government can mandate vaccinations by removing exemptions, **what prevents it from mandating other medical procedures in the future?**

I urge this committee to **oppose HB1118** and uphold the principles of **freedom, parental rights, and medical ethics**.

On a personal note: I suffered what seems to be a life changing vaccine injury in May of 2021. It was shocking and life altering. It took me months to even begin to accept that I was likely dealing with a vaccine injury. I had been an athlete and was always in athletic shape. I was not someone whom anyone would suspect of potentially having a difficulty with a vaccine. In the last few years, I have met and heard the stories of other people who have also been impacted in negative and typically life altering ways because of an adverse vaccine reaction. There are many people hurting and enough evidence of damage that we should be more cautious in how we assess, administer or demand that vaccines be required. Clearly, as was in my case, there will be people who do not necessarily have a specific medical condition that can be easily identified as an issue for any specific vaccine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Amanda Chang

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:41:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ashley lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for childhood vaccinations as a requirement for school attendance. This bill infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms, parental rights, and informed consent, all of which are cornerstones of our democracy

1. Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the free exercise of religion. For many families, their religious beliefs guide medical decisions, including vaccination. This bill forces parents to choose between violating their deeply held convictions and accessing education for their children, effectively penalizing them for their faith.

2. Parental Rights and Medical Choice

Parents, not the government, should make medical decisions for their children. Every child is unique, and a one-size-fits-all approach disregards individual health considerations and personal beliefs. Mandating vaccinations without allowing religious exemptions sets a dangerous precedent, undermining parental authority in medical matters.

3. Education Should Not Be Conditional on Medical Decisions

Denying children access to education based on their vaccination status is discriminatory and unjust. Education is a fundamental right, and no child should be excluded from school for adhering to their family's religious beliefs. Public health concerns should be addressed through informed discussions, not coercion.

4. Slippery Slope of Government Overreach

If religious exemptions for vaccines are removed, what other personal or religious freedoms will be next? This bill sets a precedent for the government to override religious and parental rights in other medical or personal matters, which is deeply concerning.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the principles of religious liberty, parental rights, and educational access for all children. Please respect the diverse beliefs of the families in our community and vote against this bill.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:46:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara mckibbin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to Hawaii State Bill HB1118: Defending Religious Freedom, Parental Rights, and Holistic Health

I strongly oppose Hawaii State Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions. This bill is not just an attack on religious freedom and parental rights—it also disregards the rights of individuals who choose natural remedies and holistic approaches to health.

I am a mother of four robustly healthy unvaccinated children. I am also a grandmother of one robustly healthy unvaccinated child. We strongly oppose this bill :

1. Protecting Religious Freedom and Cultural Traditions Hawaii has a deep respect for diverse cultural and religious traditions, many of which emphasize natural healing and holistic medicine. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution protect the free exercise of religion, including health choices rooted in spiritual and cultural beliefs. Removing religious exemptions forces individuals to violate their faith-based convictions, which is a direct violation of these constitutional rights.

2. Preserving Parental Rights in Health Decisions

Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children, including choosing natural or holistic alternatives. Many families in Hawaii turn to traditional Hawaiian healing practices, homeopathy, naturopathy, herbal medicine, and other non-pharmaceutical approaches to health. HB1118 disregards these well-established, time-tested practices by forcing one-size-fits-all medical interventions on families who may have valid concerns about their effects.

3. Supporting Natural Immunity and Holistic Health

Natural remedies, including proper nutrition, herbal medicine, acupuncture, chiropractic care, and homeopathy, have been used for centuries to support the immune system and overall well-being. Many individuals choose these methods because they align with their religious and philosophical beliefs about health. Forcing individuals to comply with government-mandated medical interventions while disregarding natural immunity and holistic health approaches is not only unjust but also ignores growing scientific evidence supporting these alternatives.

4. Unnecessary Government Overreach and Discrimination

HB1118 unfairly targets families who make informed, conscientious health choices based on faith or holistic medicine. The government should not have the power to dictate personal health decisions, especially when those decisions are deeply rooted in religious beliefs and cultural traditions. By removing religious exemptions, this bill effectively discriminates against those who believe in natural healing, pushing them into a system that may conflict with their values.

5. No Clear Public Health Crisis Justifying This Change

Religious exemptions have existed for decades without any significant public health crisis linked to them. Those who follow natural health practices often prioritize wellness, nutrition, and immunity-building strategies, which contribute positively to overall public health. Removing exemptions based on an exaggerated fear of non-compliance disregards the real benefits of holistic health and personal responsibility.

Conclusion

HB1118 is an unjustified intrusion on religious freedom, parental rights, and holistic health choices. Hawaii has always honored cultural diversity and personal freedoms, and this bill threatens those core values. I urge lawmakers to vote NO on HB1118 and respect the rights of families to make informed health decisions in alignment with their faith and holistic health beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:47:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karina Akaka-Folau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If you're so focused on our health, why don't you ban certain ingredients that are used in our food just as other countries have done? Why FORCE our keiki or anyone to be vaccinated? Why go against religious exemption letters? Let us have the choice! Governor Green, you have some nerve to make us take a covid vaccine that you KNOW Dr. Fauci admitted to not taking proper measures/enough studies to determine a vaccination mandate! You have quite a bit of people who oppose the vaccination, and we left it at that. We stay in our lane. We still advocate against the vaccination, but we stay in our lane because we know God will deal with that when the time comes. All I'm saying is to GIVE US A CHOICE! Let the parents of these keiki make the decision! NOT YOU! How dare you guys? We are not slaves to the white man like back in the day! Let us have a choice!

Aloha,

A concerned Sister, Auntie, and Guardian who lives in this beautiful Aloha state, MY HOME, Hawai'i.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:48:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Barcoma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:50:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Mih	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD MPH FAAP

Pediatrician

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:51:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayne Walker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118; relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements!

This is a violation of our First Amendment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:51:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Pamplin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to mandate vaccines for school attendance in Hawaii. As a parent, I firmly believe that medical decisions should be made by families, not the government.

My opposition is rooted in both principle and personal experience. When my daughter received her first dose of the MMR vaccine at 18 months, she suffered a severe reaction. She broke out in hives, vomited multiple times, lost her appetite for weeks, and became lethargic. Concerned and alarmed, I reached out to her doctor's office, only to be dismissed and redirected to a vaccine hotline. Instead of listening to my concerns, they gaslit me—suggesting that I must have changed laundry detergents or introduced a new food, neither of which had happened. My daughter's symptoms began immediately after leaving the doctor's office, yet no one was willing to acknowledge or document what had happened.

This experience left me feeling unheard, unsupported, and deeply distrustful of a system that should prioritize informed consent and individualized care. As a result, I made the personal and educated decision to no longer vaccinate my daughter. This is my right as her parent and as an individual. Your body is the most fundamental form of private property, and no government should have the power to override a parent's medical choices for their child.

Mandating vaccines for school attendance is a clear overreach of government authority. Families should not be forced into medical decisions under threat of exclusion from education. True public health policy should be built on trust, informed consent, and respect for personal autonomy—not coercion.

I urge you to vote NO on HB1118 and stand for parental rights and medical freedom in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Janet Pamplin

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:52:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JEFFREY LIM, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is doubtful there exists a state statute more consistently abused than the provision for religious exemption refusal for immunization.

Freedom of religion remains an unalienable right and pillar of our Constitution, and yet I have never seen such a turning of blind eyes by the guardians of these rights from the wholesale abuse of claiming religious exemption for what amounts to personal preference. I still await with great anticipation to be presented with any shred of evidence of religious tenets that explicitly forbid the immunization of its subjects.

The protection provided by immunizations against morbidity and mortality is indisputable and unassailable, proven via rigorous and disciplined research, and not arrived at by social trending or popular vote reflecting the prevailing climate of the times.

Immunizations have become a victim of their own success, eliminating or ameliorating the vast majority of vaccine preventable diseases that formerly routinely plagued and ravaged humanity. Few in our present society have had to endure the last gasps of the blue infant with whooping cough or witness the excruciating pain of total body tetanic spasming in the unimmunized patient succumbing to tetanus. Please work to prevent the return of that reality.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:52:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita L Manderfeld	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

My name is Rita Manderfeld and I am a mother and a long time resident of Kauai. I oppose bill HB1118. In a country that respects religious freedom the right to religious exemption should never be taken away. All medicine especially those that come with risks no matter how small should be decided between the Dr and patient. No free country or state there in should mandate medical treatments that could result in harm. Unless with all certainty you can garentee no harm from any vaccine or mixture of then no madate should be made. Again medicine and treatments should be between the physician and patient (the reason we have HIPAA laws)There is no medical intervention that is safe or nessesary for all and it is dangerous to mandate such things. Please vote NO on bill HB1118.

Mahalo,

Rita Manderfeld

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:53:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions for childhood vaccinations as a condition for school enrollment. This bill violates religious liberty, undermines parental rights, and unjustly restricts access to education.

The First Amendment guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. Many families hold sincere religious beliefs that guide their medical decisions, including vaccinations. This bill would force them to choose between violating their faith or losing their child's access to education a choice that no family should have to make in a free society.

Parents are responsible for their children's well-being, and medical decisions should remain in their hands. Government mandates that disregard religious beliefs set a dangerous precedent, eroding the fundamental rights of families to make informed choices based on their values and convictions.

No child should be denied an education because of their family's religious beliefs. Public schools exist to serve all children, not just those whose medical decisions align with government mandates. Excluding children from education over a personal and religious choice is both discriminatory and unjust.

If religious exemptions are removed for vaccinations, what other deeply held beliefs will be targeted next? This bill opens the door for the government to impose medical mandates without regard for religious or personal freedoms, setting a precedent that could extend beyond vaccines to other medical or ethical concerns.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against HB1118. Protecting religious liberty, parental rights, and equal access to education is essential to maintaining the freedoms upon which our country was founded.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:54:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Faamasino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am against this Bill which will essentially remove my rights as a parent to decide what vaccine's or any medication would be given to my child. It is my right as a parent to make those decisions for my child until they are able to make an informed decision for themselves. Schools have no business in making medical decisions for our children. I oppose Bill HB1118.

sincerely,

L.F.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:54:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
matahari djajadi-allen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:55:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Willie Keola Robello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only


Comments:

I'm standing in OPPOSITION of this Bill!!!

Plane and simple this has nothing to do with herd immunity this is to make big pharmaceutical companies RICHER..

Honestly what happened after 1989?! That made the vaccine's we have to take triple... Anything more then to line there pockets... with people getting sick and scared of getting sick?!.. And where's the evidence of this being the BEST way to handle the cold yea the common cold has no cure?!

Yet you want with this bill to take away my rights my rights and freedoms to protect my own children from being shot up without questioning big pharmaceutical companies honestly im supposed to trust them & believe that they have without question the best interests & intentions to care for my OHANA ?!

I doubt my Ohana & their HEALTH is a great concern!... Make it ok for farmers to GROW ORGANIC FOODS for the masses... Eating fast food and take medication  to offset the damage of said TOXIC FAST FOODS is insane to me!

My body my choice what to put into it?!?! Or is this not the home of the free (a free country I think not if this bill is passed) ?! I'm honestly appalled at the suggestion of this bill we the people don't want this 70 shots by the time they are 18 is diabolical.

I humbly request that you kill this bill do the right thing! Ask yourself how can you possibly know what's best for EVERYONE?! when you don't know what's best for yourself honestly. Live ALOHA don't take this freedom from others live and let live.

Again I'm here to stand in opposition of this bill and strongly condemn it !!!

Aloha and Mahalo for you're time I, honestly appreciate you reading this Mahalo Nui loa

Willie Keola Robello

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:56:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelynn Broad-Kela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:56:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Harada	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. If the chance of death as a result of vaccinations is greater than 0.0%, then the government has no right to impose these on children in particular when the vaccine manufactures have no risk in the event of adverse reactions. If pharmaceutical companies are not responsible, then who is? No one? Surely not the government. Then parents must be allowed to choose.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:58:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nawai kela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I very strongly oppose. Passing this would be segregating children and allowing an unfair division in future generations. This is a blatant violation of the constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:02:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Hirakami	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Eliminating the non-medical religious exemption for vaccinations contradicts both state and federal constitutional protections of religious freedom. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees that individuals should not be forced to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs, and Hawai‘i’s own constitution upholds these rights. This move would set a dangerous precedent, eroding religious liberties and empowering the government to override personal and parental rights.

Additionally, this policy will inevitably lead to a less educated society. Parents who strongly adhere to their faith-based beliefs will choose to withdraw from public and private schooling rather than compromise their principles. This will increase the number of children in unregulated, non-traditional education settings, potentially leading to a decline in overall educational standards. A well-educated society is essential for economic growth, social stability, and civic engagement—forcing families into an "all or nothing" decision regarding their children’s schooling undermines this goal.

Beyond education, eliminating religious exemptions will deepen societal division and foster resentment toward government overreach. In a state that prides itself on diversity and inclusion, this policy alienates communities that hold different perspectives on health and personal choice. Instead of fostering unity and a shared vision for a better future, it will create polarization and distrust in public institutions.

Moreover, this policy disproportionately impacts families who already feel marginalized. Many religious communities, particularly Native Hawaiian, Pacific Islander, and other minority groups, have historical reasons for distrusting government-imposed medical interventions. A mandate like this only reinforces that distrust, leading to further disengagement from public health initiatives rather than encouraging cooperative solutions.

Finally, public health policies must balance community well-being with individual rights. A one-size-fits-all mandate ignores the nuanced and deeply personal reasons families choose religious exemptions. Rather than eliminating this exemption, the state should focus on education, informed choice, and outreach efforts that respect constitutional freedoms while promoting public health in a way that builds trust, not division.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:03:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Yamashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

God should come first in everything that we do. He is even mentioned in the first sentence of the preamble to our constitution, "We, the people of the State of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance..."

Not allowing non-medical exemptions, specifically religious exemptions, conflicts with religious freedom and is frankly unconstitutional. Please don't tread on our keiki and their rights in the name of health and safety.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:04:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
april colpas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is April Colpas, I oppose this bill, I have 3 daughters that have medical health issues. I have had a heart complication that had I been vaccinated with Covid, it could have killed me due to my unknown heart issues. I will not put that on my children. The government has no say so in how I raise my kids. You don't pay my bills, you don't put my kids to bed at night & certainly my daughter get denied the proper health care she needs due to being on quest. It's all about money, deepening your pockets for my child's health is absolutely not okay. Not everyone responds the same way to vaccines. Unless your going to pay for her needs for how her body responds to vaccines and your going to be held accountable, then your not forcing my kids to vaccinate. Giving away McDonald's & doughnut incentives shows you care nothing about my families health. Denying proper health treatment due to finances is sickening and forcing my child to get medical treatments against our will is not okay. I will pull my kids out of school and so will many others. You will lose a lot of money. When my kids health is not their best, I keep them home, we feed them healthy food & take care of them. Forcing our families to vaccinate when it doesn't even prevent illness is wild. Government will not over reach in my home especially since you aren't accountable when a crisis takes place. I will take action and take care of my family by all means.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:04:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Sugai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly opposed to this bill. Other measures can be taken for the health and safety of our keiki that don't require forcing families to do something that they don't believe in. Please consider all perspectives and find ways to educate families (in an unbiased way) about the pros and cons of each decision.

Mahalo nui loa

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:05:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob lee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE!!

This bill is unconstitutional! That should be it! Government should not be able to mandate what types of food, poison, medicines, etc. go in our children's bodies and should not be able to regulate or make difficult to live a full life of our god given rights, should a citizen decide not to follow regulations regarding individuals body....under the constitution!

Parent's and guardians should be the sole decision maker for what goes into their children's body!

OPPOSE!! UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:05:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
arielle adenew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- **I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 HD1.**
- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.
- This bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?
- The **Department of Education has valid and serious concerns** yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

Thank you for taking the time to hear my concerns.

Aloha,

Arielle

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:07:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Penny L Quevedo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements for school-aged children in Hawai‘i.

As a [teacher/educator] in the Department of Education (DOE), I am deeply concerned about the far-reaching implications this bill will have on students, families, and their ability to access free public education.

Parental Rights & Medical Freedom

Medical decisions should remain within the domain of individual families and their trusted healthcare providers. Parents know their children best and should have the autonomy to make informed choices regarding vaccinations without undue government interference. HB 1118 strips away this fundamental right and places a government mandate over personalized medical decision-making.

Bodily Autonomy & Informed Consent

Forcing a medical intervention on children without an option for exemption is a direct violation of bodily autonomy. Every medical procedure carries inherent risks, and families deserve the right to evaluate these risks and make choices based on their values, beliefs, and medical history. Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, and HB 1118 disregards this principle by removing the ability to opt out.

Violation of Religious Freedoms

The removal of religious exemptions directly infringes on First Amendment protections. Many faith traditions emphasize the sanctity of the human body and oppose certain medical interventions. By eliminating this exemption, the bill places families in the untenable position of choosing between their sincerely held religious beliefs and compliance with a government mandate.

Excluding Students from Public Education

As a DOE employee, I see firsthand how this bill will create barriers to education. Many families rely on public schools for their children’s learning, socialization, and access to essential services.

By prohibiting non-medical exemptions, HB 1118 effectively denies these students their right to a free public education. Families who do not comply will be left with limited, often unaffordable, alternatives such as homeschooling or private education. This disproportionately affects lower-income families, further exacerbating educational inequities in our state.

Risk of Adverse Reactions & the One-Size-Fits-All Fallacy

While vaccines are widely considered safe, no medical intervention is without risk. The federal government has recognized this by establishing the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), which has paid out billions in compensation for vaccine injuries. Each child's immune system is unique, and medical decisions should not follow a rigid, one-size-fits-all policy.

Furthermore, the argument for herd immunity fails to account for waning immunity in vaccinated individuals and the documented outbreaks of diseases like measles and pertussis in highly vaccinated populations. Immunity is not guaranteed, and HB 1118 assumes a level of protection that is not always achievable.

Discriminatory Impact on Families

This bill will disproportionately impact families who have previously relied on non-medical exemptions. These families will be forced to either compromise their deeply held beliefs, seek alternative schooling (which is not an option for many), or leave the state altogether. The financial and logistical burden placed on these families is unjust and unnecessary.

Slippery Slope Towards Further Government Overreach

By setting a precedent for eliminating personal choice in medical decisions, HB 1118 opens the door for future government mandates on other medical treatments. If exemptions for vaccines can be eliminated today, what other medical procedures might be mandated tomorrow without parental consent?

Conclusion

HB 1118 is an overreach that disregards parental rights, religious freedoms, bodily autonomy, and access to public education. The government should not be in the business of making blanket medical decisions for all children, especially when exemptions have historically provided a balanced approach to public health.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and instead support policies that respect medical freedom, parental rights, and the diverse needs of Hawai'i's families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Penny Quevido

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:10:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing to oppose HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill directly threatens religious freedom, a fundamental right protected by our Constitution.

Many families hold sincere religious beliefs that prohibit them from vaccinating their children. By removing religious exemptions, this bill forces them into an impossible decision: compromise their faith or forfeit access to education. No one should be placed in such a position, and the government should not dictate personal religious convictions.

Additionally, medical freedom is an essential right. Parents—not the state—should have the final say in medical decisions for their children, especially when each person’s medical history, risks, and reactions vary greatly.

Please defend the right of every Hawaiian to make informed, personal health decisions without government interference.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:10:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hughlyn Fonoti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in **OPPOSITION** to HB1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. I believe that every person has the right or freedom to to decide on accepting or refusing any or all vaccinations that is administered into their body or their child's body. My body My choice, should not just apply to woman and abortion rights, it should pertain to all matters.

I also believe that this goes against religious freedom. As more information are becoming transparent regarding the dangers and harm vaccines can cause, especially with live viruses in them, the more knowledgeable we become in making an informed decision if we wish to put that into our bodies or our keiki's bodies. The parents are the sole protectors and the voice for their keiki(s). If the individual, when reaching adulthood, decides he wants to take the vaccine, then that person has everyright to. The State nor any government official shouldn't have that right or say as to what we can or can not have, especially when it involves minors/keiks. It's unlawful. It's unconstitutional.

If majority of all children have received their vaccines, then what ever illness/disease that is going around, shouldn't they already be protected against it? How does this make any sense? The only person that could be potentially at risk is/are the individual(s) that have NOT received a vaccine. So if you have herd immunity, the risk should be low, no?

Religious and Parental Freedoms are at stake here and I ask that you do not pass bill HB1118. It's about giving the parent(s) the choice to vacinate or not vacinate their keiki.

Mahalo,

Hughlyn Fonoti

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:10:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaaima McKee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As children of God we are born with God-given rights and are able to discern right from wrong. Do not say you are for first amendment rights if you are for this bill. Do not say you are for bodily autonomy if you are for this bill. Do not say you are for health and safety if you are for this bill. If you haven't researched the unbiased facts about the safety and efficacy of vaccines or read any vaccine inserts, like the many thousands of us parents have, then do not say you are for this bill. I personally know babies and children who have suffered physical injury, and also ones who have died from effects of the vaccines that this bill is trying to push.

I urge you to look at this bill objectively, through unbiased eyes, without fear of 'the unvaccinated' or feelings of judgment. This bill, at the core, targets personal freedom that no other person or law can take away. Listen to the people, represent the people, and vote for the people!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:11:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jewel Noa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It should be our decision if we want to vaccinate our children!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:11:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Malasa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this unconstitutional bill. The government has no right to take away people's religious freedoms for any type of vaccination. While I understand the importance of public health and the role of vaccinations in preventing disease outbreaks, this infringes the peoples fundamental religious freedoms and parental rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:13:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine Carroll	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an RN and concerned citizen, I am testifying in support of HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are incredibly safe, effective, and vital for keeping children and communities healthy. With the way illnesses are spread in schools, vaccines are an important tool in preventing the spread of deadly diseases. Therefore, it is crucial that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i and will help increase herd immunity for the devastating diseases that vaccines protect against. Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:17:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremiah Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1.
- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.
- This bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?
- The **Department of Education has valid and serious concerns** yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:17:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why must the government pushing an agenda upon the Citizens, the right to choose not to take a vaccine due to their religious beliefs.

Same as trying to push the COVID19 vaccine and boosters.

So I Oppose this bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:19:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JoAnn Takamiyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1. The removal of this exemption raises serious constitutional concerns— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.

This bill was never assigned to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy? The Department of Education has valid and serious concerns yet they were not even heard.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:21:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dori Jardine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Dori Jardine, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Dori

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:21:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Nagamine	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strengthening vaccine policies is essential to protecting vulnerable populations, including infants, immunocompromised patients, and those who rely on community immunity. By ensuring a sufficient proportion of the population is immune, we can safeguard the well-being of the community as well as reduce the burden of disease on the healthcare system and prevent large-scale outbreaks and epidemics.

Kimberly Nagamine, MD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:22:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I don't believe any government or federal agencies have the right to regulate mandatory vaccines policies that take away the waiver of religious exemption. That right should still remain between the individual and their medical professional

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:23:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tish Rothwell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional as well as against all human rights. I vehemently oppose!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:23:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Satterberg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Family Physician , I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:24:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rabbi Rachel Short	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha -

I am writing to let you know that I strongly oppose this bill. What you are considering right now is immoral and unethical, and as our Representatives you must speak for all of us and ***oppose HB1118***.

As a Rabbi, a Jewish religious leader, I am reminding you of the religious foundation that leads many to oppose mandatory vaccinations. This bill clearly violates mine and many other's religious rights.

Leviticus 11-16 discusses the Laws of Purity in the Torah (The 5 Books of Moses which are our teachings, also sometimes referred to as The Old Testament), wherein lies the regulations for a Jewish person to achieve health. Defiling the body by use of needles or other objects violates our basic Jewish religious beliefs. This is why Jews do not get tattoos and why Hitler tattooing numbers on us during the Holocaust was such an extreme atrocity, as it violated our religion.

Exodus 15:26 states, "I am The Lord who heals you," telling us that it is only G-d who can truly heal us in any and all capacity. This is a basic tenet of the Jewish religion.

Deuteronomy 4:15 also prohibits exposing oneself to risk, even if the risk is negligible. Given the current age and health of the children who must meet these requirements, there is great risk in receiving vaccines, which would violate Jewish religious beliefs.

Pikuach Nefesh is a principle of Jewish law originating from the Torah and other Jewish religious texts. Pikuach Nefesh means "saving a life." As parents, it is up to us to decide how we "save our children's lives."

The Torah clearly indicates that vaccinations, unless absolutely necessary, violate our religious rights as Jews.

Please make the clear moral and ethical choice, which you as our Representatives have a duty to uphold, by ***opposing HB1118***.

Please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions, comments or concerns, or if I can contribute further to this matter.

Mahalo nui loa!

Rabbi Rachel Short

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:25:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LILY VAN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

As a clinical pharmacist working in a primary care clinic, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications.

In recent years, some individuals have touted the idea that vaccines are not needed and cause more harm than good. We have previously been fortunate enough to have not realized the harm of lack of preventative care/lack of vaccinations. Now that the rates are decreasing and we are unable to rely on herd immunity, I feel strongly that we are putting public health at risk.

I do believe that it is important to allow for medical exemptions, however the amount of misinformation and half-truths have caused an inordinate rise of abused exemption requests. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i and ensure that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Thank you for your consideration of this importance bill.

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:29:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hewa! You KNOW this is unconstitutional!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:30:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is our God Given right to choose what is done and not done to our body's. In Jesus name I pray this bill to be dead and never be bought up again in Jesus name amen

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:32:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn O'Brien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representative Leaders of the Citizens of Hawai'i~

Mahalo plenty for working diligently & reading this letter in OPPOSITION to HB1118.

I stand in strong opposition to this bill that would force a child to be immunized against the parent's wishes or even the child's wishes. It also disavows the Constitutional rights of American citizens to practice our freedom of religion by ignoring any religious exemption. Further, the CDC & WHO have yet to release the ingredients in most of the vaccinations and in fact will not do so for years, making the ingredients mysterious & questionable at best. I have several allergies and need to know exactly what is in my medication, food, drink, lotions, etcetera or it causes extreme reactions that can be life-threatening or even life-altering, and not for the better. As such I cannot in good conscience agree to this law that will force vaccinations on our populace. For what cause? There is no proven evidence that vaccinations for CV19 have saved lives, but there is mounting statistical data to show the harmful and deadly effects of the forced vaccinations. Why would our Hawaii laws fight science? For profit? That's the only logical conclusion which is not good cause in & of itself except for the special interest few who will profit.

In summary, I stand in strong opposition to HB1118 as it goes against science and the majority vote of citizens in the State of Hawai'i. I ask that you would do the same and OPPOSE HOUSE BILL 1118.

Mahalo nui & much aloha,

Dawn O'Brien

President, HOPE HI, Inc.

Lifelong resident of Hawai'i

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:36:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole garza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

“I am writing to express my strong OPPOSITION-to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school attendance. While I fully respect and support public health initiatives that seek to protect the well-being of our community, I believe this bill raises significant concerns regarding personal freedoms, parental rights, and legal precedent.

1. Infringement on Personal and Religious Freedoms

HB1118 directly challenges the fundamental rights of individuals to make personal and religious decisions regarding medical interventions. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects religious freedom, and for many families, immunization decisions are deeply rooted in their faith and personal convictions. Removing the right to a religious exemption undermines this essential constitutional protection.

2. Parental Autonomy and Medical Decision-Making

Parents, not the government, should have the authority to make medical decisions for their children. Each child is unique, and medical choices, including vaccinations, should be made based on personal medical history, family beliefs, and informed consent. HB1118 disregards the right of parents to weigh the risks and benefits of vaccinations and make decisions that align with their child’s specific needs.

3. Concerns Over Vaccine Safety and Efficacy

While vaccinations have played a vital role in disease prevention, there are documented cases of adverse reactions and contraindications that must be taken seriously. Families should not be forced into a one-size-fits-all medical mandate that does not account for individual health risks. Instead, the state should focus on ensuring that parents have access to balanced information and the ability to make informed choices.

4. Legal and Ethical Considerations

HB1118 raises significant legal questions about bodily autonomy and constitutional rights. Court challenges in other states have demonstrated that restricting religious or philosophical exemptions can lead to lengthy legal battles, placing an additional burden on taxpayers. Furthermore, ethical considerations regarding medical mandates must be carefully weighed, as forcing medical procedures without consent sets a dangerous precedent.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote NO on HB1118. Instead of removing exemptions, I encourage the legislature to engage in further dialogue with families, medical professionals, and legal experts to find balanced solutions that respect public health while upholding personal rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.”

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:36:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairman Tamas, Vice Chair Poepoe, & respective chairpersons,

Thank you all for serving our Hawaii. I appreciate your sacrifice and time.

My name is Erin Chinen, and I testify in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill directly violates my religious freedom and limits my parental choice to make decisions I feel are best for my children. This is government overreach and I respectfully ask that you allow parents the freedom to choose whether or not they want to vaccinate their children. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Blessings,

Erin Chinen (Kaneohe home owner, former D.O.E. teacher, pastor's wife, mother of 3 healthy non-vaccinated children)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:36:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Rasa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:37:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RYAN BAILEY	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccine mandates in educational institutions. As a concerned resident of Hawaii, I believe this bill infringes upon fundamental rights, undermines personal freedom, and disregards the cultural and spiritual diversity that makes our state unique. I urge you to reject this legislation and preserve the religious exemption that has long served as a critical protection for individuals and families across the Aloha State.

The right to religious freedom is enshrined in both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution. Article I, Section 4 of our state constitution guarantees that "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Removing the religious exemption for vaccine mandates directly violates this principle by forcing individuals to choose between their sincerely held religious beliefs and access to education—a cornerstone of opportunity and growth in our society. This is an unacceptable burden to place on families who rely on these exemptions to align their medical decisions with their faith.

Hawaii prides itself on its rich multicultural heritage and respect for diverse beliefs. For many, including Native Hawaiians and other religious communities in our islands, spirituality is deeply intertwined with daily life and decision-making. HB1118 dismisses this reality by imposing a one-size-fits-all policy that fails to accommodate those whose religious convictions preclude certain medical interventions. By eliminating the religious exemption, this bill sends a message that conformity matters more than conscience, eroding the Aloha spirit of inclusion and understanding.

Furthermore, removing this exemption sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach. If the state can override religious freedoms in the name of public health today, what other rights might be curtailed tomorrow? Vaccine mandates already include medical exemptions, acknowledging that not every individual can or should comply. Extending the same respect to religious exemptions is a matter of fairness and consistency, ensuring that no one is arbitrarily excluded from education based on their beliefs.

Opponents of exemptions may argue that this change is necessary for public safety. However, Hawaii has consistently maintained high vaccination rates, and the small percentage of

individuals claiming religious exemptions has not been shown to pose a significant threat to community health. Advances in medicine, voluntary vaccination campaigns, and public education can address any concerns without resorting to coercive measures that alienate and penalize law-abiding citizens.

In conclusion, HB1118 threatens the core values of freedom, diversity, and respect that define Hawaii. I respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and preserve the religious exemption for vaccine mandates in educational institutions. Let us uphold the rights of all residents to live according to their conscience while continuing to promote a healthy and thriving community.

Mahalo for your consideration of this testimony and for your service to the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Ryan Bailey

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:37:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1118HD1. I feel it would be a serious violation of the individual rights of Hawaii's parents if the State of Hawaii were to mandate what goes into the bodies of children. I believe the Department of Education has legitimate concerns about implementing this bill that have not been fully considered. This bill will be found unconstitutional in the courts and will cost taxpayers exorbitant amounts of money to fund unnecessary legal battles. Public health is important but not more important than the rights of United States citizens to determine what enters their bodies and the bodies of their children. Thanks for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:39:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
YUIKA FURUKAWA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1 as it infringes on parental rights and religious freedoms by eliminating non-medical exemptions for immunization. Parents should have the right to make informed medical decisions for their children without government overreach.

Additionally, this bill creates an unfair system where previously exempt students can remain exempt, while new students are denied the same right. This discriminatory approach undermines equality and individual choice.

While public health is important, it must be balanced with personal freedoms and informed consent. I urge you to reject this bill and consider policies that respect both public safety and individual rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Yuika Furukawa

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:39:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
May Kikuyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 eliminates our constitutional rights as well as our god given rights to a religious freedom exemption for vaccinations. Currently, only 4% of school children have been vaccinated granted religious exemption meaning that over 90% of children attending schools are up to date on their vaccinations. So, why is there a need to change anything?? Why risk the minority from losing out on their education?? My kids have most of their vaccinations since birth. However, if they are forced to get vaccinations that I feel are against my religious beliefs just to attend school then I will pull them out. Period.

Why does "my body, my choice" not apply to vaccinations?!?!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:39:38 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Wela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this constitutional issue that is an infringement upon our rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:41:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erzsi Palko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee:

I am urgently requesting that you consider the following reasons for voting “NO” on HB1118:

1. Protocols that protect the health and wellbeing of everyone present on campuses is of extraordinary importance. However, contrary to popular belief, many vaccines DO NOT prevent disease transmission.

As just one example of many, what is the proven efficacy of a **DTaP vaccine** (one on the childhood vaccination schedule)?

Children that have received the DTaP vaccine can still contract and spread pertussis. According to the FDA, those vaccinated with DTaP will have fewer symptoms of pertussis, but will become infected and transmit pertussis, and “will be more susceptible to pertussis throughout their lifetimes.” The FDA acknowledges that DTaP vaccine DOES NOT lessen or prevent the spread pertussis. So, what rational justification is there to require this and other vaccines that do not lessen or prevent transmission without any exemptions?

(fact source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24277828>;
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30793754>;
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29180031>)

2. I urge you to consider it a basic human right that parents have the right to scrutinize any medical procedure as it pertains to their child’s body.

I consider the human body God’s creation. I want to be able to protect God’s creation in my family line. I think it is reasonable to be provided with a full ingredient list and possible adverse reactions pertaining to any substance being proposed for injection into my child’s body. Denying parents rights to informed consent and the right to say “no” is depriving citizens of basic human rights. Removing the religious exemption is a move in the direction of depriving Hawai’i parents and children of basic human rights.

3. Many vaccines on the current childhood schedule contain cell lines from aborted fetal tissue, including: HepA (Havrix), Hep A/Hep B (Twinrix), MMRV (Proquad), & Varicella

These are vaccines on the current childhood recommended schedule all contain millions of pieces from the cultured cell line of an aborted fetus. This aborted fetal tissue cell lines are referred to as “human diploid cells” in ingredient or “excipient” lists.

Many of these vaccines contain the human diploid cell line with the title “MRC-5” which are replicated from the living lung tissue that was cut out from a “14-week-old Caucasian male [aborted] fetus in 1966.”

Please uphold religious exemptions for those of us who want to honor God’s creation and avoid pharmaceutical products that contain aborted fetal tissue.

(fact sources:

Incipient lists: <https://www.oregon.gov/pharmacy/Documents/excipient-table-2.pdf>;

MRC-5:

<https://www.neuromics.com/MRC001?srsId=AfmBOoq2D3AdIQXR6W9OLSH3NV3Z5dpdmMxNUNpkVVUBPGtB4mKkFpjn>)

4. mRNA “vaccines” tamper with God’s design:

Purposefully introducing human-manipulated genetic material (mRNA) that causes a body’s healthy cells to start manufacturing foreign proteins is tampering with God’s design. What’s more, there is evidence (in the paper sourced below) that the mRNA in these shots trigger our cells to code for non-target proteins approximately 10% of the time introducing random proteins into our bodies.

Please preserve the right of parents to protect our family from pharmaceutical products that interfere with God’s design by artificially forcing our cells to create proteins that God did not design.

(Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06800-3>)

Thank you for your time and consideration of parents right to informed consent and honoring God’s Creation.

Please vote NO on HB118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:41:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Poomaihealani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We, as parents/guardians, should have rights to make health decisions for our Keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:42:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halaevalu Namomo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I have 7 children that are all up to date on their flu shots and they are fine. Yes they are exposed to a lot of other kids that have a different immune and sick and health but I do teach my children personal hygiene and immune health is important and I am against medicines and vaccinations especially the Covid flu shot. It is no different from the regular flu shot. I vote against legalizing my children to have the Covid shot.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:43:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
taylor abshire	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Taylor Abshire, and I stand before you today as a wife, mother, and a daughter of God, holding a degree in Biochemistry. I will not take up your time with arguments against vaccines or claims linking them to autism. Rather, I stand before you to oppose HB1118, as I believe it infringes upon both parental rights and religious freedoms.

It strikes me as contradictory that many of you advocate for children's rights to undergo gender transition, yet are opposed to the rights of my family to choose whether or not to vaccinate. The bill's justification is rooted in the concept of "herd immunity." However, if we are to rely on science, let's apply it comprehensively. Why does the concept of "herd immunity" apply exclusively to children? What about custodians, teachers, coaches, and administrators who also interact with these children—are they not part of the herd? According to the CDC's own website, many of these adults no longer have immunity, as they have not had many of the vaccines are children receive today.

Additionally, if we continue to apply a scientific approach, why is this focus only on schools? What about sports teams, grocery stores, playgrounds, churches, and other places where children congregate? Are we suggesting that diseases can only spread within the school environment? From a scientific standpoint, this appears inconsistent.

If the concern is truly for the protection of immunocompromised children who cannot be vaccinated, why are we not also addressing the recommendation that children vaccinated for measles avoid contact with the immunocompromised for up to two weeks (as noted in vaccine inserts). Furthermore, Governor Green cites the urgency of this bill due to low vaccination rates, but I ask—have we had an outbreak despite these low numbers? The answer is no. Additionally, the religious exemption form explicitly states that if there is an outbreak or pandemic, we will keep our children home. This provides a reasonable compromise without infringing upon families' religious rights.

Many families, including mine, who choose not to vaccinate based on religious beliefs are doing so because of our deeply held convictions. We will not comply just because Gov. Green says so. As such, we will be compelled to withdraw our children from school. As most of you know, school enrollment directly impacts School funding. Sadly, some families may not have the resources for an alternative plan and may be forced to vaccinate against their will.

To those of you voting in favor of this bill, I ask—are you willing to accept responsibility for the medical care of children who suffer adverse effects from vaccines, especially since vaccine manufacturers cannot be held liable? If these children are being compelled to vaccinate by this bill, shouldn't you bear the responsibility for any harm caused?

The approach we should adopt here is informed consent. If the concern is truly low vaccination rates, let us focus on creating and testing safe vaccines, and ensure that pediatricians educate new parents on the importance of vaccination. Let's create alternative vaccines that align with ethical and religious principles, so we can ensure that individuals are not faced with a conflict between their health choices and their faith. Forcing families to act against their religious convictions is not the answer.

Voting against this bill does not imply opposition to vaccines or science; rather, it signifies support for parental rights, religious freedom, and the principle of informed consent.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:45:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elisha Sirena Zeitler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I oppose this bill and hope you would consider. Regulations or government should not impose on the choices humans make with their bodies or children. Vaccines have been showing more side effects with autism and Covid vaccines have numerous cases of side effects in adults and children. By enforcing this you are asking parents to take a health risk which will be more detrimental to every individual. Vaccines aren't going to prevent others who are health compromised to be safer. This is going to potentially make children more vulnerable to side effects that more and more cases are being shown. I am a pediatric holistic doctor and I would ask that you do not pass this bill. If you do you may have many patents that will choose to homeschool their children which would be a huge challenge. I hope you would consider.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:46:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Culten Arroyo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support. We need to keep our children and community safe and vaccines have time and time shown very strong evidence as ways to protect against infectious disease. the misinformation running rampant in our country and communities have led to poor decision that leave the rest of us vulnerable. I believe the state is in it's rights to pass and enforce something like this. again, i am in full support of this

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:46:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jess Pojas-Suan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Unconstitutional. Parents should have the first and final choice, all citizens should have this choice for themselves and especially their children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:46:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tom laidlaw	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to not pass bill 1118HB. It has not been given to the Education Committee for review and feedback and it is seriously flawed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:47:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHT to have autonomy over our own bodies and to protect OUR OWN children, it is NOT ANYONE ELSE's right to choose what is injected into the bodies of our children. NO GOVERNOR, no GOVERNMENT, no PERSON or GROUP can play god and make decisions over our body and health. It is unconstitutional to disregard and not allow exemption for vaccinations due to one's religious beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:49:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori kimata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Chair and Committee members,

Please oppose this bill because it is unconstitutional and it is clear the community does not want their religious rights taken away. More importantly we must look at the health of our children in this state and in our country. The U.S. ranks at the bottom regarding child wellbeing in rich countries, 36th out of 38, scoring low across all three dimensions, mental, physical and skill level. People are clearly looking for answers to their children's health concerns and not all the answers come from pharmaceuticals. Please do not take away the rights of the intelligent well informed people of Hawaii. If concerned that people are not educated, then channel more funds for education and research, rather than taking rights away.

Mahalo,

Dr. Lori Kimata

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:50:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to oppose HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away important rights from parents and families.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to decide what is best for their children. Some families have strong religious or personal beliefs about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between following their beliefs or sending their child to school.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to practice our religion freely. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill takes away that choice and does not respect personal faith and values. If the state removes this religious exemption, what other rights could be taken away next?

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child's body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are very hard to get, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for basic medical rights when it comes to their children's health. I'm not willing to go against my religion and risk my son's life and well being while he is excelling in his milestones. There is also a lot of research showing the possible dangers and risks of vaccines however you're only willing to allow medical exemptions AFTER something has happened to a child while you also already know the harm they can do to children. Please allow us to practice our religious rights before our children get hurt.

4. What's Next?

If this bill passes, it sets a dangerous precedent. Today, the government says religious beliefs don't matter when it comes to vaccines. What will they take away next? People should always have the right to make informed decisions for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already struggles with school attendance and a high cost of living. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, more families may be forced to leave Hawai'i. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly urge you to reject HB1118 and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Olivia

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:52:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
NoAh Go	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose, do not ruin the children

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:52:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Stever	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Higher vaccination rates help bolster herd immunity. I feel that the impact of vaccines has been taken for granted. Over the decades, vaccines have effectively eradicated or significantly reduced the number of cases of measles and other targeted diseases, including smallpox, malaria and polio. We need to bring back trust in this modern miracle.

Fragile children, children with cancer and other kids cannot receive vaccines or cannot mount a strong immune response to them, so we need to protect those children with herd immunity. Studies show that, in areas with greater numbers of vaccine exemptions, there is an associated increased risk of infection and death from vaccine preventable diseases in that population.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:54:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Dorn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Being a resident in Hawaii my tax dollars go to fund schools in my state. I believe I should have access to send my children to those schools whether or not I choose to vaccinate them. We should be free to choose, whether or not to inject our bodies with foreign substances. We should not have to make health decisions in fear of not being able to access education for our children

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:54:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raynette Nicole Puahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:55:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Vadla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No government should be able to make or require anyone to vaccines. Medical decisions are personal and private and should remain a decision between an individual, a parent and a doctor. If this bill is passed, I will be homeschooling my children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:55:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cobb-Adams Stroud	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Kim Cobb-Adams Stroud and I testify in Opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I am very concerned for my Keiki and Husband who already struggle with health issues after being vaccinated under pressure, reducing their quality of life by 60%.

Hawai'i has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:55:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Knight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I and my entire church community and 'ohana strongly oppose this bill. Do not take away religious freedoms.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:55:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Willweber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill puts forth a false premise, namely, that vaccinations and immunizations are needed by 95% of kids for the safety, health and protection of the medically fragile. We heard similar rhetoric in 2021 with the covid vaccine, "if you don't take the vax, you are unloving to fragile grandma" or even shaming by saying "you are killing grandma." In my circles, I witnessed minors and adults who chose to be "loving" and took the covid vax and otherwise healthy individuals developed medical conditions, including heart problems, lowered immune systems, cancers, "turbo-cancers," and paralysis, among others. More importantly than "my circles," is the worldwide data from multiple sources that shows increased morbidity and mortality across highly vaccinated countries starting right after the covid vaccinations were introduced.

So to propose that all vaccinations are mandatory for school children for the health and safety of medically fragile people is simply a lie and is in actuality creating ADDITIONAL medically fragile children. In addition, it appears that this bill's false premise is an excuse to strip religious freedom which is a foundational 1st amendment right. What is being proposed in this bill is an abuse of government power.

Please vote pono and people, especially Hawaii's keiki, by VOTING NO on this bill.

Mahalo nui, Dave Willweber

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:56:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessamine Pearson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:56:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Allow parents the right to decide their children's health care. The government should not force vaccines on any American citizen.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:57:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keenan Place-Puaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am in strong opposition of this bill HB1118 and I believe that no one or government should take away a person's religious beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:58:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly oppose this bill as a mother and as a community member. I appreciate our representatives taking this seriously and not blanketing our individual rights as human beings to make our own informed decisions about what we inject into our bodies.

thank you,

Ashley Johnson

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:01:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesko Onken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jesko Onken. I am a U.S. citizen, long-term Hawaii resident, and attorney licensed to practice law in the State of Hawaii with 20+ years of legal experience.

I have legal concerns about Bill HB1118.

In the law making process, lawmakers need to balance the government actions with affected constitutional rights.

In HB1118, public health and safety must be balanced in particular with the freedom of religion and also the individual's right to self-determine medical interventions.

With a vaccination against measles, a highly contagious serious airborne disease, the interest in health and safety is high. As a result, the bill's balance test may justify the proposed changes.

However, other vaccinations are required by the department of health, for which the balance test may result strongly in favor of the individuals' rights. Take the vaccine for HPV for example, which is required in Hawaii for students in grade 7 and up. HPV is a virus mostly transmitted through sexual intercourse. Individuals practicing sexual abstinence for religious reasons and per the CDC even people in long-term mutually monogamous relationships are not likely to get new HPV infections.

Thus, in case of HPV certain religious or lifestyle practices are more effective than the vaccine in protecting the general public from HPV.

This is one key example where the bill's balance test fails to balance the affected rights appropriately and therefore should not be passed as is.

Sincerely,

Jesko Onken

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:02:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support repealing the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:03:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Yvette Andrade, and I testify in opposition to HB1118 This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I am a parent and also a grandparent of school-age children and believe this bill infringes on my rights as a United States citizen. Also, Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:04:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shepard Shill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It's unconstitutional and not right to force children to get vaccines. It should be the parents choice whether they want to have their children vaccinated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:05:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Myette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

Again I implore you to listen listen the testimony of Hawai'i parents. As a Christian I have deeply rooted beliefs as to honoring the body that God as given me and that goes even further into the gifts that are my children. God has given me discernment on how I should care for my children. The government shall not supersede that.

In addition being pro-life I have moral obligation to oppose medical treatments that use fetal cells from the crime of abortion. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Valerie Myette

HB 1118 Relating to Non-medical Vaccine Exemptions

To the JHA Committee:

I started practicing pediatrics in 1977 on Kauai. At that time the only childhood vaccines available were DPT, Polio, and MMR, which had already transformed childhood illnesses dramatically. I am old enough to remember the relief our parents felt when the polio vaccine became available. Since then, Chicken Pox, Hepatitis A & B, Hemophilus, Pneumococcus, Meningococcus, Influenza, Rotavirus, HPV, and most recently RSV vaccines have been added to our armamentarium. The benefits to infants and children are profound. We don't see vaccinated children dying of bacterial meningitis, polio, and measles, to name a few, and the severity of and hospitalizations for childhood infectious disease is much decreased. Truly pediatrics has been transformed by the advent and continuing development of vaccines.

The incidence of significant side effects from vaccines is very, very low. In my many years of practice, I did not see any side effects beyond fever, rash, or fussiness for a day after vaccine administration. In addition, many studies of enormous numbers of infants and children have not demonstrated serious side effects. Children in the US are truly fortunate to have access to vaccines. Unfortunately, here in Hawaii we are seeing increasing rates of non-medical exemptions – 5.3% statewide with some schools having over 10% rates of vaccine exemptions. In 2023-24, over 14% of school children had missing vaccinations. This translates to increased susceptibility to disease among the under-immunized, and loss of herd immunity community-wide. Many countries in the developing world still cannot afford these life-savers, and children are still dying of preventable diseases such as bacterial pneumonia, meningitis, and especially measles. We have only to look at the

disaster in Samoa in 2019, which resulted from deliberate disinformation from vaccine deniers and complacency, to see what happens when a country, state, or community allows their vaccination rate to slip below 90%, thereby resulting in lack of herd immunity in infants too young to be vaccinated.

I strongly support removing non-medical exemptions for school vaccination requirements. On Kauai, we have seen increasing numbers of parents opting out of vaccines for a variety of excuses. We have had mumps, pertussis, and measles epidemics. We owe it to our infants and children to protect them by insuring they are thoroughly vaccinated.

Linda J. Weiner, MD
Kauai
Retired pediatrician

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:07:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian A. Masterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please do not allow the repealing of non-medical exemptions for children or anybody with regards to the Covid-19 vaccine. The right over one's body is to each their own, and the belief in health and higher forms of healing is critically tied to religious freedoms as stated in our constitution.

The economic well-being of many people is also tied to this issue, for those who have been issued an exemption already. Finally, off the point but in relation to vaccination, the physical impacts of taking this vaccine has been felt by so many people, and it is not risk free but we are required to sign away our rights as responsible human beings in indemnifying all those corporations and businesses who make the vaccine. IT IS STILL A HUMAN EXPERIMENT based on the American cultural epistemology that the body decays in life, but it is not so, nor is that a universal concept, but one that aligns well with a massive medical industry driven by capital gains through encouraging this worldview. America's freedom is based on the choice, the decision, and the convictions that each individual has, do not force people to defy their convictions through this bill. I oppose HB1118.

Thank you for voting against it. aloha, Ian Masterson

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:09:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily McKinley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118. The government doesn't have the right to force children to get vaccinated. It should be the parents choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:09:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Bishop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:11:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Paulson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose the removal of the religious exemptions for vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:12:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Pereira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I respectfully submit this statement of faith for a Constitutionally recognized and protected religious exemption against any mandatory injection/vaccine. Based on my understanding of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and other federal and state laws, we choose to exercise our right to demand our right to a religious exemption for our children against any requirements regarding vaccinations. This demand for an exemption is based on my deeply held religious beliefs pursuant to my reliance on teachings in the Holy Bible.

The Bible very clearly states that the body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to take good care of it, not to defile it, and certainly not introduce something into it that could potentially harm it (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:10, and 2 Corinthians 7:1). These vaccines (by the very disclosure of the vaccine manufacturers) contain carcinogens, neurotoxins, animal viruses, animal blood, allergens, and heavy metals. I do not believe it would be right for me to introduce these substances into my body or the body of my children because they have not sufficiently been proven to me to be safe and effective. Rather, I believe they may be harmful to my body.

Additionally, the Constitution grants and protects every American citizen the God-given right to make our own medical decisions. The Declaration of Independence recognizes rights are God-given. God commands me to glorify Him with my body — and not give it to the government. First, the Ninth Amendment states, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” The Constitution does not grant the power or authority to the federal government to compel private citizens take medical treatments — especially not as a category. Therefore, I reserve this right.

Second, federal laws protects my choosing to disclose private medical decisions (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Numerous legal and financial penalties exist for entities violating this law. Mandating vaccination as a condition of employment and or school acceptance implies I disclose medical information and is a violation of federal law for discrimination.

Taking away our right to a religious exemption is, to me, contrary to Biblical teachings, my faith in Jesus Christ, the specific powers granted the federal government, and existing federal law. It is

unlawful to segregate people according to their skin color. It is unlawful to compel Jews to eat pork. It is also unlawful to compel personal medical decisions of citizens. My religious beliefs are sincere. Legally, I cannot be required to prove that a church or religious leader agrees with my sincere religious beliefs, or my interpretation of Scripture, or my instruction from the Holy Spirit. My beliefs are my own, and they are sincerely and deeply held.

Therefore I strongly OPPOSE HB1118

Shawna Pereira

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:17:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyan Mullen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB1118. Parents should make decisions for their children not the govt. This is in direct violation of our constitutional right. This also appears to be a politically motivated bill due to the fact that 70% oppose this bill yet it still gets forwarded. I'd like to remind the counsel that they represent and work for the people. You do not work for or represent the Governor. It should be crystal clear from the past testimonies that the people are in opposition of HB1118. Please do the job the people elected you to do and that is to represent the majority who oppose this bill. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:19:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Kepoo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

Thank you for taking the time to read and hopefully support our views on this matter. I write to strongly opposed HB1118 which is not intended for the health and safety of the people of Hawaii.

Josh Green is aiming to kill, destroy, harm, and blatantly ignore the people and our rights as parents to take all precautions to save our Keiki.

Please hear our pleas to OPPOSE and KILL HB1118.

Mahalo,

Nikki Kepoo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:23:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Varnelle Nakahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is morally wrong to receive a vaccine that used fetal cells in the development stage—the most commonly cited religious objection to the vaccines; The body is a temple that should not receive foreign or unnatural substances, and God will protect the body from sickness.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:23:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
crystal jefferson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! It is unconstitutional!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:23:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheala Strong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Our children have rights and this mandate would violate those God given rights. Their body, their choice.

February 20, 2025

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: HB1118 Relating to Non- Medical Exemptions to Immunization
 Requirements
 Prohibits new non-medical immunization for school aged children
 Effective 7/1/3000.

DATE: Friday, February 21, 2025
TIME: 3:00 PM
PLACE: Conference Room 325,
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Aloha,

My name is Teal Sargent. I am a long-term resident on the island of Kaua'i, Hawai'i. It is great pleasure that I write today to **strongly oppose** HB1118, which repeals the right to a religious exemption from immunizations to attend school. If this bill were to pass this would not only have negative impacts to the community's access to education but to the education system in itself. Participating in immunizations is not negotiable for my family as well as many other families in my community. Our schools are already facing dangerous levels of enrollment and this bill would force many of the existing students to withdraw from the DOE leading to school closures.

As a mother, full-time employee and long-term resident in Hawai'i this bill directly affects my family's future on the island. This bill threatens the academic future of my children. It also threatens their right to an education and their health and well-being.

I strongly encourage the legislature to oppose HB1118.

Mahalo and thank you for your time,

Sincerely,
Teal Sargent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:33:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaulana Stevens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother for a kindergarten, I don't agree to this at all my daughter does not take any vaccines that have these side effects as a Covid vaccine. It's not safe for children at such a young age that are still growing up and have underdeveloped brain and organs . If this bill goes through I know for a fact a lot of family members will homeschool their children me included. Let's keep our children safe , they don't need this vaccine.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:33:46 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean k Wela Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We cannot allow HB1118 to be passed as i believe it imposes on our freedom as American's as well as our freedom to worship. As a christian i believe that as it says in the bible that our bodies is the temple of the Holy Spirit and we must take care of and nurture the bodies we have. Part of that is controlling what goes in or doesn't go into our bodies and i believe that as a believer as a part of my right to worship, i should be able to determine what i believe is right from a biblical point of view of what goes into my or my child's body. As a parent i've been entrusted to shepherd/ oversee my children and it is my right to determine what is best for my child. You cannot allow the religious exemption for vaccines to be taken away as it violates my rights as a parent, a christian and as a US citizen. This is unacceptable!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:33:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Merrick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To hawaii state legislature-

I OPPOSE this bill. You do not take the rights of parents choice on how to protect their children.

This is completely wrong and unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:37:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Afong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill. We have the right to informed consent. It is illegal to impose medical procedures upon individual citizens. This Bill violates the Nuremberg Code.

All of information and data about the extreme harms of the Covid vaccine and others vaccines are coming to light. Vaccine injuries are at unprecedented rates. We as parents have the right to choose what is injected into our children's bodies. Simultaneously our children have the right to an education!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:38:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Moe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government shouldn't control the choices we make for our children.

I am a mother to 3 children. My personal, religious convictions are absolutely against forced or mandated vaccinations. This is a crime to my freedom and the freedom of my children. We are NOT against vaccines and do vaccinate our children with ones we know they need or we have done our own research on.

Parents have the right to refuse or accept what the government or other agency's are requiring to each child to attend school. Parents have the best interest of their children in mind especially when it comes to their bodily autonomy, so in good faith they will make the best informed decision to choose what's best by using their personal convictions & conscience through their religious beliefs and through science based pros & cons of the products used. Mandating vaccinations & removing religious exemptions is coercion and a draconian act in the guise of public safety/health, it is unconstitutional & a violation of our First Amendment Rights which The U.S. Constitution guarantees our Freedom of Religion. I am reminded, whenever there is risk (to bodily autonomy), there must be choice. There is no "one size fits all" when it comes to vaccinations, studies have shown not everyone responds to medicines/vaccinations the same. Every life is precious and deserving of the opportunity to thrive.

So we as parents & caregivers will make the best choice fitting for our children without being forced, manipulated, coerced, or bullied.

I am asking and urge you to reject all forced vaccination mandates upon our children and religious exemptions to continue for all those who choose to exercise their rights. Allow parents and guardians to make their own choices.

I OPPOSE HB 1118

Respectfully submitted, Chelsea Moe

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:38:54 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charis Logan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

By prohibiting exemptions from immunizations for school-aged children, this removes personal rights and responsibilities of good-willed parents. What is even considered "non-medical" and who decides that? As a mother, I strongly oppose this bill and would like to keep my rights to make these kinds of decisions for my children. Personally, my kids have gotten most of vaccinations, but we are now coming to make some new decisions as they near their teens years. I appreciate the freedom to choose.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:39:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:40:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

How does this affect others it doesn't we should not be forced to be vaccinated and as a religious person we have rights we shouldn't be force to be vaccinated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:40:53 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Paez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide this testimony to STRONGLY OPPOSE HB 1118, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. I feel it infringes on personal freedoms, parental rights, and religious liberties. These decisions should be left as a personal choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:41:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheyenne	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Hawaii is now becoming a foolery state. A state of absolutely prisonment. Choices have aready been slim and now non existent. Vaccinations have no more than ever proven to be the main cause fro a lot of the different medical issues now going on today. Its become more about money and power for the big Pharm rather than true care for the people. Our children and their health optiopns should be for us as parents to decide if vaccinations are needed. Making it MANDATORY will only decrease the number of children who attend school. Teachers will become jobless and more of the state will be on welfare. I am againast making vaccnations mandatory in order for our keiki to go to public/private schools.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:41:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carmelita Andia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any proposal that would remove religious exemptions for vaccinations required for students. Religious exemptions provide an important protection for individuals like us, that for deeply held beliefs, cannot in good conscience comply with vaccinations requirements. Removing these exemptions would infringe on the fundamental rights of us parents and students to make decisions in accordance with our faith. There is no clear evidence that the removal of religious exemptions would significantly improve public health outcomes. Many schools already have measures in place to prevent outbreaks such as quarantine protocols for unvaccinated students in the event of exposure. Removing religious exemptions would set a precedent for further government intervention in personal and family decisions leading to a slippery slope of expanding governmental control over individual's rights to make decisions for their children. This state is so Pro-Choice when it comes to abortion (my body my choice) but when it comes to a doctor sticking a needle into my child, it's no longer my body my choice? The decision regarding the health and well-being of children should primarily rest with us parents including whether to vaccinate based on our religious beliefs and values. Forcing people to violate their own beliefs in order to comply with government mandates undermines the very principles that this nation was founded upon. Parental rights have long been a cornerstone of American law, and the State of Hawaii has no constitutional right to take this freedom away. If you can guarantee me that my child will not be harmed or have any adverse and long term effects from the mandated vaccinations required, we wouldn't even have this conversation, would we?. But you can't and therefore you have no right to tell me what I can and can't do for my child when it comes to their health and safety and force me to violate my own beliefs and values.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:42:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rysha Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Rysha Andrade, and I testify in opposition to HB1118 This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a student and also an aunty, I want to have the right to choose what goes into my body as well as my family. Also, Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:44:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Fehring	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am not in agreement for the government to mandate how we choose to raise our children. Choices of how we birth, educate and provide health care for our families is our individual right.

When it comes to vaccinations there is concern for the ever growing amount of vaccinations mandated by big Pharma and the AMA. As parents we have the right to make our own decisions as to what we feel is necessary. Please take into consideration the freedom of choice is what is on the table not your personal feelings on this matter.

Mahalo

Cynthia Fehring

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:44:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Chang wo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. No one should be able to take away the decisions of a parent. We as parents are the only ones who get to decide what is best for our keiki and ohana. To deny us this right is wrong and you know it. To take away our religious right as well is wrong. You shouldn't have to go against our own beliefs. Respect and loyalty goes a long way. So decide are you for the people of hawaii and fair and just. Money is the root of all evil so please if you only agree to this because of the money shame on you. But if you are for this bill shame on you as well. You are not the parent to my children so you have no say on their life decisions. God bless you all

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:47:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Jung	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Please vote NO on HB 1118 to remove religious exemptions. I strongly OPPOSE this bill for many reasons because of my sincerely held religious beliefs against vaccines.

SB 1118 is a violation of the 1st Amendment, specifically by "prohibiting the free exercise of religion" and violating "the right of the people to peaceably assemble."

This bill most certainly prohibits the free exercise of religion and violates the right of people's right to assemble and Hawai'i children's right to assemble at schools. Parents, not the government, should make the medical decisions for their children. Religious objections to vaccines include ingredients such as aborted fetal cells, gelatin (cow and pig bones and hooves), fetal bovine serum (baby cow blood), dog kidney cells, recombinant human albumin, and more, as well as the faith in natural healing and medicine as seen in Hawaiian culture and many religious beliefs.

SB 1118 would have a drastically concerning impact on Hawai'i. Many parents will choose to homeschool which can cause financial hardship for families and limit access to resources and the socialization that children need. Public school enrollment will go down along with funding. We would see an unavoidable increase in vaccine adverse reactions.

Especially concerning is the HPV vaccine. This vaccine can cause infertility, ovarian failure, and early menopause. This one vaccine alone could cause a decrease in Hawai'i's population and the Native Hawaiian population if mandated without exemptions. When it was added to the schedule in 2020, many pro-vaccine parents were especially concerned about the HPV vaccine.

Adolescent Premature Ovarian Insufficiency Following Human Paillomavirus Vaccination:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/m/pubmed/26425627/>

Human papilloma virus vaccine and primary ovarian failure: another facet of the autoimmune/inflammatory syndrome induced by adjuvants.

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/23902317>

Please take some time to look into the impact of removing religious exemptions in other states. West Virginia and Mississippi removed them in 1979 (and recently returned them). They had the highest vaccine rates in the country and the lowest exemption rates, and they also had "the worse health outcomes and lowest life expectancy rates."

<https://apnews.com/article/west-virginia-governor-religious-vaccine-exemptions-dei-8665e89daf101e42cc372de56d699c38>

My greatest concern with HB 1118 is that Hawai'i's school requirements include more than almost all other states. Even California does not require the HPV vaccine. In 2020, HAR-157 was amended to add five more vaccines to the schedule for Hawai'i schools, bringing the total to 10 vaccines given in a total of 31 injections containing 47 doses. Since most other states still only require five vaccines, this bill would cause Hawai'i's children to be subject to more doses of vaccines than almost all other children in the US. Please do not vote for Hawai'i's children to be experimented on with a schedule that includes more than most children. If there is a risk, there must be a choice. My sincere religious beliefs along with many others, put faith in God instead of vaccines.

While considering both sides to this bill, specifically religious freedom versus public health, please remember that physicians will profit from this bill as doctor visits will increase with less exemptions.

Please do not take away parent's rights to care for their children's health according to their own religious beliefs. The impact on Hawai'i will be devastating in many ways and Hawai'i's children will be the ones who will suffer the most. Please listen to the majority of constituents who oppose this bill. Please vote no!

Mahalo,

Christina Jung

Concerned Hawai'i resident of 24 years, Early Childhood Teacher, and Mother

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:50:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lea stadler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Lea Stadler from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:50:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wendell Low	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please give our children a choice. Women have a choice to do what they want with there bodies, I reserve the right on my child's behalf to give him a choice of what goes into his body.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:50:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennyse Therese Baja	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:50:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Lamborn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is not only infringing religious freedom but freedom of choice in general. How can this be enforced? who is going to enforce it? obviously it is going to fall on the DOE making them the bad guys or like during COVID restaurants. Why not focus on real matters that affect the people of Hawaii. Like cost of living of the people living here. I'm sure you didn't give yourselves raise on the base you doing a great job. Because your not. What about letting more main land hospitals come here for the health of the people you let McDonald's, raising canes open up with no problems. Fix the damn roads stop wasting money on the rail stop taxing and pricing people out of Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:52:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Hawaii Legislator, I am a humble citizen and mother in Hawaii. I have my own business which employs locals and students, I contribute and donate to anything my community needs, I also do everything possible to keep my children healthy. After my son was given the MMR vaccine at age 5, he developed a persistent cough which then developed into Asthma. I started to research ingredients and found that many vaccines have fetal cell lines, monkey cell lines SV40, and other preservatives that can be harmful to our bodies. Not only are these ingredients harmful to my son, but contradict my beliefs in using blood, aborted cells, or animal cells. I have invested thousands of dollars to undo this harm on my son. He was born healthy and would play for hours with not a care in the world, after this vaccine he has to take inhalers just to play his favorite game of soccer. He once asked me if this would affect him all his life and it broke my heart. Please do not take away the only option we have to keep our son in school and also maintain his fragile health, that we are still working so hard to reverse. He is doing better, he looks stronger, if he would be required to take more vaccines just to get an education, you are forcing other humans to go against their beliefs. Please do not be a part of this calamity. There is a chronic disease epidemic, so many children are sick, but doctors insist that vaccinating your way to health is the only option. For example why isn't there better food in schools, lunch consists of frozen processed meals, does this not attribute to our health? Health takes work, our bodies are extraordinary and fearfully made by God. Please again I plead that you be the way to meaningful change in true health. If this bill passes, I will have to move, shut down my business, dis enroll both by children and leave the community I have loved and served for 12 years. Thank you of your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:53:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:55:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle De Lima	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

By: Danielle De Lima

Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Danielle De Lima, and I am testifying in opposition to HB1118. Since providing testimony before the HLT Committee on February 7th, it has become abundantly clear that the majority of testimonies submitted were in opposition to this bill. However, it appeared that Chair Takayama had already determined his position before hearing a single testimony. This disregard for the voices of concerned citizens was disheartening. Further, his public praise of the Governor on the House floor, despite the overwhelming opposition from the people, raises concerns about whether this legislative process prioritizes political alignment over genuine public discourse.

While I understand that this bill is centered on herd immunity and public health, it is crucial to recognize that public health policies must also uphold individual rights and freedoms as guaranteed by our Constitution. As a parent, I can confidently say that if I feel a policy compromises my child's well-being, I will make the necessary decisions in their best interest—even if that means removing them from school. It is a misconception to assume that the passage of this bill will automatically lead to increased herd immunity. Instead, it could have unintended consequences, including a decline in school enrollment and further societal division.

Key Concerns:

- **Religious Freedom:** One of the most fundamental rights in our nation is the freedom of religion. Removing the religious exemption would force families to choose between their faith and their child's education—a decision no parent should have to make.
- **Informed Consent & Medical Autonomy:** Medical decisions, especially regarding vaccinations, should be made based on individual health, family history, and personal beliefs. Requiring all children to be vaccinated to attend school disregards the principle of informed consent, a cornerstone of ethical medical practice.
- **Societal Division:** This bill has the potential to create an unnecessary divide between families who comply with vaccine mandates and those who do not, leading to stigmatization and segregation in our communities.

True leadership is demonstrated by the ability to rise above political pressures and serve the people with integrity. Lawmakers must remember that their responsibility is not to their political

party, but to the constituents they represent. Upholding the rights of individuals should never be secondary to political agendas.

Rather than eliminating the religious exemption, we should focus on creating open, respectful dialogue and increasing access to education about vaccines. Parents should be empowered with information and given the ability to make informed decisions that align with their values and their children's best interests. A balanced approach—one that respects both public health and individual rights—will create a more inclusive and supportive community.

I urge this committee to listen to the voices of the people, set aside political biases, and make a decision that truly reflects the principles of freedom and informed choice.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Danielle De Lima

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:55:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Griffiths	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

Please do not pass this bill. We should have the right to chose. Not to be forced against our personal and religous beliefs!

Aole!

Mahalo,

Misty Griffiths

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:56:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie M Nurre	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Julie M. Nurre, and I tesify in opposiiton to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. My children are adults however I'm testifying as a concerned member of the community.

Hawaii has long reconized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs . Removing religious exemptins could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health important, policies should also respect infividual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:56:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Rene Monteville	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I absolutely oppose the HB1118 bill to have mandatory vaccinations for our keiki!! I believe is CHOICE and FREEDOM OF RELIGION which is an ABSOLUTELY RIGHT of our USA Constitution!! Government should Not be given the reigns to mandating things that oppose our spiritual and religious views! I humbly ask in Jesus Name that this bill will be SHUT DOWN!

THANK YOU

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:57:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this shockingly evil bill.

Clardean Lehano

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:57:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A. P.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! I oppose it for MY family and I, and for people who are unable to submit their own testimony. We (as parents) should be given a choice whether to give our child a vaccine or not. We shouldn't be forced. It's medical rape!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:57:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Latisha Balai-Pacheco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose and as a Mother who is isn't Anti-Vaccine I feel like it is the parents choice to decide with children's Primary Family Doctors rather they want to or don't want to vaccinate our children.

Who are they to pass a law that not everybody agrees with we are all entitled to our own opinions but this, this is way to far!!!

Do Not PASS this Bill!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:59:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly appose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:00:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Ielie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is our right as parents to decide what vaccines our children are to receive based on religious beliefs and also health risks. My child has a high risk of vaccine injury due to his weakened immune system from a condition he has. He deserves to still go to school amongst his peers even if he hasn't had a shot that would most likely cause him harm.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:01:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenae Taguiped	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to the Bill Removing Religious Exemption for Vaccines in Hawaii Schools

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the bill that proposes to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccines in all schools across the state of Hawaii.

As a concerned parent, I believe that this bill undermines the fundamental right of religious freedom and individual autonomy, both of which are cornerstones of our democracy. Hawaii has long been a state that values diversity and respects the personal beliefs and religious convictions of its citizens. By removing the religious exemption, this bill would impose one-size-fits-all mandates that disregard the deeply held spiritual beliefs of many families, who, for religious reasons, choose not to vaccinate their children.

It is important to recognize that vaccination is a deeply personal decision. While I fully support the importance of public health and the safety of our children, it is equally crucial to respect the rights of parents to make medical decisions for their children, including those based on religious beliefs. Many religious groups, including but not limited to Christian, Hindu, and Muslim communities, have long-standing teachings about the sanctity of the body and the ethical implications of medical interventions, such as vaccination. For these families, the right to exercise their religious convictions without government interference is sacred.

Additionally, we must acknowledge that the religious exemption has been in place for many years and has been a balanced approach that respects both public health goals and individual rights. Removing this exemption would not only infringe upon religious freedoms but could also create unnecessary division and resentment among families, further polarizing a critical issue.

I understand that proponents of this bill may argue that eliminating the religious exemption is necessary for public health. However, numerous studies have shown that the overall vaccination rate in Hawaii remains high, and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases are rare. Furthermore, a robust conversation about vaccine safety, informed consent, and medical exemptions must continue to be part of the dialogue.

I urge you to consider the potential consequences of this bill—both in terms of the infringement on personal liberties and the alienation it may cause within our communities. Instead of stripping away religious freedoms, we should focus on fostering open dialogue, education, and understanding about vaccinations, so that families can make informed decisions based on their individual needs and beliefs.

I respectfully ask that you vote against this bill and preserve the religious exemption for vaccines in Hawaii schools.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Jenae Taguiped

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:02:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charnelle K. H. Mane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because this is government overreach & I do NOT Co-parent with the government. This goes against my First Amendment Constitutional Rights. Religion aside no vaccines should be mandatory at all. It's not one size fits all, It should be informed consent & up to the parents to make health decisions for THEIR OWN CHILDREN.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:03:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I SOLOMON KAWAMAE oppose this bill because it violates our rights as citizens and tax payers. The legislature and senate should not look past the voting of the people. There should be no laws making mandatory medical decisions for the people. You can not take away our freedom of will.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:04:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Gerard Dericks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccines as a requirement for children to attend public school. This bill undermines fundamental constitutional rights, violates religious freedom, and places undue burdens on families with deeply held religious beliefs.

1. Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. For many families, vaccination conflicts with their sincerely held religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions forces parents into an impossible choice: violate their faith or forgo public education—a right that should be accessible to all children regardless of religious beliefs.

2. Parental Rights and Informed Consent

Parents, not the government, should make medical decisions for their children. Medical procedures, including vaccination, must remain a matter of personal choice where consent must be sought not compelled (which is not consent). Stripping religious exemptions denies parents the ability to make decisions that align with their ethical and spiritual values.

3. Educational Access and Discrimination

Excluding children from public schools based on their religious beliefs creates a two-tiered segregated education system, effectively discriminating against families who cannot afford private or home schooling. Public education is a cornerstone of our society, and no child should be denied access due to their family's religious convictions.

4. Slippery Slope of Government Overreach

If religious exemptions for vaccines can be eliminated, what other personal or religious freedoms will be next? This bill sets a dangerous precedent for government intrusion into personal medical and religious decisions, eroding civil liberties over time.

Conclusion

While public health is important, policies must respect constitutional freedoms and parental rights. The existing framework allows for both community health measures and religious accommodations. I urge you to vote **against** HB1118 and protect religious liberty, informed consent, and equal access to essential public education.

Sincerely,
Dr. Gerard Dericks
500 Ala Moana Blvd, Ste 4-510
Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:06:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsi Yonting	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away the freedom of medical decisions that should be made by parents and not the government. Vaccine schedules should not be a one size fits all. If there are no regulations in place for things such as vaccine injuries, then parents should have the sole responsibility for their minor children regarding what is placed into their bodies. Please respect our choice and right to freedom with such an important part of personal health.

Mahalo,

Kelsi Kehaulani Alcott Yonting

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:07:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francesca Rae Kloster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose, i believe in personal choice

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:09:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Psillos	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. It is gross government overreach and a violation of parental rights and bodily autonomy.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:12:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steven Foth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:12:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Acuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Legislature, I am writing to oppose this bill to remove religious exemptions. It is not proper to have citizens choose between their beliefs and receiving an education. Where do we draw the line? Will we be forced to receive blood or eat unkosher food in order to be a part of society? The reasons stated on the bill is that herd immunity is necessary for vaccines to work. In other words, for this product to do the job it claims, everyone has to take it or it doesn't do its job? This is most lucrative for any business. Most of the population in any age bracket are missing vaccines, how many adults are up to date? Wouldn't there have been an outbreak already? Aside from those questions, that more and more people are having is, why after all these vaccinations are we so chronically ill? That is why I started to look into these products and discovered that I don't want these ingredients in my child's body. I don't want blood products, animal cell fragments or human cell fragments, It goes against what I read in my Bible and my faith! Please do not make me choose between what is in my heart and soul or have my son not receive his education. As representatives of the people, start to ask the hard questions of the Pharma companies, the huge hospitals, all the people that claim to want us healthy, why do they only offer "health" in a bottle, pill or needle? I will have to remove my family from school and move off island. I trust in you please oppose this atrocious bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:16:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Landford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE BILL HB118!!!

I SUPPORT PARENTAL AND RELIGIOUS RIGHTS. NO ONE SHOULD BE FORCED INTO A ONE SIZE FITS ALL APPROACH WHEN IT COMES TO THEIR CHILDS HEALTH. PARENTS DESERVE THE RIGHT TO WEIGH THE RISKS AND BENEFITS FOR THEMSELVES.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:16:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chisato Kuzuta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen to express my strong opposition to HB1118 HD1. This bill, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunization, poses a serious threat to both parental rights and religious freedoms. Parents should have the fundamental right to make informed medical decisions for their children without undue government interference.

The ability to choose whether to vaccinate based on religious beliefs is a deeply personal and constitutionally protected freedom. Removing this right disregards the diverse values and convictions held by many families. It is essential that the government respect and uphold these fundamental liberties rather than infringe upon them.

All families deserve the equal right to make decisions about immunization based on their beliefs and values, without facing discriminatory limitations. It is essential that every family is granted the same opportunity to choose, ensuring fairness and respecting individual autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 HD1 and to protect the rights of parents to make medical decisions in accordance with their beliefs and values. Thank you for considering my concerns.

Sincerely,

Chisato Kuzuta

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:17:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hasan Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a teacher, father, and person of faith I oppose this bill. It denies our right as citizens to access education and practice our deeply held religious beliefs. It is in its nature un-American. The people of Hawaii do not support this bill. Please vote no to this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:17:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christa Hewett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I find it rich that the governor who has called the current president a facisist dictator who is a threat to democracy is trying to take away the First Amendment rights of every single citizen in Hawaii. His actions reflect that of what he accuses the President. He as well as many of you are also strong supporters of "my body my choice", but only when it aligns with the political beliefs of the party you are loyal to.

As Americans, you as our representatives who were voted in by US, the citizen have the responsibility to act on behalf of the people of this state. I highly recommend you look at the number of oppose to support bills and act according to the wants and will of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:19:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Harvest Edmonds	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. There needs to be another option other than a Medical exemption.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:19:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Manzi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. All medicine should be a choice.

This bill suggests corruption as someone is making money off vaccines, while tax payers are paying for it. Companies that make vaccines also have terrible history of litigation risk assessments that result in mass deaths, mass cases of cancer, etc....

All these risks are a choices of individuals and parents. Do we even live in a free society if we are not allowed to educate ourselves and make decisions about what we put into our childrens and our own bodies?

This bill will also foster distrust in the government and likely cause more people to stop vaccinating they're children. When medecines are needed and available people do not need to be forced or coerced to take them, they take them willingly.

Implementing this would be in violation of the Nurneburg Code as many vaccines have not had the required testing such as testing first on animals. The risk associated with some vaccines is also greater than the risks for children of certain diseases.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:20:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

My name is Emily Miller and my son is a student at PCHES in pearl city. He's in the 6 th grade. He started public school last year after several years of religious homeschooling. He wanted to be around more friends. I hear that you are trying to make it mandatory for our children to be vaccinated without any exceptions and i think that essentially takes our freedom of choice away from one of the most important things for us. Our beliefs but also our own children's health. He wants to remain in a public school setting and thats not fair for him as he's doing so well around his peers to have such a big decision between health and friends. He should have both! I don't think it's ok for you to make these types of choices for our own children's health. That's why this bill should NOT go through. Thank you

-Emily Miller

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:20:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Guy Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:22:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Smith	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very disturbed that the government of Hawaii is attempting to subvert the freedoms of choice regarding medical treatments, of the citizens and children of Hawaii.

This is an intrusion on religious freedom & parental rights.

In light of how traditional Hawaiian cultural practices (and spiritual practices) have historically been suppressed, if not snuffed out, resulting in emotional suffering and degradation of native communities, the government should be exponentially more sensitive to repeating it again.

This bill unfairly targets individuals and communities who hold religious beliefs that differ from state mandates. The state should not be dictating medical decision of the parents. This is akin to what happens in communist societies.

Removing religious exemptions disproportionately affects faith-based communities and restricts their ability to live in accordance with their values.

I urge lawmakers to vote NO on HB1118 and respect the rights of families to make informed health decisions in alignment with their faith and holistic health beliefs.

Sarah Smith

Kauai

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:23:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

US citizens have rights as to what we put in our body because it is the temple of God. The chemicals used in vaccines affect us in so many ways. Like the Covid vax which i didn't get and talked to over 10 people who took it and now have heart problems. Protect our keiki and Hawaii people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:24:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronwyn Leslie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident and a parent of a child enrolled in school on the island of Hawaii I strongly oppose HB1118. All medical care choices ethically and by international law must be made with informed consent free of coercion. Denying education for one's religious beliefs is the definition of coercion and is fundamentally unconstitutional.

Furthermore the financial effects on communities, children and our public school system will be devastating. Families will either move to other states that respect religious freedom or teach children at home, requiring a parent to exit the workforce. Lowered ADA will impact teachers, students and support services.

The financial impact will be severe and unfair to the good people of our state. Please vote NO

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:24:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Patterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. School will lose its funding because more children will be taken out of school because of this. Enrollment rates will drop and you'll lose funding. In addition Trump just signed a bill making it illegal to do this. In addition it is unconstitutional to infringe upon our religious freedom and our freedom to choose. This is not a righteous or PONO representation of the people of Hawaii and you were elected Gov Green to represent the people of Hawaii, this is NOT what we voted for.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:25:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LEIHAAHEO DIAS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. What we put into our bodies and our children's bodies should be our choice / choice of the parent. Vaccination status should not impede upon freedom of movement and access to public services. As we saw with the Covid vaccine... it neither prevented contraction nor the spread of Covid. What makes other immunizations any different? Unvaccinated keiki are not a threat to public health, and it is a God-given (and constitutional) right to adhere to our religious convictions without restriction or punishment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:25:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I writing today to state my strong **OPPOSITION** to Bill HB1118.

I am an authentic Church going Christian with deeply held religious objections to vaccines. Please know that I and many others with sincere religious beliefs are not all anti vaccine as is widely and falsely believed. We object to vaccines that are produced using human fetal cell lines developed from aborted babies. This presents a very serious moral issue and violates God's law.

Exodus 20:13 *Thou shalt not kill.*

Matthew 5:21 *"You have heard that it was said to the people long ago, 'You shall not murder,[a] and anyone who murders will be subject to judgment.'*

Proverbs 6:16-19 *There are six things the Lord hates, seven that are detestable to him: 17 haughty eyes, a lying tongue, **hands that shed innocent blood**, 18 a heart that devises wicked schemes, feet that are quick to rush into evil, 19 a false witness who pours out lies and a person who stirs up conflict in the community.*

By allowing such vaccines to be injected into our bodies makes us complicit in abortion, the taking of innocent lives for which we are to be held accountable. There is always a consequence.

Ezekiel 35:6 *therefore as surely as I live, declares the Sovereign Lord, I will give you over to bloodshed and it will pursue you. Since you did not hate bloodshed, bloodshed will pursue you.*

Additionally, vaccines contain potentially harmful toxic substances and animal cells which contaminate our bodies. While most people can handle the small amount of toxins and live viruses in vaccines, some peoples bodies are overwhelmed due to underlying, undiagnosed genetic, metabolic or immune vulnerability, and become vaccine injured or die. The Bible teaches us that the body is created in the image of God, the temple of the Holy Spirit which is sacred space.

1 Corinthians 6 19-20 *Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.*

We are not permitted in the Bible to treat the body in a way that we believe will harm it. There are religious people who avoid blood products or products from certain animals that are considered unclean in the Levitical law that are found in vaccines.

Another huge issue is the deception of pharmaceutical companies and many doctors, scientists and politicians receiving funding from them resulting in a conflict of interest and displaying contempt and disregard for religious people who hold different beliefs and perspectives. If pharmaceutical companies were held accountable and encouraged to produce ethical vaccines, far more people would be willing to take them. It is not the government's place to impose health care decisions on people of various religions. Forcing people to be injected with vaccines with dubious ingredients and vaccines that are produced using cell lines developed from aborted babies containing DNA contaminants is tyrannical, morally reprehensible and a duty to God to avoid it. Coercing people into vaccination in order for children to attend school is a violation and assault on religious and bodily freedom and infringes upon parental rights. It causes division and social inequality which is a dangerous precedent. Informed consent is a core principle of medical ethics which this bill completely undermines. It is not the government's place to impose health care decisions on people. That is medical rape.

HB1118 violates the rights and traditions of people of various religions including the spiritual and cultural beliefs of Native Hawaiians who deeply value natural healing. The committee should protect the rights of Native Hawaiians under Hawai'i's state constitution. It will cause great hardship for many people who will be forced to homeschool or leave the state which will impact schools and other aspects of society in Hawaii. I, and many others will never abandon our faith.

Opting out of vaccinations that violate deeply held religious beliefs is an essential principle of religious liberty raising First Amendment concerns. I believe in separation of state and religion as defined in the First Amendment to the Constitution. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

I implore you to consider alternative options that create a respectful balance between public health and personal freedoms. Please say NO to HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:26:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chase Alcott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away the freedom of protecting my children. I am responsible for everything concerning my minor children: emotionally, physically, spiritually and mentally.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:27:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adele Tripp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My child's body my choice!! It's not about religious beliefs, it's my choice to opt out of all vaccinations due to my personal belief.

we learned a lot from Dr Fauci of what not to do and make irrational decisions.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:28:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keala Snyder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB 1118 and making it mandatory for ALL children to take required vaccines to enter school. How can you take away a parents right for religious exemption? What is even the reason for this? Has there been an issue with children who are not vaccinated causing any serious issues in school? This is a violation of parent's constitutional rights. It is an over reach. I do not believe the government should have the ultimate say in something that involves the health of our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:28:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Napihaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY APPOSE THIS BILL AND IT SHOULD NEVER COME UP FOR
DISCUSSION EVER AGAIN!!! PEOPLE HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOSE THE HEALTH
OVER THEIR BODIES AND THAT OF THEIR CHILDREN.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:30:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alina Akbasheva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly OPPOSE HB1118!!! Vaccination is not a safe procedure. There are many side effects including death! It should not be force on anyone, especially our keiki.

Submitted by: Renee Dieperink

Regarding bill #: HB1118 to remove non-medical vaccine exemptions

Testifier position: **OPPOSE**

Source: <https://cogforlife.org/> (useful charts tab)



Updated: 1/14/2025

Abortion-Tainted Vaccines for US and Canada

<i>DISEASE</i>	PRODUCT NAME	MANUFACTURER	FETAL CELL LINE
ACUTE RESPIRATORY	Adenovirus 4, 7 Oral	Barr Labs	WI-38, HEK-293
CHICKENPOX	All Varivax, Varilrix	Merck, GSK	WI-38, MRC-5
COVID-19	See here.	Moderna, Pfizer, J&J, AstraZeneca	HEK-293, PER.C6
EBOLA	Advac, VSV-EBOV	J&J/Cruc, BioProt	HEK-293, PER.C6
HEPATITIS A	Vaqta, Havrix, Avaxim, Epaxal	Merck, GSK, Sanofi, Berna	MRC-5
HEPATITIS A&B, HEPATITIS A&TYPHOID	Twinrix, Vivaxim	GSK, Sanofi	MRC-5
INFECTION PREVENTION	G-CSF	Octapharma	HEK-293
MEASLES, MUMPS, RUBELLA	MMR, Priorix	Merck, GSK	RA273, WI-38, MRC-5
MEASLES-RUBELLA	NR Vax, Eolarix	Merck, GSK	RA273, WI-38, MRC-5
MUMPS-RUBELLA	Biavax II	Merck	RA273, WI-38
RSV	Arexvy, Abryvso, mResvia	GSK, Pfizer, Moderna	HEK-293, Expi293F
RUBELLA	Meruvax II	Merck	RA273, WI-38
MMR+CHICKENPOX	ProQuad/MMR-V, Priorix Tetra	Merck, GSK	RA273, WI-38, MRC-5
RABIES	Imovax	Sanofi	MRC-5
SHINGLES	Zostavax	Merck	WI-38, MRC-5
SMALLPOX	Acambis 1000	Acambis	MRC-5

Source: <https://cogforlife.org/> (useful charts tab)



Children of God for Life is the pro-life worldwide leader in the campaign for ethical biomedical research and commerce that preserves the dignity of human life.

Most Common Fetal Cell Lines and Their Uses (Chronologically Ordered)

CELL LINE	YEAR	AGE	GENDER	CELL TYPE	HISTORY AND USES
WI-38	1962	12 weeks	female	fetal lung	Specimen No. 38, 32nd abortion, in Sweden. Shipped to Leonard Hayflick, Wistar Institute, Philadelphia. Used to culture RA273 for rubella and MMR vaccines and study lifetime of <i>in vitro</i> cell lines. ^{1,2}
WI-44	~1963	12 weeks	female	fetal lung	Specimen No. 44, 38th abortion, in Sweden. Shipped to Leonard Hayflick, Wistar Institute, Philadelphia. Used along with WI-26 and 38 to study lifetime of <i>in vitro</i> cell lines. ³
RA273	1964	6 weeks	unknown	fetal kidney	R=rubella, A=abortion, 27=27th baby, 3=3rd tissue. Rubella virus obtained from aborted fetus kidney used in Rubella and MMR vaccines. At least 99 abortions to create the rubella vaccine alone. ⁴
MRC-5	1966	14 weeks	male	fetal lung	Medical Research Council, abortion #5. Baby aborted for psychiatric reason, 27-year-old physically healthy woman. Used in (some) Polio, Rabies, Chickenpox, Hepatitis-A, Zostavax for shingles vaccines. ⁵
HEK-293	~1972	unknown	female?	fetal kidney	Human Embryonic Kidney, specimen #293, abortion in the Netherlands. Used for basic research. Used widely in pharmaceutical research, development, and production, especially in vaccines. ⁶
IMR-90	1975	16 weeks	female	fetal lung	Designer cell line to replace WI-38. Gestational age determined by fetal weight, shoulder to rump length of 7 cm. "... no apparent physical abnormalities." Abortion in US; Coriell Cell Repository. ^{7,8}
Lambda.hE1	~1980	second trimester	unknown	fetal liver	Abortion in US. Liver tissue from a second-trimester Caucasian fetus aborted for psychosocial indications, no obvious abnormalities. Used in Procrit, Epoetin α, Epogen, Aranesp, Darbepoetin alfa. ⁹
IMR-91	~1982	12 weeks	male	fetal lung	Designer cell line to replace MRC-5. Obtained after a abortion by hysterectomy at the time of sterilization on a 41-yr-old white female who was also a "one pack-a-day cigarette smoker." ^{10,11}
PER-C6	1985 1995	16-18 weeks	unknown	fetal retinal	Designed for the pharmaceutical industry, especially vaccines. Cells were frozen in 1985, thawed in 1995. Abortion in the Netherlands, "mother wanted to get rid of the fetus, father unknown." ¹²
WALVAX-2	2015	12 weeks	female	fetal lung	Designed to replace depleting supply of WI-38 and MRC-5. Abortion in China, 9th abortion, due to presence of a uterine scar from a previous cesarean birth by a 27-year-old healthy woman. ¹³

Pharma and government are not my God!

Parents call the shots!

Enforce Informed Consent (that includes the right to refuse!)

Removing the religious exemption = an indirect vax mandate

This bill is in essence not about vaccines but about our constitutionally protected first amendment rights to exercise our sincerely held religious beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:34:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hello my name is Ryan and I'm testifying my concerns with 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

I do not consent my kids on being required to take vaccines just to go to school to learn. Do us adults need to have a mandatory vaccinations for a job besides the fields that deal with viruses. Our keikis doesn't deserve to be treated like lab rats and to have about 72 shots before adulthood is mind boggling. I think my son is already showing signs of having some type of condition after take 3 shots at once, hasn't been the same child ever since.

BIG NO to passing this HB1118 bill.

Sincerely Ryan Agustin from Kaneohe

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:36:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gloria Wahinepio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My body, my choice. Medical tyranny is unacceptable. Please do not overstep. Represent Hawaii with the same spirit of aloha that you have represented in obtaining your job.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:36:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Shimokawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Representatives,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB 1118 that seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements in schools. As a concerned pediatrician, I believe that this measure is a critical step toward safeguarding public health and ensuring the safety and well-being of all students, teachers, and their families.

Vaccines are among the most effective tools we have to prevent the spread of infectious diseases. Diseases like measles, mumps, and whooping cough—once nearly eradicated—are making a troubling comeback in communities where vaccine coverage is not robust enough. These preventable diseases can be especially dangerous for vulnerable individuals, including young children, the elderly, and those with weakened immune systems. When a significant number of people opt out of vaccinations, it creates gaps in herd immunity, making it easier for diseases to spread and put everyone at risk.

Removing non-medical exemptions for vaccination in schools ensures that children who are not yet old enough to be vaccinated, as well as those who are medically unable to receive vaccines, will be protected. By mandating vaccinations for all students unless medically contraindicated, we create an environment where the collective health of the community is prioritized, and the risk of outbreaks is minimized.

The science is clear: vaccines are safe and effective. The overwhelming consensus of health experts—including the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the World Health Organization (WHO), and numerous other public health organizations—is that vaccines are critical to preventing disease outbreaks and maintaining public health. Non-medical exemptions contribute to lower vaccination rates, leaving children and families more vulnerable to preventable diseases.

It is important to recognize that the decision to opt-out of vaccinations based on non-medical reasons does not just affect the individual child, but the broader community. When unvaccinated children attend school, they put those who cannot be vaccinated—such as children with serious allergies, immune system disorders, or medical conditions—at greater risk of contracting these diseases.

By removing non-medical exemptions, we will foster safer educational environments where all children can learn without the added risk of preventable illness. This policy will bring our community closer to achieving higher levels of immunization, which will help us protect future generations from outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases.

I urge you to support this important bill and work to ensure that the health and safety of our children, teachers, and communities come first. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Malia Shimokawa, MD

Pearl City Medical Associates

Pediatrics

Aiea, HI

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:38:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darshana Lane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:43:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Telly Davenport	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Telly Davenport, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a parent I reserve my rights to make decisions for my children! This is unconstitutional and UN-American. Strongly opposed to this bill.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:44:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerome Mansinon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this crazy Bill. Who in their right mind would go against our constitution. If this Bill passes I will Home school all my grandchildren!. I vote HELL NO TO THIS HD1118.

I oppose

I oppose

I oppose

I oppose

I oppose

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:44:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Dearing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am opposed to bill HB1118 because it forces parents to give their children vaccines that they don't want to give them because there are all kinds of problems with the vaccines. Too many children are dying or having other complications with the vaccines. No one should be forced to do something against what their conscious tells them.

Thank you,

Donna Dearing

Pahoa, HI 96778

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:45:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colette walker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing in OPPOSITION of removing the religious exemption for vaccinations. Many of the vaccines on the childhood schedule contain MRC-5 (a diploid Human cell culture line composed of fibroblasts derived from lung tissue of a 14 week gestation aborted healthy Caucasian male fetus and WI-38 (a diploid human cell line composed of fibroblasts derived from the lung tissue of a 3 month gestation aborted healthy female fetus).

Many who support this bill will argue that these ingredients are only from two abortions from many years ago. Well that is true however it's important to note that there are HUNDREDS of healthy babies aborted and used in the DEVELOPMENT of vaccinations. Please check out the deposition of the famous vaccinologist Dr. Stanley Plotkin by lawyer Aaron Siri. The deposition is on YouTube. Dr Plotkin admits that in just ONE study there were 76 aborted babies who were healthy and 3 months or more along in their gestation. Many religious people do NOT agree with abortion. The United States of America's constitution respects religious beliefs.

There are MANY reasons a family might choose not to vaccinate but today you must look at the religious exemption. We MUST have medical freedom in this country! Every individual has a right to decide what pharmaceutical drugs they do or do not inject into their body. We MUST respect religious freedom.

Thank you so much for your time. I pray you make the right decision in opposition to this bill and in support of religious freedom.

Best,

Colette Walker

To: JHA Committee

Opposition to HB1118 relating to Exemptions for Immunization. Eliminating Religious exemptions.

I request the ability to present the following testimony, in person, to the committee on 2/21/25.

Ten reasons to KILL this bill:

1. This bill is deeply and extremely offensive and disrespectful to myself, my wife, my family and my friends and sows' division in our State of Hawaii.
2. This bill violates the First Amendment of our US Constitution....."shall make no law.....restricting the free exercise of religion..."
3. This bill is anti-Muslim, anti-Buddhist, anti-Shinto, anti-Hindu, anti-Mormon, anti-Jewish, anti-Catholic, and anti-Christian. Are you against these religions?
4. My body is the home of the Holy Spirit, and this bill would reject our right to keep it clean and holy.
5. This bill destroys my freedom of choice to evaluate the science, safety and ingredients of each individual vaccine and timing.
6. This bill will force myself, wife and children to take a vaccine which contains ingredients against our deeply held religious beliefs and religious health requirements.
7. This bill ignores the fact that many vaccines have not been fully tested nor effectively proven.
8. This bill will result in the defunding of our Hawaii education system by the Federal Government per the recent announcement of the Trump administration. (Executive order Defunding educational systems that require vaccinations.)
9. This bill takes away parental rights and further erodes the family, placing more control in the Government in place of the family.
10. This bill ignores and fails to acknowledge the reported young men's deaths due to cardiomyopathy after receiving the covid 19 vaccinations and the high percentage and severe uptick in deaths due to secondary causes as revealed by the CEO of One America life company, suspiciously coinciding to the time of large group covid 19 vaccines.

Submitted,
Cam Cavasso.
Former State Representative.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:50:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Laupola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for this opportunity to submit my testimony.

My name is Christine Laupola. I am a mother of 2 and I also work for the Department of Education. I oppose HB 1118 HD1 Government should not be involved in making this decision. I believe it is the parents/guardians freedom to decide. HB 1118 HD1 takes away that freedom and forces the parent to make a decision against their belief. Children deserve the right to an education regardless of the vaccination status. Government using the children as leverage to get their way is completely wrong. I ask that you consider the repercussions that this decision will have not only in our schools but in our families and for future generations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:50:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Arizo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this testimony because it doesn't align with all parents right, values and belief systems. It should be up to the parent to make that decision and if they don't agree with the vaccinations then the kid is now penalized because of this barrier.

Aloha,

Concerned Parent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:53:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Kamelamela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony today. I come before you as a concerned parent and citizen who deeply values both public health and the fundamental rights guaranteed by our Constitution—particularly the freedom of religion.

While I understand and respect the role that vaccinations play in preventing disease, I firmly believe that no family should be forced to choose between adhering to their religious convictions and accessing education or public services. The right to practice one’s faith without coercion is a cornerstone of our democracy. For many families, vaccine mandates conflict with sincerely held religious beliefs regarding bodily autonomy, purity, or the use of certain ingredients derived in ways that contradict their faith.

A government that compels medical procedures against a person’s religious beliefs undermines the very freedoms it is sworn to protect. These exemptions are not taken lightly by parents; they represent deeply rooted convictions. To deny them is to deny a family’s right to raise their children in accordance with their faith.

Moreover, there is no one-size-fits-all approach to health. Parents, in consultation with trusted healthcare providers, are best positioned to make medical decisions for their children. Respecting religious exemptions does not mean ignoring public health—it means upholding the principles of liberty and diversity upon which this nation was built.

I urge you to protect religious freedom by allowing exemptions for families whose beliefs do not align with mandatory vaccination policies. Our society is strongest when it safeguards both health and freedom, not when it sacrifices one for the other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:53:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa eveland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 16 month year old and I oppose this bill. A bill that eliminates religious exemptions for vaccinations in order for children to attend public school raises significant concerns about personal and religious freedoms. While public health is undeniably important, such a policy could infringe upon deeply held religious beliefs and parental rights.

The United States has a long-standing tradition of respecting religious liberty, and forcing families to choose between their faith and access to public education sets a troubling precedent. Parents who sincerely believe that certain vaccines conflict with their religious convictions should not be coerced into violating their beliefs in order to provide their children with an education.

Furthermore, removing religious exemptions may disproportionately affect certain communities, leading to potential discrimination against religious minorities. It could also push families toward homeschooling or private education, further stratifying the education system and reducing diversity in public schools.

Instead of removing religious exemptions entirely, a more balanced approach could involve education, outreach, and dialogue to address vaccine concerns while still respecting individual rights. Public health policy should be about building trust and cooperation rather than imposing one-size-fits-all mandates that disregard religious and personal beliefs.

The job of the parent is to make the decision not the governments.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:53:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Yokomori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a parent. I strongly oppose this bill - not because I oppose vaccinations, but because I oppose taking away parental choice in this matter.

Parents should be allowed to make their own choice to request an EXEMPTION from required vaccinations for their children - based on their religious beliefs.

Please allow parents to be the parents - not the state or government officials who are trying to pass laws making decisions for children who are not their own!

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:54:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leighan Funakoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to H.B. No. 1118. While I understand the intent behind this bill to increase vaccination rates, I am deeply concerned about its potential impact on personal freedoms and individual rights.

As someone who cares about public health and believes in the importance of vaccines, I do not take this issue lightly. However, I believe that parents and individuals should have the right to make informed decisions based on their personal beliefs, experiences, and values. This bill would strip away non-medical exemptions, essentially forcing families to comply with a one-size-fits-all policy, regardless of their own convictions or concerns. It feels like an overreach of government power and a violation of personal autonomy.

Many individuals, including parents, seek non-medical exemptions due to sincere religious or personal reasons. Forcing people into a position where they must either comply with government mandates or risk their children's education is an unjust choice to impose. People's decisions about healthcare should be made by them and their doctors—not dictated solely by the state.

Moreover, I worry about the divisiveness this bill could cause. If it's passed, it may create unnecessary tensions between the government and families, and even among people with differing views on vaccines. Respecting individual choices, even when they differ from the majority, is crucial to maintaining a healthy and trusting society.

In conclusion, while I understand the public health goals behind H.B. No. 1118, I urge you to reconsider the approach. Personal autonomy, parental rights, and the ability to make informed choices should not be compromised.

Sincerely,

Leighan Funakoshi

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:54:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It violates our rights as tax paying law abiding citizens. We the people have spoken, Look at the numbers! We have said we OPPOSE HB1118 and it still passed. This can only mean one thing-there is a hidden agenda. Politicians are disguising this violation of our rights as care or concern. The only care or concern we can see as constituents are care for lining pockets and illegal back door deals. You crooked politicians have gotten way too comfortable ripping the citizens of Hawaii off, and it has to end! I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 along with the majority of Hawaii's citizens.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:55:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystale Cayaban	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. I will be testifying in person on Friday.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:58:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaori Yoshioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People need a choice!

if you want to give a vaccine you can but if someone doesn't want to receive vaccine that's fine!
we need a choice!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:58:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Layson Hoewaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. Allow parents to decide if their children should be vaccinated or not.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 12:59:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Propst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. If I was forced to go against my personal and deep seated religious beliefs during COVID I would have lost my job. As so many others had. As an American it is MY right not the governments right to dictate what I chose to put in my body. It is my right in this free country to choose for my children and family as well. It is NOT josh greens or any government body to make that choice for me. I will quote every pro-choice, pro-abortion person "my body, my choice". It applies to any aspect in life. There is no double standard for abortion rights vs vaccine rights.

The American government was established to be "FOR the people, BY the people" not the for the government by the government. The government has no right to make my personal choices for me. Again I strongly oppose this bill. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:00:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hong Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed this bill. Our kid's right to public education and our family's right to exercise religious belief is important. We do not inject anything that is made of using aborted fetal cell and therefore we refuse to receive vaccinations. We will keep our kids at home if there is an outbreak. We will get a letter from our church to prove our religious belief if needed. There are ways in which the state can keep students healthy WITHOUT abolishing religious freedom, which would destroy diversity and respect that is in Aloha spirit.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:00:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO
IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:02:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Aea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to oppose HB-1118.

Religious exemptions are necessary. Citizens with deeply held personal religious beliefs should not be forced to violate their bodies and go against principles laid out in their religion. The most stringent standard is that the government should not require people to violate their conscience or religion without a compelling reason.

In the State of Hawai'i, there are currently only 5.3% of all students utilizing the religious exemption. If 94.7% of students are currently fully vaccinated, this rate is HIGH ENOUGH. The current provisions of the religious exemption state that students must remain at home in the event of an outbreak. When was the last time this has happened? As studies have shown, no vaccine is 100% effective, meaning that there is no compelling reason.

According to the Public Health Policy Journal, "Hawaii's proposed legislation is a national outlier, as public opinion on exemptions has become more favorable in recent years". This is truly a regressive vaccination policy as we have seen more states reverse course and allow religious exemptions. I believe if this bill passes, we will see more parents remove their children from schools, resulting in a huge drop in enrollment. With numbers already declining due to fewer births and outward migration, is that what Gov. Josh Green really wants to see? Let's keep our religious exemptions and allow children to have the public education they have a right to receive.

Personally, I believe it is a God-given responsibility and requirement for me to protect the physical integrity of my body against unclean injections. Vaccines violate the sanctity of blood and life. I believe in and follow God and the principles laid out in His Word and I have a deeply held belief that vaccines violate them. Taking vaccines would betray my trust and faith in God. When I pray, I listen for promptings from the Holy Spirit. To ignore His voice and commands would be to commit sin. Requiring vaccines for my children to attend school is requiring me to act in direct opposition to my sincerely held religious beliefs.

I urge you to please oppose this bill, for Hawai'i's current families as well as future families. We should all be able to exercise our religious freedoms.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:03:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaina Freels	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a new mother of a delightful 1 year old, I can attest firsthand that I desire and seek what is best for my child, and all children. I humbly hope to nurture in him a respect for humanity, the courage to think freely, and the curiosity to seek the Lord. I want him to grow up in a country where he has the freedom to follow his religious convictions insofar as they respect the rights of others, and the freedom to choose what to put in his body, rather than the state making those decisions for him.

Regardless of your personal views and decisions on immunizations, it is hard to deny that this bill is an attack on both freedom of religion, which includes the freedom to make decisions for the health of our families based on our individual beliefs and needs.

We must first ask, why this bill, why now? There is no need nor grounds for this bill. There has never been a large-scale, placebo controlled study that proves vaccines are safe. In fact, the CDC has historically refused to conduct such a study, not even a historical comparison of health outcomes of the children who are vaccinated against those who are not, despite them having access to that data. Thankfully, this lack of solid research is being brought to public attention in recent months.

Religious freedom, and the right to make our own choices for what we believe is best for our families, forms the backbone of this country. Freedom is a rare gift worth protecting. This freedom allows us to form a beautiful, diverse nation. If this bill passes we are handing over a freedom that should be reserved for the discretion of families into the hands of the state, and historically that loss of freedom has never been for the ultimate good of people in a society.

Please oppose this bill for the sake of protecting our first amendment right to the freedom of religion, and the freedom for families to choose what they believe is best for those they love.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:05:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Pease	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to make vaccinations mandatory for children. While I fully support the right of families to make informed healthcare decisions, I believe this bill undermines parental rights, personal choice, and medical freedom.

First and foremost, HB1118 disregards the fundamental rights of parents to make medical decisions that align with their child's unique health history and needs. Every child is different, and a one-size-fits-all vaccination policy does not account for medical, religious, or personal concerns. Parents, in consultation with trusted healthcare providers, should have the final say in what is best for their children.

Additionally, there are legitimate concerns regarding vaccine side effects and potential adverse reactions. The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has documented cases of severe reactions, and while these may be rare, the risks should not be dismissed. Medical mandates remove informed consent and erode trust between families and healthcare providers.

Furthermore, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent by expanding government overreach into personal medical decisions. If the government can mandate vaccines, what prevents it from mandating other medical interventions without individual consent? Protecting medical freedom is essential to preserving the rights and liberties of all citizens.

I urge you to respect the rights of parents to make informed medical decisions for their children. Public health policies should be built on education and choice, not coercion and force.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:06:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Borge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe in full medical autonomy and strongly oppose HB 1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:06:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roberto Viernes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I am writing to you to encourage you to oppose HB1118. This bill would limit the freedoms of individuals and parents from being able to decide what is best for their own children. I know that many of you have your own children and that you want what is best for them. And each of us should have the freedom to be able to decide that for them. This bill would effectively take away the freedom of choice for individuals and parents in taking care of their children and placing that honor and decision making in the hands of the government. Please look deep into your hearts and decide against this bill as we want our ohanas and community to be able to live in freedom and prosper. Thank you for your time.

Sincerely

Roberto Viernes

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:07:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Myron Phillip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

More than my views on whether I am pro/anti vax, I oppose this bill simply because it is an infringement on my constitutional rights as a proud American citizen. I love my country, and this bill opposes what America stands for. It is anti-American and works against the parent who should be exercising their rights and sole responsibility over their child; to provide for them, to protect them, and to raise them in the way they should go. But being enforced, or even coerced by the government in order to get an education is beyond the government's proper limits. This should not be supported by anyone who pledges allegiance to The Star Spangled Banner.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:08:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shalei Hardy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because this takes away our rights as parent's to care for our children the way we see fit!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:08:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is ___Bridget_____ from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:08:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is _____Joe Abell_____ from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:09:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Sebala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree on this bill ! We have rights for our children !

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:09:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1 and believe it is not in the best interest of the people.
- Seriously, why would you promote such restrictiveness, costs and stress?
- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.
- This bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?
- The **Department of Education has valid and serious concerns** yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:11:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rylan Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to free exercise of religion. By removing religious exemptions for vaccinations and school attendance, this bill would effectively force individuals to choose between their religious beliefs and their children's education. This violates the fundamental right to practice religion without government interference.

While vaccines are a vital public health tool, there is little evidence that removing religious exemptions would significantly improve public health outcomes. Public health campaigns, education, and open dialogue can help address vaccine hesitancy without resorting to mandates that infringe on religious freedoms. I strongly OPPOSE HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:12:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Kanakanui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I testify against bill HB 1118 because it should not be required for kids to get a vaccine . Getting vaccinated belongs happening at a hospital or doctors office , at the proper place . Not in schools . That's not the schools job . That's the pediatricians job and parents job to make sure the kids are vaccinated . That's why schools ask for immunization records when you register your kids . I understand not all kids are vaccinated . But again , that's up to the parent . It's not the schools job to make sure the kids are vaccinated . It should not be required . All kids need their education . But not all kids needa be vaccinated . That'll be REAL DUMB if a child cannot go to school because they're not vaccinated . Homeschooling is expensive , '&&& not everyone will be able to afford it , or be able to get it done , especially single parents that have to work . That have no help wid their child . Are you really gonna take away these kids education over a vaccination that should be up to the parents and kids doctors ? ! KIDS NOW WERE TALKING ABOUT . KIDS . THAT STILL NEED TO LEARN . THAT HAVE A WHOLE LIFE AHEAD OF THEM !! These kids won't be able to have a future with this vaccination being required . Is that what we want for our future generation ? !

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:12:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nancy wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Nancy A Wood, am adamantly opposed to HB1118 requiring mandatory vaccinations for school attendance in the state of Hawaii. It is unconstitutional and unethical. My children were not vaccinated and neither are five of my seven grandchildren. I watched my friends perfectly healthy baby suffer seizures and nearly die, the night of his first vaccination. He suffered braindamage and lived until the age of 18 on dilantin and still having uncontrollable seizures. I have, since that day opposed vaccines. I have studied the adverse effects of vaccinations for 45 years. I respect every human's right to the protection of their bodily autonomy. I respect every cultural and religious reason to NOT fall prey to big pharma and the money earned at every level. I stand with the testimony I watched as the overwhelming majority of the testimony has been against HB1118 but still passed without second thought and with minor insufficient ammendments. I am shocked at the lack of concern and lack of education on the dangers of vaccines shown by the members who back this bill. It is unconstitutional as pointed out by many of the testimonies I witnessed on zoom. How can you have just blindly passed this with so many of your constituents adamantly opposed? this seems illegal. I will not vote in your favor again! Many will not. Many children will go without schooling due to this mandate. I am adamantly opposed to HB1118. Nancy A Wood.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:12:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Schilling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any policy that mandates vaccinations for children without honoring religious exemptions. While I recognize the important role vaccinations play in promoting public health, I believe that forcing medical procedures on children when it violates sincerely held religious beliefs undermines fundamental rights and freedoms.

Religious freedom is a core principle of our society. For many families, objections to certain vaccines stem from deeply held spiritual convictions concerning bodily autonomy, purity, or the use of ingredients derived from sources that conflict with their faith. These beliefs are not superficial preferences; they represent essential aspects of a family's way of life and moral framework. Denying religious exemptions places these families in an impossible position—forcing them to choose between their convictions and their children's access to education and community resources.

Additionally, respecting religious exemptions does not equate to disregarding public health. Rather, it upholds the balance between individual rights and societal well-being. Parents, in partnership with healthcare providers, are best equipped to make medical decisions for their children. Public policy should recognize and respect this responsibility, especially when it intersects with matters of faith.

Policies that ignore religious exemptions risk eroding trust in public institutions and infringing on civil liberties. Our democracy is strongest when it defends both public health and the individual freedoms that define our diverse society.

I respectfully urge policymakers to protect the rights of families who seek religious exemptions to vaccination requirements. Doing so ensures that we maintain a society that values both health and freedom without compromising one for the other.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:12:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle Pease	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to mandate vaccinations for children. As a parent, I believe it is my fundamental right to make medical decisions for my children without government interference. This bill threatens parental rights, informed consent, and medical freedom—principles that should be protected, not undermined.

Parents know their children best and should be the ones deciding what medical interventions are appropriate for them. Vaccination decisions should be made in consultation with trusted healthcare providers, not dictated by government mandates. HB1118 removes this essential right, forcing families to comply with a blanket policy that does not consider individual medical histories, religious beliefs, or personal concerns.

Additionally, vaccines—like any medical treatment—carry risks. While many children tolerate them well, some experience adverse reactions, and parents should have the right to weigh these risks without coercion. The principle of informed consent must remain at the core of any medical decision, and HB1118 strips that away from parents.

Beyond the immediate concerns of this bill, I worry about the long-term implications of allowing the government to dictate personal health choices. Medical mandates set a dangerous precedent for government overreach and erode the freedoms that our country was built upon.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject HB1118 and uphold the rights of parents to make the best decisions for their children’s health. Public health initiatives should focus on education and access, not forced compliance.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:13:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Tyrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to free exercise of religion. By removing religious exemptions for vaccinations and school attendance, this bill would effectively force individuals to choose between their religious beliefs and their children's education. This violates the fundamental right to practice religion without government interference.

While vaccines are a vital public health tool, there is little evidence that removing religious exemptions would significantly improve public health outcomes. Public health campaigns, education, and open dialogue can help address vaccine hesitancy without resorting to mandates that infringe on religious freedoms. I strongly OPPOSE HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:13:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Lima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates our constitutional rights to freedom of religion and will cause a huge discrepancy for a large group of children that will no longer have access to education based upon their religion. Many of the immunizations have proven side effects and aren't proven to prevent transmission as well, so it is not right to force the children to be guinea pigs and take this many immunizations if it isn't actually proven it improves their health. Take the time to push better nutrition and physical and mental and social health in schools and get better food choices for the kids. Don't target a group of people based on religious beliefs and cut off their children's options for education. This is wrong and unconstitutional and we are not a socialist country. We have the right to choose what we do with our own bodies- not only for abortions as the Democratic Party would like to push- but for what we put into our bodies as well. Thank you for considering these things.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:15:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matt Coffman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to you as a seriously concerned citizen, parent, and defender of our constitutional rights.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 in its entirety—a bill that is a direct and blatant violation of our religious freedoms, parental rights, and fundamental American liberties.

HB1118 strips parents of the right to make medical decisions for their children based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. By removing religious exemptions for vaccinations in both public and private schools, this bill tramples on the First Amendment of the United States Constitution, which guarantees freedom of religion. It forces parents to choose between their faith and their children’s education, a decision no government should ever impose upon its citizens.

Religious exemptions have long been a cornerstone of our nation’s commitment to individual liberty. The government has no authority to coerce families into medical decisions that violate their conscience and faith. Forcing children to be injected with substances against their parents’ religious beliefs is nothing short of government overreach and medical tyranny. This is an unconstitutional mandate that must be stopped before it erodes the very freedoms that define our nation.

Furthermore, this bill does not stop at removing religious exemptions—it applies to both public and private schools, making it a direct attack on religious institutions and parental choice. If passed, this legislation will set a dangerous precedent, stripping away parental rights and handing them over to the state, undermining the very fabric of our democracy.

I urge you to stand for freedom, for parental rights, and for the Constitution by rejecting HB1118. This bill is not about public health—it is about government overreach, and it must be stopped.

Please fight for parents’ and children’s right to make their own medical decisions, including what gets injected into their bodies. This is a fundamental freedom that must be protected.

Matthew Coffman

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:15:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Tsuha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I oppose HB1118

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and religious freedoms. As a father, I believe that this could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education.

Hawaii has long respected families rights to make medical decisions based on personal beliefs. Removing this exemption would infringe on that freedom and create unnecessary barriers to education.

For these reasons, I oppose HB1118.

Thank you for your time and consideration!

Concerned parent,

Scott Tsuha

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:16:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mila Savini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in support of removing religious exemptions for vaccines. Although I respect everyone religious freedoms, I respect everyone right to a healthy and happy environment even more. The anti-vax movement is dangerous to our society, productivity, and well-being. Can you imagine what would happen when working class families have to take three weeks off work to care for a sick child? This would be a financial loss for the families during an already difficult economic environment. Not to mention, it would decrease the states productivity, give to a rise in medical expenses, and can have the potential to overwhelm our hospitals. What about the education sector? A few years ago, Kamaile Academy had to close down for three weeks due to a Mumps outbreak. Three weeks! That's three weeks of instructional time that students missed because a select few parents chose not to vaccinate their children. Either way I look at it, the benefits of this religious freedom do not outweigh the potential drawbacks. Additionally, I would like to point out that I don't want my own children to be exposed to anything that could risk their health and well-being.

Hawaii is small, has limited resources, and is extremely vulnerable when it comes to public health, as seen during COVID. I highly support this initiative and hope to see it go through.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:17:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tranquilino Gomez III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't want my children to have to get vaccinated

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:18:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul A. Nahulu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed to this testimony!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:19:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Saronο	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:20:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drew Elwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Blatant violation of the constitution and bodily autonomy. You all should be ashamed of yourselves for even proposing this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:20:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Tiralongo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I don't believe it is right to mandate people and in a way force them to put anything into their body. It should be a personal choice. I am not against vaccines but we have the right to choose what is best and right for our own bodies. It is a given fact that vaccines contain thimerosal which is made up of two different compounds containing mercury. Mercury is linked to all kinds of damage to the body but most especially when given to babies and small children. It is also known that with newer vaccines and updated vaccines they are more experimental then proven safe therefore I am not going to give them to my small child. The johnson johnson covid vaccine is an example of one of these experimental vaccines that have now been recalled. Me and my family refuse to be experiments of health care. As for my religion (Christianity) my belief to the Bible states that my body is a temple and I should honor my body. I don't believe injecting mercury, and heavy metals honors my daughters body or God, given the risk that she may be hypersensitive to the components in the vaccines which could interfere with Gods plan for her life. As well as My child ultimately belongs to God not the government, and God appoints and gives authority to her father to raise her and make weighted decisions for her until she is an adult. God does not give the government authority over my daughter. That being said I believe and feel that this bill being passed with interfere with the 1st amendment by interfering and making laws against my and my family's religion. As well as the 14th amendment giving me the right to make decisions over my daughters body

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:20:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Kruse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB 1118. I have chosen, as a parent, to vaccinate my child with some of these mandatory vaccinations; however this was a decision that was made after informed consent was provided by our healthcare provider. If this bill passes, this relationship between healthcare provider and patient/parent will become irrelevant as those decisions will now be made up by the government.

The parent (or caretaker) is responsible for their child. Period. What goes in and out of their child's body is also their responsibility. The parent is responsible when a child gets sick or hurt (by a vaccine for example). Unless the government or pharma companies are willing to take on that responsibility **and as long as a small risk of vaccine complications exist**, it should be left up to the parent to make these informed decisions for their family.

If this bill passes, I, along with thousands of other families will also need to seek other forms of education including homeschooling, perhaps providing Hawai'i's children with limited educational opportunities. Homeschooling would lead to financial hardship if one parent is unable to work and therefore forcing many families to move.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:21:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Purdy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawaii DOES NOT have the right to inflict it's ideology and bypass the parent to administer drugs to children without parental CONSENT! This is not a dictatorship, as with the right to CHOOSE, whether or not a women CHOOSES to have an abortion. It is the individuals right as a parent to CHOOSE whether or not we would like to administer drugs to our children. Especially since these vaccines have not been extensively, tested in human trials nor has anyone discussed its possible connection to the huge increases in autism spectrum disorders. The state is overstepping, this is an inherent right as an individual to choose for oneself.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:22:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kurt Ballao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118👎

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:23:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Genova	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

I strongly oppose HB 1118. I am not anti vaccine, however my children receive vaccines on an alternate schedule than the current CDC schedule.

I have a lot to comment on regarding my stance on vaccines however since this bill specifically relates to religious exemptions I will just speak to that.

My belief system does not support abortion, however several vaccines are made with cell line from aborted fetuses. The mothers of those aborted babies knew they would be used for the creation of vaccines and that people would benefit from their being killed in the womb. Some examples include varicella or chickenpox vaccine and COVID vaccine, among others. These specific vaccines do not align with my beliefs and the ability to strip that from me and my children is horrific.

again my kids do get vaccines but these are two they will not be getting, nor should they be forced to get to go to school and compromise their fundamental religious beliefs. It is horrendous and reprehensible to even be having to defend my right to a religious exemption.

please strongly consider people like myself who are faced with a serious moral dilemma.

I urge you all to make the right choice and oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:24:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Potts	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:31:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Chase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this unconstitutional bill. This infringes upon our basic human rights and is absolutely appalling. Taking away religious rights and our right to give our kids an education with everyone else because we're different causes undo stress and financial burden on parents and therefore damages the trust of government already lost on its so called people it represents. As native Hawaiians you are taking away our opportunity to learn more about our culture with Hawaiian Immersion Charter Schools that we will be disqualified from if this bill is approved. Mahalo for your time and supporting our right to our own beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:34:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlotte Cordes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save our children from harmful reactions from vaccination/poison forced upon our keikis for school requirement. As parents and grandparents we need to protect the kids from unknown factors entering our childrens bodies. I need to speak for them the innocent human beings forced to comply with the government mandating in order to receive an education. State of Hawaii law makers are wrong to submit such a grave incorrigible act of injustice and using the children as ginny pigs. Where is the proof of all safety measures taken to guarantee our children are safe from drugs forced into their bodies.

Why make us choose a life of worries, health fears and possible financial hardship?

Are you forcing our families opposing this to MOVE OUT OF STATE?

Where are the guarantees this drug will do all good for children with no harmful side affects? Possibly contracting AUTISM?.

Where's the proof to keep them safe???

PLEASE OPPOSE THIS BILL. SINCERELY, CHARLOTTE CORDES (808) 263-9626

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:36:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
N. Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

As a registered tax-paying voter I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118. Individuals have the God-given right to decide what drugs or vaccines go into their bodies. Stop trying to impose the government's will, now synonymous with Big Pharma, onto those who choose not to take any vaccine. Any legislator who supports this bill and similar bills, will be voted out of office. Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:37:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This is TOTALLY against our freedom! God, the father, God the Creator, gave us freedom of choice, you do not have the right to take that away from us!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:38:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This violates civil rights to mandate a vaccine when some of us our immunocomprised, have genetic mutations, religious beliefs, health risks, etc. vaccines can NOT be one size fits all because every person is different with different genetic code. This is unethical and unconstitutional. We the people demand our kids have free choice when going to school. Check the neurimburg code HELLO ILLEGAL BILL VERY ILLEGAL

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:39:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katie Farmer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support the government interfering and deciding what my children's medical needs are nor ignoring our religious rights. To withhold education from a child based on medical decisions is appalling. I plead with you to truly be a government of the people for the people and not a dictatorship removing rights against the people wishes. Clearly removing exemptions is not the will of the people and yet you continue to move it through committees. Honor your positions by not seeking to control the people but stand FOR the people.

Aloha & mahalo for your kind attention. I am very surprised & disturbed that this bill was even proposed: it is seriously unconstitutional. Furthermore, I myself am opposed to childhood vaccinations due to the serious increase in chronic illness among children due to the toxins in vaccines along with other sources. I've read the research, have you? You may have questions . . . & I have answers:

QUESTION 1: Do unvaccinated children pose a health risk to others, especially immunocompromised children?

ANSWER: No. The vaccination status of other children does not pose a significant risk to your children, even those who are immunocompromised. No study has ever shown that an unvaccinated child puts another child at risk. On the contrary, a 2014 [NVIC \(National Vaccine Information Center\) report](#) documents how a vaccinated child can shed a live virus for up to 7 weeks after injection, depending upon the vaccine given, and therefore poses more of a threat of spreading the disease.

[Physicians for Informed Consent](#) has a great fact sheet about vaccines on their website. In addition, you may want to read an article written by Jean Ghanous, the mother of a child with leukemia, at [Thinking Mom's Revolution](#). What she has to say about this subject is right on.

QUESTION 2: Are vaccines safe? Haven't they been thoroughly tested?

ANSWER: No. In fact, all you need to do to find the answer to this question is to read the package insert for any vaccine. These inserts plainly state that the great majority of, if not all, vaccines contain ingredients known to be extremely toxic, including mercury, aluminum, sorbitol, and others. In animal studies, these ingredients have been shown to cause developmental delays; adverse neurologic events and disorders, such as motor weakness and slowing; and a host of other ill effects. You can find package insert information for many commonly given vaccines at [VaccineSafety.org](#).

QUESTION 3: Have vaccines saved millions of lives?

ANSWER: No. In fact, according to historical records, 90 percent of the decline in disease mortality occurred before the introduction of vaccines. The most important factors contributing to the steep decline of diseases such as polio, measles, diphtheria, and typhoid in the late 19th and early 20th centuries were better nutrition, less crowding, better sanitation, and cleaner water. To learn the history and facts related to the decline of these diseases and their mortality rates, check out [LearnTheRisk.org](#).

QUESTION 4: Are Vaccines 100% effective?

ANSWER: Unfortunately, no. It has been well documented in countless cases that diseases such as measles, mumps, and whooping cough (pertussis) occur in fully vaccinated populations.

Vaccinations by no means guarantee a child will not contract the virus or bacteria the vaccine is supposed to protect against.

There are many examples of this:

Measles outbreaks occur regularly in fully vaccinated populations. The reasons for this are: (a) Vaccine-conferred immunity wanes over time. And contrary to what you have been told, a third, or booster, dose of the vaccine has not been shown to increase immunity. (b) Some people don't respond to the vaccine at all despite multiple shots. In fact, it is estimated that nearly 50% of schoolchildren and most adults vaccinated with two doses of the MMR vaccine can still be infected with the measles virus and spread it to others, even with mild or no symptoms of their own.

China is a perfect example of this. For the last decade, China has had a countrywide vaccination coverage above 95% (the threshold for measles elimination). Yet, measles continues to cause large epidemics. One study shows that despite a measles vaccination rate of more than 97 percent, more than one-quarter of vaccinated children in Tianjin, China, became infected with measles. School systems also see similar outbreaks. Two school systems in Texas—one in Houston and one in Corpus Christi—are prime examples of outbreaks among the fully vaccinated.

In addition, we are now seeing generations of children born to vaccinated mothers. These children lack transplacental immunity—in other words, disease immunity is not passed from the mother to the child, unlike with previous generations, because the vaccinated mother does not have the natural immunity. So, rather than eradicating diseases such as measles and creating healthier children who could fight off a measles infection if they were to acquire it, vaccines are creating generations of children who become sicker from these infections than in the past due to an altered host immune response, and we are likely to see higher death rates as well.

In fact, the side effects of the MMR vaccine are worse than getting the measles. For example, data shows that seizures are 5 times more likely to occur in children who have received the MMR vaccine than in children who contract the measles.

Conversely, naturally acquired measles infections are associated with a reduced risk of Hodgkin's and non-Hodgkin's lymphomas, as well as a reduced risk of atopic diseases such as hay fever, eczema, and asthma. In addition, measles infections are associated with a lower risk of mortality from cardiovascular disease in adulthood.

In 2016, an outbreak of **mumps** swept through the student body at Harvard. These students were all fully vaccinated. In 2019, a US Navy warship carrying marines was quarantined for nearly 4 months due to a mumps outbreak. All of the service people on board had been fully vaccinated against it. This is not the first incident of an outbreak of mumps on a military ship.

The current outbreaks of **pertussis** in this country are taking hold in fully vaccinated children. This is because the current pertussis vaccine doesn't confer much protection at all, and what protection it does provide wanes within 2 years. As is common in the world of viruses and bacteria, the pertussis germ has mutated, making the DPT vaccine

ineffective. In December 2019, a Houston school closed due to a pertussis outbreak among vaccinated children and staff.

QUESTION 5: Are vaccinated children healthier than unvaccinated children?

ANSWER: Sadly, no. A staggering 50% of children today—more than ever before—have a chronic illness including asthma, allergies, ADHD, depression, anxiety, developmental delays, and autoimmune diseases. Controlled clinical trials comparing vaccinated with unvaccinated populations in the United States have never been carried out. And there aren't any studies on the safety of injecting infants, toddlers, and adolescents with up to 6 vaccines in a single visit—a common practice today.

There are now 69 to 72 vaccines recommended by the CDC for all children through age 18. The vaccine industry has become a huge business with no liability. On the contrary, it is the US taxpayers who have thus far paid out \$4.1 billion in vaccine-related damages since the companies themselves have been granted immunity. Merck's—just one of several vaccine manufacturers—2019 fourth-quarter financial highlights speak volumes as to what is really happening. And while many pediatricians have not dared to speak out on the subject, some who have been in practice 20 years and longer, including Dr. Lawrence Palevsky, are now coming out and saying it is their unvaccinated patients who are healthier than their vaccinated ones. In fact, some studies show that the non-specific effects of vaccines can increase morbidity and mortality.

Additional information to consider:

In 1986, Congress gave vaccine manufacturers complete immunity from all liability resulting from vaccine injury, shifting the financial burden to US taxpayers, who, according to the Vaccine Adverse Events Reporting System (VAERS), have paid out \$4 billion to vaccine-injured families since that date. That is a lot, considering that fewer than 1% of all vaccine injuries are reported.

The average period of safety testing for a vaccine is only 10 days. If you or your child develops seizures 2 weeks following a vaccine, almost no doctor will attribute the cause to the vaccine. Yet, pregnant women are being given flu and DPT vaccines containing aluminum, mercury, and other neurotoxins even though the practice is known to cause an increased risk in autism spectrum disorder.

The Food and Drug Administration (FDA) has ruled for the past decade that aluminum in infant parenteral (feeding) solutions should not exceed 5 micrograms/kg/day. Yet, aluminum in infant IV parenteral solutions, commonly given to infants in standard neonatal intensive care IV feeding solutions, contains 45 micrograms/kg/day. These solutions are given for 14 days or longer and have been shown to impair neurological development. One influential study estimated that infants lost around one mental development index point for each day on the standard aluminum solution.

The CDC continues to ignore this data and requires that all newborns born in the United States receive the hepatitis B vaccine at birth (or shortly after). The hepatitis B injection contains 250

micrograms of aluminum—more than 10 times (1,000%) the maximum FDA allowable. Since vaccine manufacturers won their immunity from prosecution, the CDC schedule for recommended vaccines has tripled. Two hundred more vaccines are in the pipeline. The CDC itself is involved in [conflict of interest](#) practices with vaccine companies; and the [former CDC director](#), who fast-tracked Gardasil despite many concerns, became the head of Merck's vaccine division. The CDC's Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) includes many individuals who have received financial gains from vaccine manufacturers.

Remember, the first step toward maintaining your health and your health freedom is staying informed. It is your right to be informed before making any decisions regarding your health. So, keep asking questions

Two More Questions That Many People Are Asking Now

QUESTION 6: Are vaccines the only way to achieve herd immunity?

ANSWER: No. We are hearing about herd immunity a lot lately. Frankly, this term is being co-opted to achieve higher vaccination rates. In fact, from June 2020–November 2020 the World Health Organization (WHO) changed the definition of herd immunity to imply it can only be achieved through vaccination. The truth is active immunity is achieved by natural immunity. Vaccine-induced immunity is partial immunity but is not true immunity.

So, let me explain. True immunity is obtained through exposure to an infection that your body fights off. When your body defeats an infection, you gain lifelong immunity to that infection in the future. You even acquire some—even considerable—immunity to different strains of the infection. I have a friend who had SARS (along with her husband) in 2003. My friend and her husband were exposed to SARS-COV-2 through their housekeeper (who developed COVID-19) in February of 2020. However, because my friend and her husband had SARS 17 years ago, they developed only very minor symptoms for about 2 days.

Mothers who have natural immunity to infections pass that immunity to their babies. It's called transplacental immunity. My same friend who had SARS had a baby in 2007. Their child who was 12 years old and likely had multiple exposures to SARS-COV-2 in addition to the household exposure, did not become sick. Transplacental immunity does not occur if the mother is vaccinated.

The theory behind vaccine-created immunity is that vaccines prime your immune system to fight off an infection if you are ever exposed to it. However, vaccines use a much weaker strain than that found in nature. This is one reason multiple booster shots are needed, and why we see breakthrough cases of diseases we inoculate against. Another reason vaccines do not provide 100% immunity is because your immune system is designed to respond to exposures, not intramuscular injections with toxic adjuvants.

Now, the COVID-19 shots are brand new technologies that work differently than typical vaccines. However, like traditional vaccines these injections will also require you to take multiple booster shots. And, as with traditional vaccines, we are already seeing breakthrough

cases in people who have taken the COVID shots—not to mention serious adverse effects, including disability and death, from the vaccines themselves

Getting back to herd immunity, the important thing to remember is **if you have had a disease and recovered from it, you have lifelong immunity**. So, you do not need to be vaccinated against it. A recent [study](#) showed that people who have had SARS-COV-2 are unlikely to become reinfected, and that the COVID shots do not provide additional protection to previously infected individuals.

Please note that The FDA's decision to approve the BA.4/5 boosters was made without data from human trials. In fact, the only "data" is from mice—specifically 8 mice. This is hardly evidence that the shots are "safe and effective." The FDA's approval process in this instance is unprecedented primarily due to the fact that mice conditions do not compare to or mimic the human state. And while the FDA clears flu vaccines without human trials (another shot I do not recommend), the mRNA shots are not the same.

Bypassing normal drug development protocols to rush a drug to market without supporting data should raise a red flag for everyone. And, these shots are being approved for Emergency Use Authorization (EUA). But what is the emergency? The CDC has relaxed its "pandemic rules." So what's really going on? I'll tell you what: The government, the FDA and the [CDC](#) are preparing us for annual (or more frequent) booster shots.

During a [vaccine advisory committee meeting](#) on September 1, 2022, Evelyn Twentyman, head of the CDC's vaccine policy unit, said "We want to emphasize we're no longer looking at total number of doses. From now on, the agency hopes to transition into a more regular schedule for COVID-19 vaccines, similar to getting annual flu shots."

[Stéphane Bancel](#), Moderna's CEO, has said that the shots will evolve like the iPhone. And, the people who are pushing these jabs on us would like to make them mandatory and tied to your ability to participate in society while they continue to bypass protocols, sell their "safe and effective" slogan through the media, celebrities, and others, and put the profits in their own pockets. Mahalo for hearing me & may we all be well.

Mahalo

Vr

Michael Thomas Crompton

US Army Vet

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:40:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALISON SIMMONS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Alison Simmons, and I am expressing my OPPOSITION to HB1118.

This is a very important matter to me, as a parent, grandparent and concerned member of our community! HB1118 would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental and religious freedoms and violating a person's right to make decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could even force families to choose between their faith and accessing education, and this should not happen! While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in OPPOSITION to HB1118. THANK YOU for your time and consideration.

Aloha, Alison Simmons

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:40:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louella Vidinha	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Opposing Bill 1118

We're the parents, not the Government

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:42:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth McDonald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill is a violation of our first amendment of religious freedom. There is already a process in place to take kids out of schools with REs in the case of an outbreak. This bill will encourage people to move off the island or homeschool, taking away revenues for the state and the DOE. Also if your vaccines work, what are you afraid of?

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:42:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adele s Ling	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1118 AS IT INFRINGES ON OUR RIGHTS TO CHOOSE WHETHER TO ALLOW OUR CHILDREN TO GET THE JAB OR NOT. IT IS NOT THE GOVERNMENT'S POSITION OR PLACE TO MAKE SUCH A MANDATE. THIS IS BETWEEN PARENTS AND THEIR CHILDREN AND NOT THE GOVERNMENT! THIS BILL IS AN OUTRAGE! THIS BILL MUST NOT MOVE FORWARD AND MUST DIE RIGHT NOW!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:43:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davin Yokomori	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

I oppose HB1118 because it removes religious exemptions for student vaccinations, stripping parents of their right to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs.

Hawaii has a long tradition of respecting religious freedom and parental rights in healthcare decisions. Eliminating these exemptions forces families to choose between their faith and their children's education. While public health is important, policies must also uphold individual liberties and honor diverse beliefs.

For these reasons, I urge you to reject HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Davin Yokomori

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:43:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alysha Franco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I want to use my freedom of speech to oppose HB 1118. I believe we, Americans should have the right to religious exemptions of vaccines. During COVID, when the vaccines were new, there wasn't trials proving the vaccines worked. Whether we got the vaccine or we didn't the possiblitiy to get COVID was still possible and the only way to survive the fears was to have faith in God. While I didn't get the vaccine, I relied in the faith of God that He would keep me safe. And he has.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:44:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Hanaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY DO NOT SUPPORT HB1118. It violates our constitutional rights and beliefs, including our God given freedom to make decisions involving myself and my family based on facts/evidence. It is not right to be forced or pressured by those who have no risk or repercussion on what is put into our bodies. I am open to evidence-based data supporting vaccination, not opinion-based rhetoric.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:45:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Tamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:46:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Robiniol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of a 6 year old and he's a very healthy boy. I don't agree that the government should say what my own child needs to have vaccinated that I don't approve of. It's in my child's protection that this doesn't pass. Where is our rights and why all of a sudden this is being brought up in a bill? This is very uncalled for and I don't agree with this at all. I strongly feel that it's every parents choice what's right for their child when it comes to vaccines. I ask you make the right choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:49:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Biniek	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Sarah Biniek oppose to the bill HB 1118. To with hold something from the public until they comply with what you want is unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:49:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Legislation violates the most fundamental God given right to bodily autonomy.

I oppose this legislation.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:50:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Vares-Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the committee,

My name is Ikaika Vares-Young, and I am here as a concerned citizen to express my strong opposition to Bill 1118. I believe this bill undermines the fundamental right of individuals—and especially parents—to make informed decisions about their own health and the health of their children. Not only did we see vaccines prove to be inefficient during COVID, but the persecution against the unvaccinated was appalling. Not only am I unvaccinated but I also never caught COVID and I credit that to building a natural immunity.

I oppose this bill because it restricts the personal freedom that every individual should have when it comes to deciding which vaccines to take. Health care decisions are deeply personal and should be made based on one's own medical history, circumstances, and in consultation with trusted health professionals. Mandating immunizations without providing room for non-medical exemptions risks ignoring individual needs and religious beliefs.

I speak from personal experience. A family member of mine is a survivor of vaccine injury—a traumatic event that has permanently altered their quality of life. This painful experience underscores the reality that while vaccines have greatly benefited public health, they also carry risks that should not be dismissed. It is crucial that policies respect the experiences of those who have suffered adverse reactions by preserving the right to choose.

Furthermore, I firmly believe that parents should retain the right to decide what goes into their children's bodies. As primary caregivers, parents are best positioned to understand and weigh the benefits and risks of immunizations for their children. Removing the option for non-medical exemptions compromises parental authority and the essential role of personalized, family-centered healthcare decision-making.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the committee to oppose Bill 1118. Upholding individual choice and parental rights is essential for maintaining trust in our healthcare system and ensuring that medical decisions remain a personal, informed choice. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:51:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 HD1

Aloha Legislators:

Vaccine mandates deny my constitutionally protected religious rights. America was founded on religious freedom. Government overreach in our personal religious beliefs are wrong and unjust. Parents must decide what is best for their children based on their own religious beliefs and convictions that they live by.

Government overreach in our personal medical choices are wrong and unjust. Parents must be able to make medical decisions on behalf of their children. It is factual that vaccines have side effects, that may cause, sickness, disabilities, and even death. Parents must have the right to decide with informed consent whether or not any vaccine is beneficial for their children not the government. Parents should be given the choice to decide if they are willing to risk any adverse reaction that may come from a vaccine given to their child, not the government. What will happen if children die or become disabled or sick because of a vaccine, will you Legislators take responsibility, will the Governor take responsibility? More than likely the answer would be no. Parents and family members will have to take on the cost of medical care, caregiver expenses for a sick or disabled child, possibly incur loss of wages in order to care for the child, or work 2 or 3 jobs to try to make ends meet. Parents, siblings and other family and friends will have to endure the pain, anguish and loss over a once happy thriving child, they may incur possible funeral expenses, destruction of the family unit, divorce, etc. The damage caused would have severe rippling effects. Are you ready, if a mandated vaccine, that you voted for, adversely affects your child, grandchild, nephew, niece or another loved one, will you be okay and say your loss was good for the greater population?

Hawaii Department of Education State Superintendent of Education, Keith Hayashi opposes HB1118 HD1 with testimony given at the February 7, 2025 Hearing of the State Legislature in the House Committee on Health. This "may inadvertently limit some students' ability to attend school, creating disparities in educational opportunities..." This Bill would inflict additional burdens on families to find and bear the cost of alternative means to educate their children. Some families may be able to do better than others, creating another disparity among children.

This could also impact the student population count, which will impact HDOE funding. Less students, mean less need of employees, leading to higher unemployment rate and loss of medical insurance, etc. Yet, another rippling effect for families, communities and our State.

I respectfully implore you to oppose HB1118 HD1.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my
testimony.

Sincerely,
Jasmine Williams

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:52:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla C Lafaele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to the contrary fact of My body my choice that was heavily echoed during roe vs wade regarding abortion medical rights. This is very concerning and contradictory. How can the state of Hawaii support my body my choice per say or women's right regarding healthcare and abortion rights and choices but yet require children to get vaccines and not accept religious exertions. How is this my body my choice. What goes for one should go for all. How can the people of Hawaii trust our government and leaders when there is much confusion as such. This is a perfect example of DO WHAT I SAY NOT AS I DO. Be fair be Pono God is First, we learn this in kindergarten and as adults we all should be masters of this. What is the ulterior motives besides herd immunity? Greed oppression and control is what the people of Hawaii is facing since the overthrow of the kingdom. Let's not repeat history but make it right.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:54:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Faafiaolo, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for students vaccinations, limiting, parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I am concern that my son will not have the option to chose whether to take a vaccine or not. I am concern if his immune system will be able to handle any vaccine. We live in a country of freedom and choices and this bill will take that away from our keikis future.

Hawaii has long recongmized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse persectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:54:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not think the people supposedly voted in should not be allowed to take any of our constitutional rights away. I have freedom to choose what goes in my God given body. God gave me the immune system to fight things in this world in which I work hard to keep my immune system working properly. As someone who had a blood cancer, Hodgkin's Lymphoma I wore a mask, I took proper precautions not the other way around. We should not be forcing anyone in AMERICA to do these things. Stop the fear mongering. Stop the hidden adendas. I do not want to homeschool my child AGAIN but I will if I have to. Please do not make my child miss high school! Mothers know best of their children! Not the doctor, not the state, not the government. I was never against vaccines until during covid my doctor of 4 years said "I know your antivaxer but how do you feel about the covid vaccine." I said "what, No?!, I am fully vaccinated up until now and I just don't get the flu shot because I get adverse reactions I get super sick." I never went back to that doctor again. I still have never gotten Covid to this day and I have multiple health issues they list as high risk! I still refuse this shot! After reading the Vaers reports I still do not wish to take certain vaccines. What happened to doctors "Do no harm"? I once took that oath myself!!! I pray to God you listen to the people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:55:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Ho	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a family with two children. This is defintley against our beliefs, to have public schools which is the only way our child can get their education to force us to get our children vaccinated. Each family has a right to their own beliefs and I do not believe in vaccaniation.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:56:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mona awai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118👎👎👎

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:56:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roy Alcoran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill because it's a violation of my religious practice according to the Consitution. I will not give power to the school to determand what vaccine my childrens will take.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:57:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Kawahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Kim Kawahara and I am testifying in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would undermine religious and personal beliefs that diversify us.

Two things that are deeply personal are parenting and religious beliefs. This bill steps into both these sacred places. Hawaii law as it stands on this issue got it right, allowing for choice of religious exemptions. Private schools are chosen to uphold similar values that are shared by the paying parent. It is a constitutional freedom to choose individually our beliefs. Parents bear the financial, emotional and legal responsibility for their children. They should continue to be allowed the freedom to choose individually for each child. Making the best decisions for them requires a choice. Parenting children to be good stewards of their minds and their bodies is a sacred duty of a parent. Please, do not infringe our rights to choose.

Aloha, Kim Kawhara

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:57:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Hiʻilani Okimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting testimony in **strong support** of HB 118, which removes non-medical vaccine exemptions for school-aged children in Hawai‘i. As a **teacher, a Native Hawaiian, and someone deeply invested in the safety and well-being of our keiki and community**, I urge you to pass this bill because **public health is not just a personal choice—it is a collective responsibility**.

Schools should be safe environments where children can learn, grow, and thrive, but that safety is compromised when preventable diseases resurface due to declining vaccination rates. Right now, **21% of students in Hawai‘i are missing required vaccinations**, a number that has been steadily increasing. **We are already seeing rising cases of whooping cough, and the risk of a measles outbreak is growing**. These diseases are not minor—they can cause **permanent damage, disability, or even death**, particularly for medically fragile children who cannot be vaccinated due to conditions like cancer or immune disorders. These children depend on herd immunity for survival. Allowing non-medical exemptions **actively puts them at risk**, and it is **unacceptable that their lives are being endangered because of misinformation and negligence**.

Some argue that this bill violates religious freedom, but the truth is **no major religion formally opposes vaccination**, and religious exemptions have been widely **exploited**, leading to dangerous gaps in herd immunity. **Public health laws exist to protect everyone**—just like we have laws requiring seatbelts, banning smoking in public spaces, and enforcing food safety regulations, because **individual choices should not endanger others**. Vaccination requirements are no different.

As a Native Hawaiian, I also approach this issue with historical awareness. **Our ancestors suffered catastrophic losses due to foreign-introduced diseases like smallpox and measles**. We know the consequences of unchecked disease spread, and we have a responsibility to **learn from that history and take action before preventable outbreaks occur**. This bill does not remove all exemptions—**medical exemptions remain for those who genuinely cannot be vaccinated**—but personal beliefs should never come before public safety.

We **do not** have the luxury of waiting until we are in the middle of a full-blown public health crisis to act. **We have an obligation to protect our keiki, our kūpuna, and our most**

vulnerable community members. I strongly urge you to pass HB 118 because no child should have to suffer or die from a disease we have the power to prevent.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:58:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherie Tsukamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118 HD1.
- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:58:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melisande Van Liedekerke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to HB1118

Aloha, Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118 because it violates the fundamental rights of Hawaii's citizens to make personal and medical decisions without government interference. Medical freedom is a basic human right, and no person—child or adult—should be forced to receive a vaccine against their will.

This bill strips away parental authority and forces medical procedures on children, disregarding a parent's right to choose what is best for their child. Families, not the government, should decide what medical interventions their children receive. This bill directly contradicts the principles of bodily autonomy and informed consent, both of which are foundational to our freedoms as American citizens.

Furthermore, the idea that an entire population must be vaccinated to protect individuals is not supported by conclusive scientific evidence. Immunity is complex and varies from person to person. Medical decisions should be based on individual health needs, not a one-size-fits-all mandate that ignores personal risk factors, genetic predispositions, and medical history.

Hawaii must remain a place that values freedom, diversity, and the right to make personal medical decisions. Vote NO on HB1118 and stand for the constitutional rights of all Hawaii residents.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Melisande Van Liedekerke
mel@melisandehomes.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:59:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Awai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i STRONGLY oppose HB1118. no one should be forced to put any foreign substance into their body in order to get an education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 1:59:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liberty Hose	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mother of 3, I am opposing this bill. The decision to vaccinate our children should be a decision we make as parents, not something that we are forced to do. I respect all parents decisions whether or not they decide to have their child vaccinated. The elimination of non-medical exemptions are a direct violation of our constitutional rights when a religious exemption will not be accepted. We take oaths with our hand on a bible, we have currency with the phrase "in God we trust", America was founded on Christian values, and if not that, we accept and respect every religious practice, even if it's not our own. So why would a religious exemption be null and void when it comes to the decision of our children getting vaccines? You are now putting parents in a predicament of letting their children get an education, or going against their religious beliefs along with saving their bodies from what they believe is poison. When the Governor or any high official addresses the state, appears in a press conference after a tragedy, what is part of their speech 100% of the time? They say, "our prayers are with you". Yet, you will not honor an exemption based on the same religion and beliefs you publicly state. For the sake of our future generations, for the sake of our children's health and well being, please do not pass this bill. Let parents, parent and advocate for their children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:00:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrieann K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill...

Looking over the submitted testimony 1400+ all in favor to oppose bill HB118, Less than 100 in support of this bill... (last time I tried counting lol)

I feel the people has spoken loud and clear. Please Listen

Vaccine shouldn't be mandated it should be our choice..
First Amendment!

Mahalo and God bless us All!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:00:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Bell	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To our elected members of the Hawaii State Legislature by the people of Hawai'i,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in our schools. As a concerned citizen and parent, I believe that this bill undermines the fundamental rights of families to make informed decisions regarding their children's health and well-being.

The right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy, allowing individuals to live according to their beliefs without government interference. By removing the ability for parents to opt out of mandatory vaccinations based on their religious convictions, this bill not only infringes upon our rights but also sets a concerning precedent for government overreach into personal and family decisions.

Vaccinations are a personal choice, influenced by various factors including individual health circumstances and deeply held beliefs. Parents should have the autonomy to make these decisions for their children, and they should not be coerced into compliance with a one-size-fits-all mandate. It is essential to respect and honor the diverse views within our community, especially when it comes to health decisions that can have lifelong impacts.

Moreover, there is a growing body of evidence suggesting that a blanket vaccination mandate may not necessarily lead to better public health outcomes. Public health policies should be based on sound science and should take into account the nuances of individual health needs and family beliefs.

I urge you to consider the implications of Bill HB1118 and to stand up for the rights of parents and their children. Please oppose this bill and support the preservation of religious exemptions for vaccinations in our schools.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter. I appreciate your time and commitment to representing the interests of your constituents.

Sincerely,

Jasmine Bell

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:00:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Alfsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 is unconstitutional and unlawfully values the secular over the religious, restricting the free exercise of one's beliefs.

On February 15, 2025, Trump authorized an executive order to keep education accessible and end COVID 19 vaccine mandates. It states such mandates usurped parental authority and burdened students of many faiths. This ruling is valid for religious exemptions and overrides this proposed bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:01:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaile Puaoi	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kamaile Puaoi and I am a single mom of Hawaiian descent. I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118. My beliefs as a Kanaka Maoli coming from a lineage of traditional Hawaiian healers and health practitioners as well as having a deep relationship with God and my ancestors, I can assure you that my beliefs are incorporated into our daily family practices which in turn benefits my ohana's strong spiritual, mental, and physical resolve.

If HB1118 is passed by this committee, all of you will have to consider that you will be taking away the right to an education for not only my child, but thousands of keiki throughout the state of Hawaii due to the many varied and strong spiritual beliefs that families hold as the foundational pillars of raising their children.

Not only would it affect our children and their ability to attend school, but it would also jeopardize the smaller charter schools in particular who rely on the student population for funding in smaller rural areas of our state, which I believe this bill would significantly impact.

I urge you to consider my choice of religious freedom and how I express it to be just as important as any other parent's choice, and I feel that the government should not be allowed to take this simple right away from me now or forever more.

Sincerely,

Kamaile Puaoi

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:02:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenesis Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because it is a government overreach on our 1st Amendment to exercise freedom of religion and it directly opposes President Donald J. Trump's Executive Order of "Keeping Education Accessible and Ending COVID-19 Vaccine Mandates in Schools". Vaccination is and has never been a requirement to live and should not be a requirement to get an education or provide education. There is already a decline of teachers and students in the state of Hawai'i, and this will cause even more teachers to drop out.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:02:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Kehoe Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony for Strong Opposition to HB1118

I write in strong opposition to HB1118, a bill that violates personal and religious freedoms of families in Hawaii who choose not to vaccinate. Medical choices are personal and the government should not have this overreach.

This bill seeks to prohibit children from their right to an education whose parents choose not to vaccinate. There is a reason less and less families are vaccinating. They have witnessed many whom have become injured after vaccinations and they're exercising their right to make that choice. Children are our most precious gifts and we have the right to protect them.

Furthermore, religious freedom is explicitly protected under the **First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution**. Forcing families to go against their beliefs in order for their children to attend school is unconstitutional.

Excluding children from an education is outright discrimination and is a direct violation of fundamental civil liberties.

For these reasons, **I urge you to oppose HB1118**. Our state must protect religious and medical freedoms and give every child a right to an education.

Sincerely,

Joyce Kehoe Smith

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:04:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Kumai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Erin Kumai, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and longstanding personal and religious freedoms. I am a parent of 4 children, and it is my responsibility to raise my child to the best of my ability to become an asset to society. I should be able to raise my child in alignment with our family's religious views and be able to have access to the education system as well. Furthermore, vaccination should always be a choice, if the purpose of vaccination holds true, those who choose to be vaccinated should not be concerned with those who are not. Policies should respect our individual rights and diverse perspectives and allow us the freedom of choice.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:04:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This infringes upon individuals rights to excercise their religious beliefs. This overrides parental rights in medical decisions for their OWN child. Strongly oppose. If this passes you will see a decrease in enrollment in schools.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:04:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The choices of what's needed for our children should stay in the hands of the parents. It shouldn't be forced.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:04:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wailani gonsalves	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, I am a born and raised resident of Hawai‘i Island and the mother of two middle school age boys. I am deeply perturbed by bill HB1118 for myriad reasons....

First of all, vaccines are not conclusively proven to be 100% safe for all people. Medical decisions, especially where there's possible risks, are to be made between a doctor and their patient (or patients parents, in the case of a minor). When a child suffers injury or death due to vaccine the burden is left to the parents to bare. Therefore, it is up to the parents to decide whether or not to subject their child to such an irreversible risk. Anyone who votes to pass this bill will be remembered and held responsible for injuries that will occur from mass vaccination.

Secondly, according to the Constitution of the United States of America, government has no right to infringe on the religious practices of citizens. Qualified elected officials and law makers are wise to remember the rights guaranteed to American citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America. Elected officials and government in a free country have no place dictating citizens' religious beliefs or medical desisions, especially irreversible treatments/procedures.

Finally, to deny a child's education based on unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical procedures is unethical. All children are entitled to a fair education, regardless of medical decisions. This bill falls close to some type of extortion on our children's health and should be stopped immediately.

Thank you for reading my thoughts on this atrocious, unconstitutional bill.

Sincerely,

Wailani Gonsalves

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:06:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Uahinui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:06:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donalee Pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to Submit my strong opposition to SB1118. We should allow parents to make the decision on what is right for their children. Also, religious freedom is our right under the Constitution of the United States. To remove that freedom is a violation of our rights.

My grandchildren have never been vaccinated and they have been the healthiest children ever. They have less than 5 days a year home from school because of sickness and they rarely need to rely on Dr. prescribed medicine to get better should they not feel well. They also never contacted Covid and did not get the Covid vaccines and they are perfectly healthy. Vaccines are dangerous and can be liife threatenting and I strongly oppose this bill. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:07:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB1118 HD1

Honorable Chair, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gowhnou Yang Lee, and I am a concerned citizen and parent residing in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am reaching out to you with deep concern over HB1118 HD1, a bill that, if passed, would deny unvaccinated children access to public education. This is not just about vaccines—this is about our fundamental rights, parental choice, and the well-being of our children.

Why I Strongly Oppose HB1118 HD1

1. Our Constitutional and Civil Liberties Are at Stake
 - The 14th Amendment guarantees equal protection under the law, and denying children education based on their vaccination status is blatant discrimination.
 - The First Amendment protects religious freedom, and many families, including mine, hold deep convictions that should not be ignored.
 - The Hawaii State Constitution (Article I, Section 5) defends individuals against government overreach, and this bill directly contradicts that protection.
2. We Must Uphold Informed Consent and Bodily Autonomy
 - As a parent, I should have the right to make informed medical decisions for my child without government coercion.
 - The Nuremberg Code (1947) set the ethical standard that medical procedures must be voluntary, a principle we should honor in Hawaii.
3. Non-Medical Exemptions Must Be Protected
 - Religious Exemptions: Some vaccines contain ingredients that contradict deeply held beliefs.
 - Philosophical and Personal Beliefs: Every family has unique reasons for their medical choices, and those should be respected.
 - Parental Rights: I, not the government, should decide what is best for my child's health.
4. Education is a Right, Not a Privilege
 - The U.S. Supreme Court (*Brown v. Board of Education*, 1954) has affirmed that public education is a fundamental right.
 - My child, like many others, is healthy and poses no threat to anyone. If vaccines work as claimed, then vaccinated children should have nothing to fear.

5. Science Acknowledges Natural Immunity
 - Research has demonstrated that natural immunity is as effective—if not more—than vaccine-induced immunity.
 - Other states recognize natural immunity in policymaking, and Hawaii should do the same.
6. Families Bear the Risks Without Legal Recourse
 - Vaccine manufacturers are shielded from liability under the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (1986), meaning families like mine have no recourse if something goes wrong.
 - The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has recorded thousands of severe adverse reactions—who will be held accountable for these potential harms?
7. Other Countries Respect Freedom of Choice
 - Nations like Denmark, Sweden, and the UK have implemented vaccine policies that respect personal choice. Hawaii should adopt a similar approach, prioritizing education and awareness rather than mandates.

My Request to You

I urge you to reject HB1118 HD1 and stand with the people of Hawaii in defending parental rights, informed consent, and medical freedom.

HB1118 raises serious concerns about personal freedom, informed consent, and government overreach in medical decisions. The controversy surrounding vaccine mandates became evident during the COVID-19 pandemic, where rapidly changing guidelines, evolving scientific understanding, and individual health risks fueled widespread debate. While vaccines offer protection, they do not completely prevent transmission, meaning both vaccinated and unvaccinated individuals can spread disease. This challenges the justification for mandates, as they infringe on personal choice without guaranteeing full community protection. The COVID-19 era taught us the importance of medical autonomy, open discourse, and respect for individual risk assessment. Forcing medical interventions through legislation disregards these lessons and risks deepening public distrust in health policies.

Instead of coercion, we need policies that promote education, transparency, and respect for personal choice.

Thank you for taking the time to listen to the voices of concerned parents and citizens like me. I appreciate your dedication to our community and trust you will make the right decision.

Respectfully submitted,

Gowhnou Yang Lee
984 Kalapaki St
Honolulu, Hawaii 96825

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:08:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. This goes against human rights

Testimony in Opposition of HB1118: *A Bill for an Act relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements*

This Bill removes ‘non-medical exemptions’ from vaccine requirements. Let’s start by calling these exemptions by their proper name – religious exemptions. This Bill is not removing philosophical exemptions, which we do not currently have in the State of Hawaii. This Bill is removing the right to opt out of vaccinations , based on a family’s religious beliefs. This is a constitutionally protected right and this Bill is a clear and direct infringement of mine and my family’s constitutional right to practice our religious beliefs.

Below is part of the **transcript from a deposition by Dr Stanley Plotkin that details how the live tissues of fetuses are used in vaccines**. Emphasis added is my own.

[00:37:18] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

In your work related to vaccines, how many fetuses have been part of that work?

[00:37:25] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

My own personal work, two.

[00:37:27] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

I'm going to hand you what's been marked Plaintiff's exhibit 41, okay. Are you familiar with this article, Doctor Plotkin?

[00:37:49] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:37:50] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Okay. Are you listed as an author on this article?

[00:37:53]

Yes.

[00:37:54] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

This study took place at the Wistar Institute, correct?

[00:38:00] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:38:02] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

You were at the Wistar Institutem correct?

[00:38:04] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:38:06] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

How many fetuses were used in the study described in this article?

[00:38:11] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Quite a few.

[00:38:12] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

So this study involved 74 fetuses, correct?

[00:38:18] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

I don't remember exactly how many.

[00:38:21] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Turn to page 12 of the study.

[00:38:29] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yeah, 76.

[00:38:30] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

76. And these fetuses were all three months or older when aborted, correct?

[00:38:38] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:38:39] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Okay. And these were all normally developed fetuses, correct?

[00:38:42] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:38:43] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

What organs did you harvest from these fetuses?

[00:38:46] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Well, I didn't personally harvest any, but a whole range of tissues were harvested by co-workers.

[00:38:57] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Okay. And these *pieces were then cut up into little pieces*, right?

[00:39:00] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:39:01] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

And they were cultured?

[00:39:04] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Yes.

[00:39:05] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Okay. Some of the pieces of the fetuses were pituitary gland that were, that were chopped up into pieces to.

[00:39:16] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

Mmm hmm.

[00:39:16] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Okay. Included the lung of the fetuses?

[00:39:18] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

Yes.

[00:39:19] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Okay. Included the skin.

[00:39:20] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

Yes.

[00:39:21] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Kidney.

[00:39:21] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

Yes.

[00:39:22] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Spleen.

[00:39:23] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

Yes.

[00:39:24] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Heart.

[00:39:24] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

Yes.

[00:39:26] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

And tongue.

[00:39:29] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading

I don't recall, but yeah, probably, yes.

[00:39:32] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

So I just want to make sure I understand. In your entire career, and this was just one study, so I'm going to ask, let me ask you again. In your entire career, how many fetuses have you worked with? Approximately.

[00:39:50] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Well, I don't remember the exact number, but quite a few, when we were studying them originally, before we decided to use them to make vaccines.

[00:40:03] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

Do you have any sense? I mean, this is one study had 76. How many other studies did you have that you used aborted fetuses for?

[00:40:08] Stanley Plotkin, MD, World's Leading Authority on Vaccines

Oh, I don't remember how many.

[00:40:10] Aaron Siri, Esq., Lead Attorney, ICAN

You're aware, are you aware that the, *one of the objections to vaccination by the plaintiff in this case is the inclusion of aborted fetal tissue in the development of vaccines and the fact that it's actually part of the ingredients of vaccines.*

In my relationship with God and my faith , injecting fetal tissue into myself and my child is something I am against.

It is my deeply held belief that my body is the temple of my spirit. And that to force the injection of foreign materials, which include cells from aborted fetuses , is a complete violation of bodily autonomy and my personally held belief that God has given me the choice of what enters my body. I believe that we are made in the image of God and that to pollute our bodies with foreign DNA and other materials violates my interpretation of God's word.

In weighing personal religious beliefs with the public interest please consider the following:

1. The Bill's aim is to protect children from 'an increasing trend in non-medical immunization exemptions.' Yet despite the rate of non-medical exemptions nearly doubling there has **not** been an increase 'in vaccine preventable diseases', but in many cases there has in fact been a decrease in disease. Here are a few examples:
 - Pertussis: In 2014, Hawaii reported a total of 28 pertussis (whooping cough) cases. In 2024, the Hawaii Department of Health reported 27 pertussis cases statewide. Notably, 13 (48%) of these cases occurred in individuals who were up to date on their pertussis vaccinations.
 - Measles: In 2014, Hawaii reported a total of 15 measles cases. In 2024, there were 0 measles cases

(Source : Hawaii Department of Health , Disease Outbreak Control Division)

If this Bill were to become law it would infringe upon religious rights for a hypothetical (but not actual) increase in disease rates.

2. In addition , the current religious exemption, which the Bill seeks to remove, is practiced by parents by submitting a form to the school entitled 'REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS' . This form is provided by the Hawaii State Department of Health and has a clause in it that states the following

'I understand that if at any time there is, in the opinion of the Department of Health, danger of an outbreak or epidemic from any communicable disease for which immunization is required, this exemption from immunization shall not be recognized and my child will be excluded from school or his/her child care facility until the threat of an epidemic is over or he/she receives the proper immunization.'

This clause provides strong powers to the Department of Health to squash a parent's religious right in the event of what the Department deems a danger and gives full authority to the Department to make that determination.

In balancing the public interest with an individual's right to freely practice their religion and to bodily autonomy , I humbly ask that you consider the fact that (i) disease rates have not increased (but actually decreased) , despite an increase in exemptions **and** (ii) we already have

this clause available for the Department of Health to invoke if necessary, should the disease rates suddenly increase.

Thank you for considering my testimony ,

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:10:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lira Quitevis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB 1118, repealing religious exemptions for vaccinations for school aged children and adults, from pre-school through post-secondary education, in both public and private institutions.

This bill is trying to regulate religious beliefs and burden religious exercise. This is not right.

Please vote pono and vote against HB 1118.

Mahalo,

L. Quitevis

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:13:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jo Cassidy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose against HB1118 as this interferes with parental rights and religious freedoms. This is very concerning because parents should have the freedom to decide what is best for their children without the state interfering. This is very disappointing as this bill may affect many families who have strong religious beliefs against this and will no longer be able to use the school system which makes schools no longer inclusive.

Please do not pass HB1118 for the best interest of our state.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:13:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is David Alisa, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. Our religious freedoms are protected under the First Amendment and this bill is a direct contradiction the the US Constitution.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:14:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rev. John Kunesch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposition to Hawaii State Bill HB1118: I am standing Religious Freedom, Parental Rights, and Holistic Health, asserting our ancient traditions.

I strongly oppose Hawaii State Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions. This bill is not just an attack on religious freedom and parental rights—it also disregards the rights of individuals who choose natural remedies and holistic approaches to health.

I am a caregiver of healthy unvaccinated children fearlessly and oppose this questionable bill even now as RFK Jr. questions through today's increasing scientific debate amongst medical researchers globally.

Our state must restore the confidence and faith in it's medical system. Instead of ignoring vested economic interests and profits. Thanks to the ignorance of this bill we're motivated and educating citizens to drain Hawaii's swamps that endanger our children here at home from biased scientific assertions. This is a call for solidarity to expose a too often greed driven bureaucracy in Oahu.

1. Protecting Religious Freedom and Cultural Traditions Hawaii has a deep respect for diverse cultural and religious traditions, many of which emphasize natural healing and holistic medicine. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 4 of the Hawaii State Constitution protect the free exercise of religion, including health choices rooted in spiritual and cultural beliefs. Removing religious exemptions forces individuals to violate their faith-based convictions, which is a direct violation of these constitutional rights.

2. Preserving Parental Rights in Health Decisions

Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children, including choosing natural or holistic alternatives. Many families in Hawaii turn to traditional Hawaiian healing practices, homeopathy, naturopathy, herbal medicine, and other non-pharmaceutical approaches to health. HB1118 disregards these well-established, time-tested practices by forcing one-size-fits-all medical interventions on families who may have valid concerns about their effects.

3. Supporting Natural Immunity and Holistic Health

Natural remedies, including proper nutrition, herbal medicine, acupuncture, chiropractic care, and homeopathy, have been used for centuries to support the immune system and overall well-being. Many individuals choose these methods because they align with their religious and philosophical beliefs about health. Forcing individuals to comply with government-mandated medical interventions while disregarding natural immunity and holistic health approaches is not only unjust but also ignores growing scientific evidence supporting these alternatives.

4. Unnecessary Government Overreach and Discrimination

HB1118 unfairly targets families who make informed, conscientious health choices based on faith or holistic medicine. The government should not have the power to dictate personal health decisions, especially when those decisions are deeply rooted in religious beliefs and cultural traditions. By removing religious exemptions, this bill effectively discriminates against those who believe in natural healing, pushing them into a system that may conflict with their values.

5. No Clear Public Health Crisis Justifying This Change

Religious exemptions have existed for decades without any significant public health crisis linked to them. Those who follow natural health practices often prioritize wellness, nutrition, and immunity-building strategies, which contribute positively to overall public health. Removing exemptions based on an exaggerated fear of non-compliance disregards the real benefits of holistic health and personal responsibility.

Conclusion

HB1118 is an unjustified intrusion on religious freedom, parental rights, and holistic health choices. Hawaii has always honored cultural diversity and personal freedoms, and this bill threatens those core values. I urge lawmakers to vote NO on HB1118 and respect the rights of families to make informed health decisions in alignment with their faith and holistic health beliefs.

We shall know them by their fruits, instead of their political rhetoric!

Hawaii is blessed to have a diversity that will overcome such self-righteous political spin ! We are as God Created Us, not as scientific propaganda would have us believe.

Peace, Rev. J Kurtis Kunesch

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:14:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffery Malavong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:14:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Dominic Cruz, and I testify in opposition to HB1118 This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. As a uncle of many nephews and neices I know it's unconstitutional for this bill to be in place because that's my rights and others that could be taken away. Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:16:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Newman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawaii's attempt to remove non-medical vaccine exemptions under HB1118 HD1 undermines individual liberty, disregards personal risk-benefit assessments, and ignores the already low risk of vaccine-preventable diseases in children. First, mandating vaccines without exceptions for sincerely held beliefs—religious or otherwise—violates fundamental rights to bodily autonomy and parental choice, principles long upheld in U.S. law (e.g., **Pierce v. Society of Sisters**, 1925). Second, the bill assumes a one-size-fits-all approach, despite evidence that severe COVID-19 outcomes in children are rare (e.g., ~1 death per 100,000 annually) and vaccine benefits (NNT ~111,000 to prevent one death) may not outweigh risks like myocarditis (NNH ~55,000-200,000) for healthy kids. Third, Hawaii's own data shows herd immunity thresholds (e.g., 95%) are nearly met, with non-medical exemptions at 5.3%—hardly a tipping point for outbreaks. The state's compelling interest in public health doesn't justify overriding these rights when the threat is minimal and alternatives (e.g., testing, quarantine) exist. Grandfathering prior exemptions while banning new ones also arbitrarily discriminates, weakening the bill's logic. This overreach sacrifices freedom for negligible gain, setting a dangerous precedent for medical coercion.

Dr Brian Newman, DO

Kauai

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:16:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Machado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing HB 1118

Dear Members of the Committee,

My name is Kimberly Machado, and I strongly oppose HB 1118 because it takes away parents rights to make important health decisions for their children. Parents should have the freedom to choose what is best for their families, including whether to vaccinate.

This bill also hurts religious freedom. Some families have deep beliefs that do not allow vaccines, and they should not be forced to go against their faith. The government should respect religious choices and parental rights.

Please vote NO on HB 1118.

Sincerely,

Kimberly Machado

Phone: 808-493-4392

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:16:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Shields	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. A parent should have the freedoms to choose what they put into their child's body. Not the government. I oppose HB118, this violation in our religious freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:17:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Arguelles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Waltee Arguelles (a registered voter here in the state of Hawai'i) & I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for students vaccinations, limiting parental choice & long-standing personal & religious freedoms. This bill goes against our rights as American citizens to make choices for our families & our religious beliefs. While public health is important, yet every family should have the right in choosing whether their children should be vaccinated or not.. & not the government.

for this reason, i testify in opposition to HB1118 & will not vote for any person that supports this bill. Mahalo for your time

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:17:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyrie Puaoi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill.
It diminishes our autonomy and freedom.

Mahalo,

Kyrie Puaoi

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:18:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
taylor sumida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose taking away religious rights for vaccines-

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:18:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac Ordaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Finance Committee,

I am writing in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB HB1118.

I am a father of three small children with the MTHFR gene mutation which vaccines put my kids at risk for adverse effects.

I am contacting you to express my concerns regarding the Senate Bill 1118 that aims to remove a parent's right to informed consent. I believe that the choice of if, when and how a child is to be vaccinated needs to remain between a family and their doctor. Where there is a risk of injury or death, no matter how small the perceived risk may be, there must be a choice. To mandate a medical procedure with known risks is medically unethical. I implore you to consider these critical reasons to oppose or dismiss HB1118:

The mandate violates a parent's right to informed consent: Vaccines are chemically synthesized biopharmaceuticals with known and documented side effects that include permanent injury and death. Forcing a medical procedure on a non-consenting individual that carries the risk of injury or death, no matter how small that chance may be, is medically unethical according to the American Medical Association's code of ethics, is inhumane and is a violation of our basic human right to possess autonomy over one's own body.

US ranks last for infant mortality, yet first for immunizations: Compared with other industrialized nations, the US administers the most pediatric vaccinations yet ranks the worst - 34th - for infant mortality rate.¹

Even more vaccines will be added to the schedule: As you may well know, there is a clause in the bill that leaves the door open to add as many new vaccines to the pediatric schedule as the California Department of Health sees fit. There are currently 300 vaccines in development.²

No education options for non-complying families: This bill affects all school-aged children registered either in public or private schools, home schools, as well as daycare and preschool facilities. The passing of HB1118 combined with compulsory education laws leave parents with religious beliefs against or conscientious concerns about vaccinations no option other than truancy. Families with truant children will thereby face court-determined penalties such as fines, Child Protection Services involvement, or even jail time.

Pharmaceutical companies have no-liability with vaccine reactions: The National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986 established the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) as a federal no-fault system to compensate persons (or families of persons) who are injured by childhood vaccines, has paid out over \$2.8 billion to families whose children have died or suffered other adverse reactions. In the past 5 years, an average of \$221,000,000 has been paid out per year, which has nearly doubled from years before.³ It is worth noting that recipients of compensation are not allowed to speak of their case after its been settled.

Big Pharma's fraudulent behavior: In just the past 5 years, drug makers have paid the U.S. Government \$19.2 billion in criminal and civil fraud penalties. Skepticism of the pharmaceutical industry is well deserved, and it doesn't imply skepticism of science. Furthermore, two former Merck virologists now whistleblowers have filed a lawsuit against Merck alleging that Merck falsified data with the MMR II vaccine in order to meet the required 95% efficacy rate.⁴ This suggests the possibility that vaccine failure, not only the unvaccinated, is key factor causing the annual outbreaks.

Adverse reactions are more common than widely perceived: Managed by the CDC and FDA, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) reports more than 30,000 vaccine related injuries annually. In 2015 alone, \$94,982,000.93 has already been awarded to 217 claimants.⁵

As of December 14, 2020 there have been 6,962 serious adverse events reported to VAERS in connection with the measles vaccine since 1990. Over half of those occurring in children three years old and under. Of these events 329 were deaths, with over half of the deaths occurring in children under three years of age.⁶ It is estimated that only 10% of adverse reactions are filed with VAERS as this form of passive surveillance is greatly limited by underreporting.⁷

In conclusion, when government makes decisions to take away parental rights relative to the health of their children it must only do so when all can agree it is in the best interests of every single child. Opinion 8.08 of the American Medical Association (AMA) states, “The physician has an ethical obligation to help the patient make choices from among the therapeutic alternatives consistent with good medical practice. Informed consent is a basic policy both in ethics and law that physicians must honor...”

This proposed legislation ignores and eliminates the fundamental American value of choice as well as a doctor’s ethical obligation to provide their patients informed consent. If we are not free to make informed, voluntary decisions about which pharmaceutical products we are willing to take, then we are not free in any sense of the word. If this bill passes it will set a very dangerous precedent and there will be no limit on which individual freedoms the State can remove in the name of the greater good.

For these reasons and many more, I urge you to view this bill as inhumane and medically unethical.

Please OPPOSE HB1118

Sincerely, Isaac Ordaz

1 <http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3170075/>
(<http://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC3170075/>)

2 http://www.phrma.org/sites/default/files/pdf/Vaccines_2013.pdf

3 <http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/statisticsreport.pdf>

4 <http://www.plainsite.org/dockets/mmpl79tu/pennsylvania-eastern-district-court/united-states-of-america-et-al-v-merck-and-co/>

5 <http://www.hrsa.gov/vaccinecompensation/statisticsreport.pdf>

6 <http://www.nvic.org/vaccines-and-diseases/measles/measles-vaccine-injury-death.aspx>

7 <http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.85.12.1706>
(<http://ajph.aphapublications.org/doi/pdf/10.2105/AJPH.85.12.1706>)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:19:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to having the State eliminate the religious exemption option for vaccination of our keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:21:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Asing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose! This is illegal and unconstitutional! No one has the right to come between our God given constitutional rights!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:21:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Higa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am for our Freedom.

Gov Green is for Tyranny.

we cannot force anyone to put poisons in our body.

Will you be responsible for all the illness and deaths that will occur and have been occoting?

Have you resarched each ingredient and what it does to the body?

if you don't have this knowledge, you have no right to decide to put these poisons into our bodies.

You have no right to harm our children, our humanity.

Shame on you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:21:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

When Representative Garcia spoke on the floor of the House, his reasons for opposing this bill are echoed among all of us. When the bill first landed at the HLT, the resounding voices in opposition should have been heard.

The bill, as Representative Garcia so eloquently said, is a direct assault of the First Amendment of the United States Constitution protecting our freedom of religion. It is also in opposition to the Hawaii Constitution, Article 1, Section 4: No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances.

This would take our freedom of conscious and freedom to choose. As a Christian, the conscious comes from my creator.

Please define public health, because during the COVID-19 Pandemic, the restrictions placed on individuals were dystopian. Not once did our leaders or medical “experts” talk about a healthy lifestyle: eating well, exercise, getting outside and socializing with our friends and family. Most of us seeking a religious exemption see the whole person and value the amazing bodies that God has given us. Our mind, body and spirit are holistic, not needing to be fixed with an injection filled with toxic adjuvants or a pill to “cure” the mind.

At the HTL hearing, there were doctors who gave anecdotal testimonies. We have our testimonies too. It is apparent that the machine that is a pawn of Big Pharma does not like parents to educate themselves. Doctors who have spoken out about vaccines have been banished from their profession and deemed cooks, so when I hear the statement, “there is no published data confirming that vaccines caused (fill in side effect), the medical establishment has lost us savvy moms and dads who know better.

Measles is often highlighted. Measles was nearly eradicated right before the vaccine because of fewer malnourished children, especially Vitamin A deficiencies. If you actually cared, you would encourage proper nutrition. Also, there are many strands of HPV not protected by the HPV vaccination, so there is a lack of preventative measures and false sense of security.

Dr. Andrew Wakefield discredits EVERY reason why Governor Green's proposed bill (from the medical standpoint) is the deeply flawed perception of herd immunity. It is as arbitrary as the six-foot social distancing number to "feel" safe. Dr. Wakefield also discredits the position of immunocompromised populations. Newly vaccinated individuals pose a shedding risk to the compromised for thirty days.

Remember, where there is risk, there needs to be a choice. As a mom, a citizen and a member of this community, I strongly oppose HB 1118.

Sincerely,

Sara Wallace

District 31; Precinct 1

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:21:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Ngo	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This bill takes away our right to religious freedom and choice to inject something foreign into our children's bodies in order for them to attend public or private schools. This is unconstitutional. As parents and American citizens we should have religious freedom that is not contingent on our children's right to attend school. Children who are not vaccinated do not pose a health risk to others, especially those who are vaccinated if the vaccines actually work to protect those people against diseases.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:23:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karese Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am writing to oppose Hawaii House Bill 1118 (HB1118), which mandates vaccines for school attendance. This bill infringes on religious freedom, a fundamental right protected by both the U.S. Constitution and Hawaii state laws. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion and expression, and medical mandates that conflict with personal beliefs or religious convictions violate these protections.

While some argue that no major organized religion objects to vaccinations, the Constitution does not require religious beliefs to be affiliated with a major or organized religion. The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) safeguards individuals' rights to practice nontraditional religious beliefs. Courts have recognized that a belief can be religious even if not part of an established group. As the Supreme Court noted in *United States v. Seeger* (1965), the test for religious beliefs is whether they are sincere and meaningful, not whether they are part of an organized sect.

For the state to remove religious exemptions, lawmakers would need to provide evidence supporting the importance of mandatory vaccines for preventing disease outbreaks, ensuring herd immunity, and protecting vulnerable populations. However, according to the numbers of vaccination exemption granted in Hawaii schools from the last several years, this is not supported. The percentage of population needed to be vaccinated to achieve herd immunity depends on the disease. The average requirement is 85% of the population being vaccinated, with the most contagious diseases (Measles and Pertussis) being UP TO 94%. According to *Hawaii Department of Health Immunization and Examination Requirements Report School Year 2023-2024* religious exemptions were only 4% total and medical exemptions made up a tiny 0.16%. This means that there shouldn't be any problem with continuing religious exemptions and 95-96% of the population being vaccinated. This is more than enough for herd immunity, for even the most contagious diseases.

Moreover, one of the cornerstones of medical ethics is informed consent. Every individual has the right to decide what medical interventions they will or will not undergo, based on their own values, beliefs, and understanding of the potential risks and benefits; this includes deeply held religious beliefs. HB1118, however, introduces measures that could compel people to make decisions under duress, forcing them into medical choices out of fear of punitive consequences or exclusion from critical activities, such as education. This is flat out discrimination against families and children with certain religious beliefs. The 14th Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees equal protection of the laws and has been used as a basis for the right to

education; the Supreme Court's interpretation of the Equal Protection Clause supports the right to public education.

Finally, medical mandates that do not allow for religious exemptions or alternative options put people in a difficult position where they may feel forced to make decisions against their will, undermining the trust between the patient and healthcare system. This coercion is ethically troubling and has the potential to erode public trust in both the medical profession and government institutions.

I urge the members of the legislature to reconsider this bill and to instead focus on strategies that respect individual rights and prioritize education, voluntary participation, and informed consent in healthcare. The government should not mandate medical interventions without due regard for the rights of the people it serves.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:23:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Denying folks the right to religious exemptions is UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND FOOLISH!!!
It has been exposed in the past few years that most vaccines are not properly safety-tested. Clear causal relationships between vaccinations and a myriad of diseases has been causally established. You are attempting to MANDATE THE INGESTION OF POISONS BY OUR KEIKI!!!
Thomas Jefferson described actions like this as "SINFUL AND TYRANNICAL"!

You are on the wrong side of history! Snap pout of it and do the right thing: PROTECT OUR SACRED RIGHT OF BODILY AUTONOMY!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:24:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this unconstitutional bill. We as parents have the right to choose what's best for our keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:25:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Mcveigh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sierra Mcveigh. I am 39 years old, healthy and unvaccinated and I oppose HB1118. I do not believe that someones health choices should be mandated by anyone who has no knowledge of the persons genetics or lifestyle. Each persons immune system reacts differently. Without knowing the affects these vaccines have on each individual, it can be detrimenatal to the persons health. Therefore it is wrong to mandate them on anyone especially our most vulnerable, our children. We as humans do not consent to this experiment which is based on outdated science.

True health stems from what we put in our bodies and how we take care of them. Our choice to vaccinate or not should be a decision we make between ourselves and doctor. If we want real immune health we need personalized and precision medicine where science matters and one size does not fit all. I have personally experienced a child go from thriving to not being able to walk or talk after a vaccination appointment. My own child now contracts 104+ fevers after receiving a vaccination. I urge you to take a stand for the safety of our children and oppose HB1118.

Thank you for allowing me to testify.

-Sierra Mcveigh

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:26:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tatiana Tyrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition for Bill HB1118. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, and it is essential that this right be upheld, particularly in the area of healthcare. As a firm believer in the importance of religious freedom, I feel that individuals should have the right to make personal healthcare decisions based on their deeply held religious beliefs. Religious exemptions are not an attempt to undermine public health but rather a recognition of the fact that many faiths have long-standing traditions and teachings that govern how their followers approach healthcare and medicine. While I understand that public health concerns are important, I believe that a balanced approach can be found to respect both individual rights and the collective welfare. I oppose Bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:26:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaina Cassidy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Jaina and I am a mother, a wife, a homemaker, a Christian and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. This bill would greatly affect my family as well as many families I know. As a Christian, I believe that God designed our bodies perfectly, in the image of Him and that vaccinations should be up to the decision of the parents and the wisdom they receive from God. What any parent decides is between God and that parent, the government and state have no place to impede on that decision.

Hawaii should continue to honor the right of families to make these medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118 and I pray that you all hear the voices of Hawaii on this and listen to what is being said. Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:26:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Avicolli	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha nui,

My name is Kehaulani Avicolli and Im a native hawaiian, birth and postpartum Doula, lactation counselor and mother of 2 keiki. I strongly oppose this DISCRIMINATORY bill HB1118. There will always be two sides that feel passionately and in the time of information that we are in now, both sides will also always find the evidence they feel is sufficient. In regards to a RELIGIOUS exemption, we dont need to present facts or prove anything. Our beliefs are our beliefs, and our birth right. So simply put, as we honor the freedoms and choices for all citizens, we must also honor and promote the religious exemptions for the families that choose that is the best choice for them. Im happy people who want vaccinations and can make their own informed decisions have access to them as well. The RE has allowed both of my keiki to attend school in honor of our faith, values and beliefs. Vaccinations contain very concerning and questionable ingredients such as heavy metals, aborted fetal cell lines, and other proven carcinogens Where there is a risk, there must be a choice, and no vaccines go without risks, and that is a fact. Please consider a hige community who feels the same and vote NO to HB1118. Mahalo nui.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:26:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Kamau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away my right as a parent for my childrens health. There are more medical injuries from vaccines in the more recent years than historically. It also breaks the second amendment, the freedom of religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:27:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makalani Franco-Francis	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I testify in strong OPPOSITION to HB1118.

I am a mother of three children. We have the God given right to decide what we put into our temple, our bodies.

The keiki of Hawai'i will not be discriminated against for their religious beliefs or deprived of their rights to education.

This bill was highly opposed in the last hearing. The people of Hawai'i want to be heard by those in government who serve us.

OPPOSE HB1118

Mahalo,

Makalani Franco-Francis

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:27:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janel Harada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 is unconstitutional. Our religious rights cannot be taken away from us. Leave our children alone. Vaccines are the most wicked scam of all time, and we the people are not going to tolerate it.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:28:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Chase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this unconstitutional bill. This infringes upon our basic human rights and is absolutely appalling. Taking away religious rights and our right to give our kids an education with everyone else because we're different causes undo stress and financial burden on parents and therefore damages the trust of government already lost on its so called people it represents. As native Hawaiians you are taking away our opportunity to learn more about our culture with Hawaiian Immersion Charter Schools that we will be disqualified from if this bill is approved. Mahalo for your time and supporting our right to our own beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:28:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Nakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:32:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Pascual	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:33:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janine little brave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to share that I strongly oppose this bill. Everyone has the right to medical freedom. What you are considering right now is Immoral, unethical and illegal.

This is a violation of bodily autonomy, God-given rights, constitutional rights and fundamental human rights.

As our Representatives you must speak for all of us and OPPOSE HB1118!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:34:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Pobst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 2 children. Both of our children have been partially vaccinated. I do not beleive that all of the vaccinations suggested today are necessary. I came to this conclusion after much self education on the pros and cons by looking at as much unbiased information as I could find. As a result my children have only received the vaccinations I received when I was a child 40 years ago. And they didn't receive any until after their first year of life. Now they are both approaching their teen years and I would never give them the hpv vaccination.

In our free Country (??), I cannot see how it is possible that parents would be forced to give their children every "suggested" vaccination in order to attend it a public school that our tax dollars pay for. Or have all the vaccinations to go to a private school that our personal money pays for. Should this come into law? I imagine there will be a lot of children in our state that will have no education because their parents have to work and cannot afford to homeschool them. Since it's illegal, not to go to school and you have to register if you're homeschooler, these parents would be in jeopardy of losing their children to the foster system. I am also a general resource caregiver (aka Foster parent) and I can tell you that there aren't enough foster parents currently for the amount of children in need.

What's next? We're not allowed to enter public parks without vaccinations. we cannot go into hospitals or grocery stores? We are issued vaccination cards just like we were with the Covid shots? Where does this end? Hopefully it ends now before it ever begins!

thank you for your time, Jenny Pobst

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:34:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaioluhia Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. As my God given right as a parent to choose what NOT to put into my child's body, has already been stripped from me, now my freedom of religion is being taken away as well.

This is parents last avenue to reserving their rights in to what our child will forever be exposed and the effects that come with it.

Please stop this and allow parents, to parent.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:35:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylen Mahuka-Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill! No school system whether it is public or private should have rights over my children's medical decisions on receiving vaccines or not. No bill in this state, country, or universe should ever have to force my children to be fully vaccinated or possibly be administered vaccinations in school. This is outrageous! It's a violations of our keiki's rights, our rights as parents, and just outright ridiculous.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:36:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vernon Kawahara	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Vernon Kawahara and I testify in oppositon to HB1118. It is against my religious and parental rights as a United States Citizen.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:36:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Zacker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Our children should not be forced to be vaccinated against religious beliefs. It is a violation of rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:37:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To put it simply, this will be a violation of our constitutional rights if this bill is passed. A no vote should be the only option. Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:37:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Kiili Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this testimony for they now are targeting the most likely unvaccinated which would be our Keiki. This causes concerns for parents who have minors that are under the special needs category and or have underlying health issues. This could also target the school system dramatically if this bill was passed and many parents who disagree will see an increase of Home school as an initial option instead, which in collateral will affect jobs in the DOE.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:38:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Miura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I, alongside with my family, strongly oppose this bill, which would remove religious exemptions from vaccinations for students. My generation (Gen X), my parents', my grandparents', and beyond, never was put to such an ultimatum. Many of you who read this I'm sure fall into these generations, and I'm sure would agree we all turned out fine. Terminating our choice for our kids is a complete overreach of the government. There are those that say it still is a choice...yet we would have to suffer a consequence should something like this pass, and we still oppose it, but now what happens to our choice of education for our kids. Eliminating to be able to go to school yet face this potentially significant decision, is far worse than the benefit this bill will bring. Let a parent decide what we want for our kids....as in all other aspects of their life and us being parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:39:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deneen Quartero	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Deneen Quartero, a mom & grandmother. I testify in STRONG opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove our ohana's right to make medical decisions based on our personal religious beliefs, forcing us to have to choose between our religious beleifs and education of our family. We should have the religious freedom to choose and not be mandated to submit to the laws of government dictating how we can protect our family.

No person should be MADE to receive medical treatment and this decision should be left to the parents & their doctors.

Thank you, I appreicate the opportunity to provide this testamony.

Deneen Quartero

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:39:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reni Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a physician and as a mother of a child who was diagnosed with leukemia, I strongly support HB 1118. As a physician, I know that vaccines are well-studied, safe, effective, and one of the most economical interventions to keep children healthy. The medical community is seeing increasing numbers of parents who are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children so much so that Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles!!

As a mother of a child who had to undergo three years of chemotherapy and during that time was immunocompromised and dependent on herd immunity, this situation terrifies me. We must protect the health and safety of our keiki and families! Please pass HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:39:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Kuratsu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 is an overreach by government and this is a direct violation of constitutional rights so stated in Constitution article 1, section 4. The government should not be allowed to dictate how I run my family nor how I raise my children.

The government would also take no accountability or any responsibility if my child developed any kind of vaccine injury, so why should the government be able to dictate what is best for my children and then not have to deal with any consequences that may come of it? That would be like the public advising government officials that they have to drink water that may or may not be contaminated in order to keep their positions. And the only way they don't have to drink it, is if they can provide proof they have a medical condition. And if you do get sick, that's your problem, not ours.

This bill is a blatant statement from those that introduced this bill that they don't respect our culture, our people, our beliefs, and still keep coming after the well being of our children and continues to try and remove parents from the equation as if we are not vital.

Instead of mandating vaccines, why not push for PARENTS to be educated about the benefits of vaccines instead of trying to back parents into a corner and forced? No, that's not the route that was chosen. Backing parents into a corner was and it is NOT ok.

How would the Governor feel if a school that his daughter attended said that when his daughter menstruates, she is only allowed to use tampons? But him and his wife are against the use of tampons and believe she should only use pads? How violating does that feel as a parent that a school makes that kind of dictation? This is the same concept that is being pushed with this bill. This bill needs to be killed!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:43:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leilani Avilla Kekona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for many reasons! My kids shouldn't be forced to do something or mandated. This Bill is bogus and everyone knows that. Why should you Gov Green be the one to say what goes in our kids bodies let alone get vaccinated! What will this vaccination do? Not a damn thing! It won't be a vaccine for my kids not to be sick or be prone to any type of sickness or cancer. When my kids get sick will you pay for their medical bills? Or be the one to stay up all night to ensure that my kids are okay? Or make sure they're good and breathing right? No you won't! Therefore this bill is nothing but a hoax and needs to be thrown out the door forever. You shouldn't have the rights to anyone's kids on mandated a vaccination. It's our kids and it's our say! NO CHILD SHOULD BE VACCINATED WITHOUT THEIR PARENT(S) PERMISSION OR CONSENT!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:44:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill and will testify via zoom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:45:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a longstanding permanent resident of Hawaii, I strongly urge you to oppose this bill. It is a violation of our right to choose and an invasion of our privacy and the health and safety of our children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:46:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abcdee Lacaden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Mai Kakou,

I oppose bill HB1118, it should not be mandatory and forced for our keiki to receive vaccines in school. That decision should be between myself, my husband, and our physician and no one else! It is our God-given right!! A'ole, A'ole, A'ole!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:46:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Inman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- **I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 HD1.**
- The removal of this exemption raises serious **constitutional concerns**— ultimately, only a court can make that determination if the bill passes. This bill's passing will waste taxpayer dollars as it will likely be challenged in court, and local attorneys and advocacy groups are already gathering the necessary information to take action.
- This bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education—a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy?
- The **Department of Education has valid and serious concerns** yet they were not even heard. This is not following the process for the good of the people.
- Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:47:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ho'onani Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It should be the parents choice whether or not their children should be vaccinated and should not be forced upon as a requirement to attend school.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:50:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Traves Ukauka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill as this goes against our constitutional rights, no one should be forced to take any kind of vaccine or medicine just like jehovah witness cannot do a blood transfusion because of their religion, there are a little people that don't want to inject aborted fetal cell lines into their body. You cannot tell people what they need to inject into their body. This is not a one size fits all.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:53:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Soyland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My child my choice

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:53:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Ferrari	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill. As a citizen of the United States of America and of the state of Hawaii it is my right to freedom of religion. This bill goes against our constitutional rights and god-given rights.

This bill infringes on fundamental religious freedom by compelling individuals to receive pharmaceutical products against their sincerely held beliefs.

I strongly oppose this bill.

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB1118

Aloha House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs committee,

I write in **strong opposition** to HB1118, a bill that egregiously violates **religious and medical freedoms** while unjustly denying children their fundamental right to an education—whether public or private. This bill imposes coercive medical mandates, stripping parents of their **right to religious freedom & informed consent** forcing medical procedures in exchange for access to education!

My name is Tashina Lane, born and raised in Hawaii, working mother of four ages 8 through 24.. With each child I researched and confirmed our religious beliefs as well as the very real medical risks associated with the massive vaccine schedule for children from infant through college ages. We know personally families who's children have suffered severe injury as well as death from adverse reactions to vaccinations. This grief aside the statements to follow are not feelings or opinions. They are facts!

Severe Adverse Reactions are Listed on all Vaccine Package Inserts.

It is critical to acknowledge that vaccine injury is not a myth—it is a **documented reality**. **Vaccine manufacturers themselves disclose serious risks** on their FDA-approved package inserts, which **healthcare providers are required to review and discuss** with patients before administration. These inserts list severe **adverse reactions**, including but not limited to:

- **Anaphylaxis** (a life-threatening allergic reaction)
- **Myocarditis and Pericarditis** (heart inflammation)
- **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** (a condition causing paralysis)
- **Seizures and Convulsions**
- **Chronic Arthritis**
- **Encephalopathy and Encephalitis** (brain swelling and permanent neurological damage)
- **Autoimmune Disorders**
- **Thrombocytopenia** (dangerous blood clotting disorders)
- **Sudden Infant Death Syndrome (SIDS)** (listed in some pediatric vaccine inserts)

These risks are **not theoretical**—they are **acknowledged by the manufacturers and the FDA**. Furthermore, the **Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS)**, a government-run database, has recorded **hundreds of thousands of adverse events**, including **death and permanent disability**, following vaccination.

Where the bill is being justified by the idea that less the 300 immunocompromised children in Hawaii are relying on herd immunity. These children can be administered all vaccines if they choose with the exception of the live virus vaccines. **The fact is that those immunocompromised children are at the greatest risk by recently vaccinated individuals through shedding of the live virus. This fact is also stated on the vaccine package inserts.**

Vaccine Manufacturers Have Legal Immunity—Taxpayers Pay for the Injuries

It is crucial to recognize that **vaccine manufacturers are shielded from liability** for injuries caused by their products. Under the **National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act (NCVIA) of 1986**, pharmaceutical companies producing vaccines are granted **complete legal immunity** from lawsuits, even in cases of severe injury or death. This means that **if a child is harmed by a vaccine, families cannot sue the manufacturer for damages.**

Instead, injured individuals must seek compensation through the **National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP)**, which is **funded by taxpayer dollars, not the vaccine companies responsible for the harm.** Since its inception, the VICP has **paid out over \$4 billion** in compensation to families of vaccine-injured individuals. The fact that this program exists is proof that **vaccine injuries are real and significant enough for the federal government to create a fund to compensate victims.**

By enforcing mandates like those in HB1118, the state is **forcing medical interventions with known risks while absolving pharmaceutical companies of responsibility.** Families bear the burden of potential injuries, while the vaccine manufacturers face **zero liability**—a clear **violation of medical ethics and fundamental rights.**

Informed Consent is a Legal and Ethical Requirement.

Under **federal law and medical ethics, informed consent** must be obtained before any medical procedure, including vaccination. Healthcare providers are required to:

1. **Explain the benefits and risks** of the medical intervention.
2. **Disclose potential severe side effects**, as outlined in vaccine package inserts.
3. **Offer alternatives**, including the right to decline.
4. **Ensure the patient or guardian consents without coercion.**

HB1118 **completely undermines this process** by effectively forcing parents to comply with state mandates under duress. By **threatening children with educational exclusion**, this bill **turns a fundamental right—education—into a tool of coercion**, violating medical ethics and human rights.

This bill is in Violation of Religious and Parental Rights.

HB1118 seeks to eliminate religious exemptions, forcing families to violate their deeply held convictions. The **First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution** guarantees the right to **religious freedom**, yet this bill would coerce families into accepting medical procedures that **may go against their faith**. Many religious traditions uphold the sanctity of the body and prohibit **the use of vaccines derived from aborted fetal cells**, animal products, or other objectionable ingredients.

Furthermore, **parental rights** are the foundation of family autonomy. Parents, **not the government**, are best equipped to make **informed medical decisions** for their children. **No state authority should have the power to override parental judgment, particularly when serious risks are involved. Where there is risk there must be choice!**

HB1118 is a Direct Attack on Hawaiian Language Immersion Schools.

HB1118 is not just a violation of medical and religious freedom—it also threatens **Hawaiian children's right to learn their native language in Hawaiian language immersion schools** such as those established under the **'Aha Pūnana Leo and the Hawaiian Emerson language school system** of which my children attend with the hopes to be the first in three generations to speak, read and write in their native language.

For **generations**, Hawaiian children were **forbidden by law** from learning **'Ōlelo Hawai'i**, their own native tongue. The wrongful suppression of Hawaiian language and culture caused **immeasurable harm**, cutting Native Hawaiians off from their ancestral knowledge, identity, and traditions. Only in **recent decades** has the Hawaiian language revival movement restored **our children's right to learn the language that was stolen from their ancestors**.

HB1118 threatens to **once again deny** Native Hawaiian children their right to learn in their ancestral tongue by barring unvaccinated children from attending **Hawaiian immersion schools**. This bill echoes the **historic injustices imposed on the Hawaiian people**, when colonial laws forced assimilation and stripped away cultural heritage. **Are we truly going to repeat history by once again using**

government mandates to deny Hawaiian children access to their own language and education unless they undergo medical interventions that violate medical & religious freedoms?

This bill is a Dangerous Precedent for Government Overreach.

Not only does HB1118 threaten public school access, but it also imposes state control over **private and religious schools**, setting a precedent that erodes **educational and institutional independence**. Private and faith-based schools have long provided families with a choice in education, yet this bill seeks to **strip them of their autonomy**, overriding their ability to operate according to their values.

Education Should NEVER Be Used as Coercion.

Access to education is a **fundamental right** that should **never be contingent upon medical compliance**. HB1118 would unjustly **punish children for their families' lawful medical & religious choices, discriminating against them and segregating them from their peers**. Such exclusion is **cruel, unconstitutional, and a violation of both civil and human rights**.

For these reasons, I **urge you to vote NO** on HB1118.

The government **must not** infringe upon **religious freedom, medical autonomy, parental rights, and the right of Native Hawaiian children to access their cultural and linguistic heritage**. Every child deserves access to education, regardless of their family's religious & medical choices.

Please consider your responsibility in protecting religious and medical freedom and access to education for all of Hawaii's Keiki!

Mahalo Nui,
Tashina Lane
tashinamariah@gmail.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:56:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul & Jeri Pankey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As grandparents to 7 beautiful children here on the Big Island, I feel I must speak out in opposition of this bill. As a family, we have always been cautious about our medical choices and even MORE so with our grandchildren. This bill will not only remove our religious RIGHT under our Lord and Savior, it also takes away the choice of the parent that knows their children best.

No government official should be given the right to make medical decisions on behalf of our keiki!

Allowing this bill to go through will result in mass amounts of families opting to homeschool and in our case, most likely move four generations of our family out of the state. It deeply saddens me that this is even something we must consider.

Please end BILL HB1118 immediately!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:56:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christy Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha council members

Firm NO to HB1118

I open my heart to guidance

I See the hands of divine intelligence all around me

I have complete confidence

and trust in

my creator

My maker

The organizer of my cells

My innate regenerator

I am wonderfully made in the spirit of his love and

His power

I do not cower

I do not fear

I am firm

His guidance clear

Our immune systems are not broken

....

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:57:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO:

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tamas, Chair Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

POSITION: OPPOSE HB 1118, HD1: Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. Prohibits new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children.

Dear House Representatives of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

The proposed amendment changes to Section 302-A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes, removes the right of parents, custodians, guardians of a child attending a school (public or private) in Hawaii to file a religious exemption. This infringes on the ‘free exercise’ component of the First Amendment, which states that “Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof.” In *Cantwell v Connecticut*, 310 U.S. 296, 303 (1940) through the Fourteenth Amendment, the ‘free exercise’ component applies at the state level rendering “the legislatures of the states as incompetent as Congress to enact such laws.”

In *Fulton v City of Philadelphia*, 141 S. Ct. 1868, 1876 (2021), the Supreme Court held that “religious beliefs need not be acceptable, logical, consistent, or comprehensible to others in order to merit First Amendment protection.” In *Tanzin v Tanvir*, 141 S. Ct. 486, 489 (2020), the Supreme Court has interpreted the federal Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) as “secur[ing] Congress’ view of the right to free exercise under the First Amendment, and [providing] a remedy to redress violations of that right.”

A generally applicable law is neutral and is applicable to the general public. This proposed amendment to HRS 302A-1156 fails to be generally applicable by prohibiting and thereby violating the free exercise of religious beliefs through religious exemptions yet allows medical exemptions. It gives an unconstitutional and biased permission for medical motivations to be applicable to the general public rather than allowing permission for medical and religious motivations to be exercised.

In addition, previously approved religious exemptions from required immunizations still permits the exercise of the same 'free exercise' clause of the First Amendment. The fact that this allowed but new religious exemptions are not is hypocritical and still unconstitutional.

Since this amendment directly addresses students' education, why was this bill not assigned to the House Committee on Education? Why is this legislation bypassing the committee directly responsible for state education policy? This is of serious concern and should be addressed.

Lastly, this amendment challenges parental rights and authority over our minor children. We are responsible for our children's care in every way. This proposed amendment puts a burden on exercising our religious beliefs by having no options but to adhere to Department of Health vaccine mandates, forcing parents to consider decisions to find an alternative option or leave the state. Based on the unconstitutionality of this, I foresee a First Amendment challenge to this in a court of law.

I strongly urge you to OPPOSE this proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sharon Martin

Windward Oahu resident & parent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:57:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TO:

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tamas, Chair Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

POSITION: OPPOSE HB 1118, HD1: Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. Prohibits new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children.

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I strongly urge you to OPPOSE this proposed amendment.

Respectfully submitted,

Mrs. Sharon Martin

Windward Oahu resident & parent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:58:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
A PARENT	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Any one on this voting panel that does not have a child in grade school needs to be stricken of their ability to cast a vote, especially if it is to support this (Unconstitutional Bill).

For those of you that don't have child in the grade school system **do not Know what it is like to have your child have a Negative Reaction to these so called vaccinations.....**

this is not a one shoe fits all, a parent has the right and will continue to have the right to choose.

I as a parent of a child has had a negative reaction to a pass vaccination will not be forced by any measure upon my child to have any more poisons injected upon them to attend school. Shame on you for even coming up with such a bill....

OPPOSE THIS and never try to force a parent to inject poisons ever again!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:58:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Radke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kakou,

I am writing to you all in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to this bill. There are a countless reason why mandating anyone to inject anything into their body (no matter the contents) is unjust and immoral. But at the end of the day the fact that holds the most weight and that you all simply cannot deny is **FREEDOM OF CHOICE!** There are hundreds of thousands of stories out there that talk of vaccine injuries and untold risks, and we could be here for days hearing the heartbreaking stories of both sides of the coin. Which is why it is imperative that you uphold your sworn position to protect the constitution and our rights under it. **IF THERE IS A RISK, THERE MUST BE A CHOICE!** You, your doctor (or mine), the president himself does **NOT** have the right to tell me what I **MUST** put in my (or my child's) body. And for you to consider taking this choice away from parents is completely unconstitutional. Furthermore, by passing this absurd law, you would be not only asking parents to make an impossible decision to consider forcibly injecting their child with very toxic and potentially life changing chemicals that we feel deep in our na'au (our intuition and deepest knowledge) that is not right, but we now have to consider quitting our jobs and living in even deeper poverty to now keep our keiki home from school to protect them from these shots and keep them safe. You are leaving parents **NO ACCEPTABLE OPTIONS!** This is **HEWA!** (Wrong). **PLEASE** reconsider this bill and **REJECT** it immediately!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:58:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine M Aquí	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am in total opposition to HB1118, that will eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. I was alarmed when our legislators had passed a bill a while ago mandating the HPV vaccination for students attending public schools starting in middle school. I have always opted out of these vaccines because it did not fit in our life considering the nature of the vaccine. So when I was told it was mandated I was upset. When I looked to get direction from the public health nurse she informed me that there was no way I could opt out with religious exemption because I had already allowed my child to be vaccinated with other immunization shots. I was told I would be denied. I couldn't help but realize that my rights were being infringed upon. Forcing our Hawaii citizens to take whatever vaccines you mandate is not ok. This shouldn't have been even voted on, but rather given to the public to review and to do our due diligence in researching the effects of vaccines for our families. My son is autistic and it's already troubling to see the injuries that vaccines can do. He has had terrible reactions to the flu vaccine already, yet no doctors will not give a medical exemption if i wanted one for future vaccines. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and represent me and my family as I know you all can, restore my faith in you making decisions on my behalf. This bill clearly is meant to take away rights from parents like me that need the ability to make sound health decisions for my son.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:58:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danijela Hembal	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I, DANIJELA Hembal, resident of Kailua/Oahu, am opposing bill HB1118, which is revoking families the right of religious actions granted in our constitution and with it the exemption for self-determined medical interventions.

First, the manufacture of vaccines using human cell lines demonstrate profound disrespect for the dignity of the human person. Since the 1960s human cell lines have been used like HEK-293 from abortions including current vaccines against rubella, chickenpox, hepatitis A and shingles. Bill 1118 is asking all of us for an ethical reflection, and an adoption would force all us religious believers to violate our own conscience derived from God's consciousness.

Second, the main argument for introducing the bill refers to the fear of a disruption of herd immunity. Active herd immunity though results from two derivatives: either a natural previous infection or a prophylactic immunization.

I am asking you, will it be righteous to mandate an artificial immunization to a child who's family conscience and first amendment right will be violated without knowing if that child might already have a natural immunity through a previous infection and thus indeed supports herd immunity already? A thorough evaluation examinations would need to be initiated here before the main reasoning for this bill's adoption can be validated.

Third, the decision whether to introduce herd immunity artificially by immunization against a particular disease depends on four epidemiological principles. One of them is, that the risk of contracting the disease must be considerable. In case of HPV for example, this principle is not met. HPV is a virus mostly transmitted through sexual intercourse. Individuals practicing sexual abstinence for religious reasons and per the CDC even people in long-term mutually monogamous relationships are not likely to get new HPV infections.

So in case of HPV religious practices are more effective than the vaccine in protecting the general public from HPV.

This, as the third key example proves that the bill 1118 fails to you lawmakers need to balance the affected rights appropriately and therefore should not be passed as is.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:58:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lara Taamu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1118

Eradicating Anti Christian Bias Ex Order Feb 6 2025

Section1 Purpose and Policy of US to protect the religious freedoms of Americans and end anti Christian weaponization of government....

Federal law Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 prohibits government interference with Americans to exercise their religion

CDC and NIH have no documentation on the safety of injecting aluminum into humans. Aluminum is a known neurotoxin that impacts central nervous system and gene expression.

the 1st infant vaccine at 6 months child receives 35 micrograms. 2 months later 1,050 micrograms in one visit. Etc etc

3rd Party testing has shown there is more aluminum in the tested units then recorded in the vaccine insert. This is unacceptable to learn there is no knowledge or control at what amount of a neurotoxin is being injected into a healthy human being.

this attempt to control a population and take parental and individual rights to protect community health is invalid and insane thinking.

THE RIGHTS OF MAN COME NOT FROM THE GENEROSITY OF STATE BUT FROM THE HAND OF GOD - jfk jr

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:59:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betty Garland	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

First and foremost, I'd like to give thanks and glory to my Lord and Savior Jesus Christ for this opportunity to speak before you and in opposition of this evil bill. I am here in representation of our loving God.

HB1118 Dissection**Section 6- This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.**

Why is this bill being introduced 975 years early?

This is a scare tactic and manipulation from those in a government position.

None of us will be alive in the year 3000. So this bill is clearly irrelevant to every living person of our generation. It makes no sense. Any person with common sense will see that this bill is just one of the steps in the evil plan of destroying our children, and taking control away from parents.

Title of Bill: Relating To Non-medical Exemptions To Immunization Requirements

In the state of Hawaii, there are ONLY TWO exemptions for vaccines. Medical and religious exemptions. The title of this bill states non-medical exemptions. If it's not obvious, it is clearly targeting religious exemptions. Key word, targeting. Targeting our religious freedoms. This bill imposes religious discrimination and is an obvious violation to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act. This Act is a federal law that protects the right of people to practice their religion and it applies to federal and state governments. How does this relate to practicing our religion you may ask?

1 Corinthians 6:19-20, DO YOU KNOW KNOW THAT YOUR BODIES ARE TEMPLES OF THE HOLY SPIRIT, WHO IS IN YOU, WHOM YOU HAVE RECEIVED FROM GOD? YOU ARE NOT YOUR OWN; YOU WERE BOUGHT AT A PRICE. THEREFORE HONOR GOD WITH YOUR BODIES.

Choosing the option of religious exemption for vaccination, is a way of practicing our religious freedom.

No matter what choice you make today for this bill, God knows all. God sees all. This bill is evil and is designed to destroy God's children.

Proverbs 9:10 THE FEAR OF LORD IS THE BEGINNING OF WISDOM: AND THE KNOWLEDGE OF THE HOLY IS UNDERSTANDING.

My hope for you all here today, is that the fear of God will be enough for you to oppose this bill because it seeks to destroy His heritage.

So I leave you with one question, do you fear God? If your answer is no, I pray that God has mercy on you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 2:59:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Hino-Agustin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to you as a very concerned parent of a child within the DOE system. This bill infringes upon our rights as United States Citizens. We should be able to choose what goes in our bodies. We have very strong held religious beliefs against vaccines and the unethical things they are made of, such as aborted fetal cells, heavy metals and now the latest DNA altering mRNA. The removal of this exemption raises serious constitutional concerns and will also cause serious detrimental effects to Hawaii's families. Our children are already undereducated in this State and you will cause more children to go without education if you pass this bill.

Adding to the concern, this bill was **never assigned** to the House Committee on Education, a critical oversight. How can legislation that directly impacts students bypass the very committee responsible for education policy? This is deeply problematic and demands immediate attention. Please vote NO if you care about Hawaii's families and the future Keiki of our islands.

I'm writing in strong opposition to HB118 which removes religious exemptions

I disagree with this ploy to take away people's religious freedoms. This bill is discriminating against our religious beliefs. The first amendment of our United States Constitution is there to protect religious freedom. It forbids the government from restricting an individual's religious practices.

I believe every child's healthcare needs are unique and as much as we respect our doctors and respect our health care providers, we as the parents have rights to make informed decisions whether that agrees with the doctor or not. We have on many occasions taken medical advice, that lines up with our religious beliefs, from doctors about different ailments.

This infringement on our beliefs sets a poor example to our child that the government can do whatever they want regardless of our religious beliefs and one's autonomy. We have the right to make the best decisions possible for our children. If children desire as adults to get those vaccines that will be their right to do so.

If this passes then we will need to do full homeschooling and my children will be banned from playing sports in the school system, which we are a part of. Furthermore, my children not being able to play sports will have a greater impact on our children's mental and physical health than not taking a vaccine.

Once again I strongly oppose this effort from Governor Green to disregard our freedoms because of personal vendetta against Robert Kennedy Jr.

I fear if this passes there will be more discrimination to come towards individuals like us.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:00:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Agustin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to HB1118 HD1.

I am a father of four children. One child currently attends a Hawaii School with a non-medical religious exemption from the vaccine requirement. If this measure were to pass my three other children would be prevented from accessing the public school system in Hawaii when they become of school age.

This measure is also constitutionally problematic and will not withstand the strict scrutiny standard requirement. There are alternative measures that could be taken that would address the purported compelling state interest to protect children. The legislature could consider providing school vouchers to families with school aged children to allow the Parents of children to decide where and how to educate their children. Some schools may provide non medical exemptions to the vaccine requirement to students and then there are other schools that may not. Parents should be able to choose accordingly and support the schools that align with their values for their community. This would be a more tailored approach to addressing the perceived risk that is being discussed. It is my opinion that the legislature is failing to consider alternatives to this overly broad and unconstitutional measure.

I would request that you vote no against this measure. Thank you for your consideration and time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:00:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Agustin	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

February 20, 2025

HB 1118 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Dear Chair David Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I submit my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1118. I **OPPOSE** this repeal because it is a direct violation of our first amendment right that no law prohibit the free exercise of religion. I am a Native Hawaiian mother of two young children, whose wellbeing is my top priority. The current childhood immunization schedule required for school admission amounts to 33+ immunization dosages from birth to the age of 18 excluding the recommended vaccinations and boosters for flu and MRNA Covid. I worked in healthcare for 5 years and during the pandemic worked directly on Covid-19 relief efforts. The MRNA Covid vaccine does not prevent people from contracting Covid. The CDC has approved the MRNA Covid Vaccine to be administered to children as young as 6 months.

Parents are required to sign a form that they are aware of the risks of their child receiving an immunization, removing the responsibility of the potential harm from the medical provider. Additionally, medical providers are paid a commission from the pharmaceutical companies when they administer these immunizations, which to me, is a conflict of interest. Parents have the right to this decision as the primary caretakers, which should not prevent a child from enrollment into school. Don't make it even harder for families to decide between health and education. In other words, we are forced to decide if our children should be immunized with a risk of longterm health problems and be allowed to attend school or not be immunized and denied admission to school.

God gives us discernment. During the pandemic, the religious exemption letter was the only document preventing thousands of adults from losing their jobs and thousands of children from missing school. The people have lost trust in the medical field after the Covid-19 Pandemic and also because of the access to factual information of the harm and validity of the immunizations through the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System also known as VAERS. I **OPPOSE** this repeal because it is a direct violation of our first amendment right that no law prohibit the free exercise of religion.

I strongly OPPOSE and urge you to deny this bill to give the children of Hawai'i and their families the freedom of choice as it refers to religious exemptions for immunizations. Mahalo for your time and your continued efforts in regards to our health.

Malia Agustin

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:00:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to mandatory vaccination requirements and the removal of non medical / religious exemption options for individuals, and families.

Forced healthcare is a a violation of the principles America was built on.

In addition it contradicts the fundamental principle if the Neuremberg code

The most important provision was the first:

“The voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential . . . the person involved should have the legal capacity to give consent; should be so situated as to be able to exercise free power of choice, without intervention of any element of force, fraud, deceit, duress, overreaching, or other ulterior form of constraint or coercion; and should have sufficient knowledge and comprehension of the elements of the subject matter involved as to enable him to make an understanding and enlightened decision. . .”

The Nuremberg Code is a legal precedent based on a moral standard. Forcing individuals into a medical experiment violates their human rights.

Thank You ,

Denis Mullen

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

February 20, 2025

RE: House Bill 1118

Position: STRONGLY Oppose

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

I am a mom of six children on the Big Island of Hawaii and I strongly oppose this bill and am outraged at the sheer proposal of it. While this bill seeks to ensure the health and safety of all school-aged children in Hawaii, it forgets a most fundamental truth.

It violates our first amendment rights to exercise our freedom of religion. A faith based community grounded on morals is crucial to the upholding of a civil society but we must be allowed to live according to the faith that we profess. A violation of our rights to practice our religion is an attack on our rights and the faith we hold so dear. What is the point to having religious liberty if we cannot practice our religion to the dictates of conscience. This is a direct violation of the Constitution of the United States and should be dissolved immediately. The fact that it is even considered is an egregious violation to the loving parents of our state.

It also violates the right of parents to make decisions for their own children's health and appears to want to remove any ability for them to choose a different health path at all. Parents love their children more than the state and removing their ability to care for them according to their dictates and conscience is a violation of their parental rights.

For these reasons I STRONGLY urge you to oppose HB1118.

Sincerely,

Anuhe Maeda

PO Box 4821

Hilo, HI 96720

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:04:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Akaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Mercedes Akaka, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I have always been neutral to people's choices. I have never been one to criticize or scrutinize somebody because of their freedom of choice. That is the beauty of the country we live in. People fled (and still flee) to America for freedom. Freedom from communism, freedom from dictators, freedom from religious persecution, freedom to worship any religious they'd like, even freedom to personal lifestyle choices. If we can open America's doors to all these people with different backgrounds and choices, why are targets on the backs of those who seek religious exemptions from vaccinations for their children? This is not pono and not the values America stands upon.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:04:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelic Turner-Tua	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Angelic Turner-Tua from Faith in Action Church of God, and I testify in opposition to HHB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawai‘i has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For this reason, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:05:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari Grief	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a pediatric hospitalist here in Hawai‘i, and I am in strong support of this bill. Vaccinations are an extremely necessary part of preventative health for children, and have helped to eliminate some of the deadliest diseases like polio that used to plague our population. Non-medical exemptions have been on the rise, and have been putting the herd immunity of the community at risk as vaccine rates have begun to fall. From 2023-2024, Hawai'i's non-medical exemption rate was 5.3%, surpassing that of the national average by 2%. In some communities in Hawai'i, the unvaccinated percentage of the pediatric population has risen to >30%. This means our vaccination rate falls significantly below the percentage needed to achieve herd immunity in our communities. This puts all children at risk, especially those who are unable to be vaccinated due to their ongoing medical conditions, or those too young to receive certain vaccinations. The government has a responsibility to protect the safety of the general public, and to prevent the spread of these diseases that could be prevented through vaccinations. Please consider voting in favor to remove non-medical exemptions.

Mahalo,

Dr. Mari Grief

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:07:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Loeb1	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Greetings Chair Tarnas and Commitee,

My name is Kristina Loeb1 and I testify in strong opposition to HB 1118.

This bill is in violation to our constitutional rights regarding freedom of religion.

Furthermore NO ONE should demand what I or my children puts in our bodies! Not only are you stripping the rights of the people but now want to deny education based on your demands! Moreover, there is absolutely no liability on the side of pharmaceutical companies if someone should have adverse effects including permanent damgages to the point of death. What happened to my body, my choice? You are suppose to be working on behalf of the people not your own selfish motivations.

Obey the constitution. Again I am whole heartily OPPOSED to HB 1118.

Sincerely,

Krisitna Loeb1

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:11:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jada-Marie Pereira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my RIGHT as a US citizen to choose what I put in my child's body. As it is also my right to have certain beliefs. The state of Hawaii as the 50th state, should know & DO BETTER for every child in Hawaii. I should not have to sacrifice my child's education just because I believe in not getting my child vaccinated. I oppose this bill & just wanted to say that you folks (as our chosen government) should be ashamed of yourselves.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:12:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meleana judd-cox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please do not pass HB1118.

It will keep many children out of our public school systems.

Meleana Judd-Cox

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:12:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Verhoef	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee-

I am a pediatric and adult ICU physician here in Hawai‘i. I care for patients when they become critically ill, for any reason. In addition, I have a PhD studying the immunology of infectious diseases, making me uniquely well-qualified to speak on the importance of immunizations. My interest in this is purely medical and scientific; I simply want what's best for the people of Hawai‘i.

At a fundamental level, non-medical exemptions to immunizations put the keiki of Hawai‘i at risk. As the number of people immunized for vaccine-preventable illnesses decreases, so too does the number of people who contract those infections increase. Our keiki are the most vulnerable... many are too young for immunizations. While an adult can argue "measles isn't so bad. I had chicken pox when I was younger and I turned out fine," our infants cannot make that argument. So if the number of people immunized against measles or chicken pox decreases, the number of people that contract these infections will increase; while they may recover, what happens when they visit their 9 month old niece and inadvertently infect her? Suddenly, she ends up in my ICU with an illness that could have been prevented if only her family members had elected to be immunized. These are patients I have cared for; it breaks the hearts of healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, dieticians, etc) to care for people who are sick with vaccine-preventable illnesses because we know that their illness was, in all likelihood, preventable.

The state should strive to limit barriers to immunizations that are not supported by medical and scientific research, in order to assure that as many people as possible receive immunizations. Doing so reflects a commitment to protecting our population (and especially our keiki) from unnecessary suffering.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Verhoef, MD, PhD, FAAP, FACP, ATSF

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:19:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, My name is Jacqueline Ryan and I have a 6 year old son, Coast Ryan. I am against vaccinations because of many reasons. The #1 reason is because vaccinations contain a preservative called Thimerosal. Thimerosal is a preservative used in vaccines to protect the vaccine from outside bacteria or fungus. Thimerosal contains at least 50% MERCURY of weight. Mercury is dangerous to the human body because it can cause significant damage to the nervous system and kidneys, as well as a wide range of other damaging effects. AI on google says that Mercury is expecially harmful to young children. Now please tell me why I would inject my child whom I love more than anything else in this world, with a toxic chemical that may or may not hurt him. Everyone's immune system is not created equal. Different people will react differently to a vaccine. Some will be fine and untouched while others will not. I'm not a doctor but it doesn't take a rocket scientist to know that there is a definite chance of harm if you inject mercury into the body of a child. If you could give me fact based evidence that vaccines would NOT hurt my child, then I would gladly give him the shots. Fact based, science backed evidence. Not Biased science that has been manipulated by the drug companies to come up with the results they WANT the public to hear. How much is Josh Green getting paid by the Big Pharm companies to put this law into effect? I'm guessing his pockets are getting pretty lined with the green. Bottom line, if you put this law into effect, you take away a person's God given right to make health decisions for their own bodies. Guaranteed if I told my son that he has to take a shot that might hurt him for the rest of his life, he would say NO, mama, I don't want to take this shot. And guess what, I will NEVER give my son a vaccine. I guess I will just have to quit my job and homeschool my son for the duration of his schooling life. I guess we will have to go into poverty and lose our house and become homeless. Come on, navigating life these days, especially in one of the most expensive states to live, is already tough. Please don't do this to our Keiki.

Mahalo for your time,

Aloha, Jacqueline Ryan

47 year old mother and Administrative Manager of Maui Pacific Solar, Inc.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:24:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Morgan Manzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a new mother I would like to know I have the option to choose what is right for my child and my family. Mandates such as these take power and choice away from the people. I would like to believe we are collectively working towards a healthier, stronger, more community minded world as opposed to a restricted one.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:26:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Akasaki-Kenney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly opposed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:28:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tarita Tehotu	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Submitted!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:30:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Kalawe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:31:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Childs	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As background: I am a licensed physician in private practice in Honolulu for 43 years. I am the fourth generation of physicians on my mothers side, who was the first board-certified pediatrician in Hawaii and was in charge of administering vaccinations beginning in 1940, and was subsequently appointed as the Chief of Maternal and Child Health for the Hawaii State Department of Health in 1966. My undergraduate education at USC included a minor in molecular genetics and my senior research in 1970 was on the newly discovered mRNA. I am no stranger to public health, immunization, and the newly derived models of vaccination using mRNA technology

At least 30% of the of the positive healing effect of any medication or treatment is now definitely attributed to what is called the “PLACEBO” effect.

And also at least 30% to 40% of negative damaging effects, meaning an exaggeration or worsening of illness or delay in recovery from illness is definitely attributed to what is called the “NOCEBO” effect.

The PLACEBO and NOCEBO effects have been rigorously scientifically proven using the “gold standard” of randomized, controlled, double blinded research studies as required by law. The results of these studies are recorded, and published in PEER REVIEWED medical literature available to the general public, which including sources from the national Institute of health (NIH) and centers for disease control (CDC) .

The PLACEBO effect attributes improvements in a patient’s health and well-being to their subconscious “belief” that the treatment is helping their body to heal. In current western medical practice, which is based on a legally binding and protected Doctor-Patient Relationship, that “placebo” effect is acknowledged as a vital component of good medical care. This “placebo” “belief” is given to the patient through direct communication containing subtle suggestions during each unique Doctor-Patient Relationship visit.

The NOCEBO effect attributes worsening of a patient’s health and well-being to their subconscious “belief” that the treatment will damage their body and worsen illness and injury.

The 30% potency of the proven placebo component of treatment is necessary for optimal

patient response to any medical treatment, which only works if the patient “believes” it will work.

“Religious” beliefs or practices have a role generally in human society but even the role of religion requires some amount of “belief”.

Belief is an internal process that involves the internal synchronization of your mind and your body, which together control your immune system, which controls all healing and recovery processes. Belief is not an external process where something is inserted into your brain or given to you, belief is your own unique internal creation.

Whether a patient participates to any minor or major degree in any structured organized religious practice has nothing to do with the strength of their mind body connection, or the strength of their beliefs, or the strength of their Doctor-Patient relationship.

If a patient “believes” that a treatment given to him will not be helpful, (NOCEBO), it will do just as much damage to his body as he thinks it will.

If a patient is forced to take a treatment against his will a minimum of 30% and more likely 40% of injury is scientifically documented to occur.

Denial of “Religious” or “Belief” exemptions by any supposedly “educated” individual or governing body is a gross manifestation of ignorance, betrayal, or desertion from the massive body of published medical scientific literature.

To that extent it is stunning that a western trained medical physician such as our Governor would even propose a bill that is directly antagonistic to his own formal education, training , and experience.

It is scientifically proven, and therefore should be accepted, that a persons “belief” will have a major impact on his individual health, and therefore the public health of our society as a whole.

Robert Kulani Childs, M.D.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:33:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenai Chung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118! It infringes on persoanl freedoms, parental rights and religious liberties. It should be my choice concerning the health and well being of my children!

Until you can prove to me vaccines are 100% safe and 100% effective maybe you can change my mind. But I AM 1,000 % sure you can't because science, (who you guys said to trust) proves otherwise. That IT IS NOT SAFE AND EFFECTIVE! My body, My choice, you guys said that too remember!

Therefore I strongly oppose HB1118!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:33:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teila Anae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am a mother of 3, and I'm in opposition to this bill. This should be a parent's right and decision to decide what gets injected to their children. We have the freedom to decide what our children get exposed to.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:36:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Pidot	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our family adamantly opposes proposition HB1118 HD1 and are actually quite shocked this is even being put into consideration.

This bill represents a direct and unjustified violation of our religious freedoms as protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution. The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, and compelling parents to choose between their deeply held religious beliefs and their child's right to an education is an unacceptable government overreach. The ability to make medical decisions for one's child based on religious convictions should remain protected.

Furthermore, there is no current outbreak or public health emergency that would necessitate the repeal of religious exemptions. The existing system already includes safeguards to protect at-risk populations. Parents who sign the religious exemption form acknowledge that in the event of an outbreak, their unvaccinated child may be required to stay home temporarily. This approach has successfully balanced public health concerns with individual rights for years without issue. If there were a genuine, immediate threat, the Department of Health already has mechanisms in place to respond appropriately.

Additionally, this bill raises concerns about government overreach and inconsistency in bodily autonomy policies.

We should focus on policies that respect parental rights while maintaining reasonable public health protections.

This bill is unnecessary and, if passed, would infringe upon the religious rights of the people of Hawai'i. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution explicitly protects these rights.

It is also extremely troubling that schools mandate vaccines for diseases that are not communicable in a classroom setting. HPV and Hep B are two like this. The requirement for the Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine is particularly concerning. HPV is not transmitted through casual contact, shared surfaces, or airborne exposure—unlike measles or other illnesses that have historically justified school vaccine mandates. There is no reasonable public health justification for requiring this vaccine for school attendance.

Furthermore, the HPV vaccine has been associated with numerous documented adverse events. While no medical intervention is entirely risk-free, parents should have the right to weigh these risks and make an informed decision without government coercion. The vaccine schedule should not include a requirement that disregards parental authority and medical autonomy, particularly when it involves a disease that is preventable through personal behavior rather than communal exposure.

This mandate sets a dangerous precedent by expanding government authority over private medical decisions. Schools should not have the power to dictate medical interventions unrelated to the classroom environment. If the justification for school vaccine mandates is to prevent the spread of infectious diseases in a communal learning space, then requiring a vaccine for a sexually transmitted infection contradicts that very logic.

Again we are adamantly urging you to oppose HB 1118.

Thank you for reading this and for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:36:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arviella Benavides	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to this ridiculous bill. I want to have a say to the options of my children's medical and health care to All my children present and in the near future. All the words strikes in this bill needs to be un stricken 302A-1156 line item 1 & 2 and 321-11 line item 22. I do not want any medical personnel dictating to me what immunizations MUST BE GIVEN TO THE CHILDREN in order to ATTEnd all/any SCHOOL that teaches children how to be labor workers instead of Business Owners. These children do not survive among herd immunity. That statement is a farce in this Bill. I AM OPPOSED to HB 1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:40:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calli Reed	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to repeal essential religious freedom protections. This bill represents a direct threat to one of our nation's most fundamental rights - the freedom of conscience and belief.

Religious liberty is a cornerstone of our democracy, enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It ensures that individuals and communities can practice their faith freely, without fear of government interference or coercion. The repeal of these protections would set a dangerous precedent, allowing the government to impose undue burdens on people of faith, religious institutions, and those whose deeply held convictions shape their daily lives.

Beyond constitutional concerns, this bill could have far-reaching consequences, including:

- Erosion of Civil Liberties: Removing religious freedom protections could lead to increased government overreach, limiting individuals ability to live according to their beliefs.
- Threats to Religious Organizations: Many faith-based charities, schools, and service providers rely on religious freedom protections to carry out their missions. Weakening these rights could jeopardize their ability to serve communities in need.
- Legal and Social Instability: Stripping away long-standing protections could lead to increased litigation, confusion, and conflicts between government regulations and religious practice.

Religious freedom is not a privilege granted by the government it is a fundamental human right that must be safeguarded for all people, regardless of their beliefs. Protecting this right ensures a diverse and pluralistic society where people can live in accordance with their faith while respecting the rights of others.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and stand in defense of the religious liberties that have long been a hallmark of our nation. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:41:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing to express my STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1118. Our government's history has not allowed itself to put aside one's religious belief for the benefit of the govnrment. We are walking down a dark road if Bill 1118 passes. Please stop HB1118 from continuing.

Respectfully,

Jason Kimura

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:41:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tatum fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this. As a parent we have to the right to say what goes into our children's body. We have the best interest for our children and these vaccines have too much risk and proven results to give the authorization into the hands of the government. I do not agree with this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:46:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BRADLEE K SAKO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a family physician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy.

Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children.

As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications.

Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:48:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Newman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The state of Hawaii’s attempt to remove non-medical vaccine exemptions under HB1118 HD1 undermines individual liberty, disregards personal risk-benefit assessments, and ignores the already low risk of vaccine-preventable diseases in children.

First, mandating vaccines without exceptions for sincerely held beliefs—religious or otherwise—violates fundamental rights to bodily autonomy and parental choice, principles long upheld in U.S. law (e.g., *Pierce v. Society of Sisters*, 1925).

Second, the bill assumes a one-size-fits-all approach, despite evidence that severe COVID-19 outcomes in children are rare (e.g., ~1 death per 100,000 annually) and vaccine benefits (NNT ~111,000 to prevent one death) may not outweigh risks like myocarditis (NNH ~55,000-200,000) for healthy kids.

Third, Hawaii’s own data shows herd immunity thresholds (e.g., 95%) are nearly met, with non-medical exemptions at 5.3%—hardly a tipping point for outbreaks.

The state’s compelling interest in public health doesn’t justify overriding these rights when the threat is minimal and alternatives (e.g., testing, quarantine) exist. Grandfathering prior exemptions while banning new ones also arbitrarily discriminates, weakening the bill’s logic. This overreach sacrifices freedom for negligible gain, setting a dangerous precedent for medical coercion.

Dr. Brittany Newman

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:48:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raynette Maile M Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The exemption protects our constitutional right to choose the optimal health path for our children's immunizational needs. It gives us the autonomy to protect their biological future, and the religious freedom to act within our best practices.

We strongly oppose this bill and advise that you take all children's health bills, like this, first to the House Committee on Education for critical oversight that we believe is necessary for HB1118 to be considered.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:50:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Ordonez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I as a AMERICAN CITIZEN appose, this act HB1118. This act HB1118 takes away the freedom to choose what God has given us humans a immune system. God has made us with a natural immune system therefore; there is no need to take away what God gave us.The HB1118 takes away our freedom and our American rights!!! The COVID vaccine or any of vaccines SHOULD NOT be mandatory. GOD HAS GIVEN US A NATURAL IMMUNE SYSTEM AND WE/I INTEND TO USE IT!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:56:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
alexis collins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill regarding the mandate of vaccinations for our children. I am for vaccination but disagree with it being a mandatory law to vaccinate our kids in order to attend school. We, as the parents, should have a right whether or not WE would like our keiki to be vaccinated. It should be our choice for our kids. It shouldn't be forced upon us. I do not see it being humane to have to bring our kids to cafeterias like back in the day to sit down and have every kid in school vaccinated at the same time like we once had to do. It is wrong. We the parents should have this right.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 3:59:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
imani p	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:00:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shandalyn Kuhlmann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I have to say this is ridiculous if you ask me. Parents should have the choice for their kids to get vaccinated, or not. It isn't right to force anyone to take vaccines especially if it's to be able to get an education. What ever happened to my body my choice! Most vaccines are what's causing illnesses and autism for instance. I have a 6 month old myself and don't want her to take any vaccines. Do better for Hawai'i, obviously this isn't about anybody's health at all, it's all about the money making! I vote against this bill and hope one day y'all get your priorities straight!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:01:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Watson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppse this bill. We should protect our rights to religious and medical exemptions from vaccines.

I requested that my PCP provide me with a medical exemption from being required to take the covid vaccines at the onset of the pandemic, due to prior concerns I had regarding been tested for symptoms associated with deep vein thrombosis symptoms. Early side effects from covid vaccine recipients included issues with blood clotting which would have been detrimental to my health.

My PCP told me that unless I had received a previous MRNA vaccine and it resulted in anaphylactic shock I was unable to qualify for a medical exemption. When I asked for her rejection in writing she said she did not have to provide me with that.

My wife and I contracted Omicron from a vaccinated family member whom we later discovered contrated covid, even though President Biden assured Americans that if you got vaccinated you wouldn't catch or spread covid.

We overcame our experience with Omicron without a vaccine, yet we were never given any verification or vaccine passport after recovery confirming that we were naturally imunne to the virus having contracted and overcame it. Historically this has been considered by virologists to be the gold standard of immunization; Natural immunization to the actual strain of virus causing the illness. Yet we were prevented from entering restaurants during this post-covid period without any recourse.

Furthermore, vaccine companies like Pfizer have no accountability when their drugs injure people. I would encourage every elected official pushing the adoption of this bill to refocus your efforts by assisting newly confirmed HHS Director RFK Jr in adopting measure to improve the VAERS system and holding big pharma accountable for vaccine injuries. Our keiki are at stake.

Mahalo,

Patrick Watson

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:01:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barbara Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing as a concerned citizen of Hawai'i in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccines. This bill directly threatens my right to make medical decisions in accordance with my faith and personal beliefs.

Religious freedom is a fundamental right protected by both the U.S. and Hawai'i State Constitutions. Removing this exemption would force individuals and families to choose between their sincerely held religious convictions and access to education, violating the principles of informed consent and bodily autonomy.

Hawai'i prides itself on diversity and inclusivity, yet HB1118 disregards the deeply held beliefs of many residents. Parents should have the right to make healthcare decisions for their children without government coercion. Rather than stripping away religious freedoms, the state should focus on ensuring transparency, education, and trust in medical decision-making.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold our constitutional rights to religious freedom and medical choices.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Barbara Kalama

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:03:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raychel Brandenburg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I want to oppose this bill to eliminate religious exemptions for Hawaii school children. The State of Hawaii is blatantly taking away the rights of parents by forcing children to be vaccinated to attend public school. This will backfire! Although I myself have already taken my child out of the public school system I thought it was important for me to speak up for the parents who do not have the option to homeschool their children. Our cost of living is so high that both parents must work. If there is only one parent in the household I am sure they have more than one job. This makes it impossible for these parents to take their kids out of school. You will be doing our community a great injustice by passing this bill. As well a pushing parents into a corner. You are also going against the federal mandate thereby taking away federal money from all our Hawaii schools. Our Hawaii government needs to listen to the people, we are all right here anytime you want to discuss.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:05:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trista Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi,

my name is Trista Alvarez I live on the Big Island. I have four children ages 2-10. I currently homeschool, but was planning on sending my kids this next coming year. I have been so grateful that Hawaii has had religious exemptions, so i have had the choice to send my kids to school.

My sister contracted severe psoriasis after her MMR vaccination when she was 4 years old. She has continued to have different autoimmune disorders through her life, hashimotos, graves, issues with her thyroid. All the medications she has to take for these are also immune suppressants. Knowing that i have a family member that has had these adverse reactions to gene therapy and biologics (vaccines) i do NOT want to test this on my children. I am a christian woman and feel that God made our bodies perfect without a vaccine deficiency. We live in societies that believe in hygiene, with running water and toilets, i do not feel like vaccines are essential for keeping our keiki and communities safe. Please do not pass this bill. You will be hurting local hawaiians who already do not trust the us government. They will be forced to pull their kids out of school, while also still trying to work.

thank you,

Trista Alvarez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:09:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Devin Olaso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of this state and more importantly as a parent, do not support this bill as it infringes on our personal choice to choose what goes in to our children's body relative to their ability and authorization to access to public education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:15:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayna Howard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118

RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS

TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

TESTIMONY EXAMPLE

959

HAWAII

Aloha Chair, my name is Jayna and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Personally I believe it's up to the parent to decide what their convictions are, this is going against their freedom. This seems like all these silent bills are trying to force people and take away their rights as a human being, an example was the enforcement of Covid shots happened causing hundreds of thousands of people to die causing blood clots as research has shown.

Hawai'i is not a place for dictatorship.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:16:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maye Kepoo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Maye Kepoo and I testify in OPPOSITION to HB1118.

This bill removes religious exemption for student vaccinations. It should be the parents choice whether to vaccinate their child or not, due to religious beliefs. The government should respect that. This is our lives and our faith.

For this reason, I testify in OPPOSITION to HB1118.

Mahalo for your time.

Aloha,

Maye Kepoo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:20:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni potts	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello my name is keoni potts, I am an American citizen and you shall not revoke my right to freedom and or any of my amendment rights. I am 14 years and live on Maui I am native Hawaiian and European and you passing this law not only revokes my right to the first amendment but also would either make me have to take homeschooling or I would have to move off island just to get education. alongside that you would be forcing me to move away from my home and where my roots are. Sorry but I personally don't want your lab invented poison in my body, and just like you all say, "my body my choice am I right" or does that not also count for us kids too? All I know is I have rights and you shall not take them away you bunch of tyrants.

"Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances".

First amendment bitch👉

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:21:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Graves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB1118

Dear House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs committee

I write in strong opposition to HB1118, a bill that egregiously violates both religious and medical freedom while unjustly endangering the rights of our children to access education—whether public or private.

HB1118 seeks to impose coercive medical mandates that strip parents and guardians of their rightful authority to make informed medical decisions for their children based on religious beliefs or personal convictions. By restricting educational access for those who do not comply, the bill effectively punishes children, segregating them from their peers and denying them the fundamental right to an education. This is an unconstitutional overreach that contradicts the principles of freedom upon which our country was founded.

Religious freedom is explicitly protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Forcing families to violate their deeply held beliefs to access education is an outright assault on these protections. Similarly, medical freedom—the right to make personal health choices without coercion—is a basic human right that must not be infringed upon by state mandates that disregard parental consent.

Furthermore, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent of government overreach into private and religious education. Private and religious schools have long been safe havens for families seeking education aligned with their values. This bill would allow the state to dictate who may or

may not attend, essentially stripping these institutions of their autonomy and disregarding the rights of parents to choose an education that aligns with their beliefs.

Education should never be weaponized as a tool of coercion. It is unconscionable to bar children from learning environments simply because their families make medical choices that differ from government mandates. Such exclusion is discriminatory, unjust, and a direct violation of fundamental civil liberties.

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB1118 in the strongest terms. Our state must protect religious and medical freedoms, uphold parental rights, and ensure that every child—regardless of their family’s medical decisions—has equal access to education.

Sincerely, Janet

Eanarose@gmail.com

private member grandmother in the kauai HI community

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:21:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Englund	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Trying to coerce parents into giving their children a medical procedure that their religious is against is wrong. This is supposed to be a free country. Controlling or limiting the ability to have our children pursue an education in a private or public school is taking away our freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:30:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I as a American citizen oppose, the act of bill HB1118 to NOT make it mandatory to have our children vaccinated with the COVID vaccines or any vaccines. It's taking away the parents right to make medical decisions for their children. This bill is also taking away our rights to our values and morals of our religion beliefs and freedoms. I strongly oppose and believe in the American rights and freedoms that this country supposed to have.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:31:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Cheng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. Such an act goes completely against the constitutional rights of the people. Each parent should make the health decisions that are in the best interest of their child. Do not infringe upon this God given right.

Respectfully,

Jessica Cheng

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:32:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a pediatric emergency medicine physician at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children. My job is to care for the ill and injured keiki of Hawaii. The #1 thing parents and the state can do to insure that I can do my job safely is to not allow vaccine exemptions (other than for legitimate medical reasons). I have already seen several cases of vaccine-preventable illnesses cause serious harm and even death this season in Hawaii, including from influenza, pertussis, and Haemophilus influenzae. These vaccine-preventable illnesses not only cause serious harm and even death, they cost significant amounts of money, staff, and other resources to care for. Vaccines are a victim of their own success- when they work well, no one thinks twice about them and citizens feel as if they do not have to engage in this important social contract any longer. As a physician who cares for children, it is my highest desire to protect and care for the children of Hawaii and vaccines are the best way to do so!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:33:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
eric totah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly oppose this Bill for many reason's;

Parents and (Good) doctors should make those decisions not state or govt or the DOE

they are not safe,not safety tested,any new MRNA shots in the childhood schedule will increase the number of adverse events and deaths there is no liability from the makers of these vaccines,there is no liablity for anyone involved with putting these into our keiki i will gladly pull my child out of the school system , before i will give him any more shots.

It is our right as Americans to have religous and medical exemptions and a choice what we put in our childrens bodies

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:38:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Cabunoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I oppose this bill HB1118. It goes against our constitutional rights. Please really think about what this bill will do. Josh Green is basically forcing all Keiki to have vaccinations. What happen to choice? And what will happen to those Keiki if the schools won't accept them because of this bill? I pray that you will all think about this with open minds and open hearts. Our Keiki depend on you!

thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:39:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimee Sarsona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118. It goes against our constitutional rights and is government overreach.

Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:43:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cailey Etherington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leave this decision to families. Focus on healing your government. This is irreversible.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:44:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Delaforce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill HB1118 making it mandatory for Keiki to take all required vaccines to enter Hawaii school. Im sure they will be adding more to the current list.

If this passes parents will start pulling out keiki from our public schools. The government shouldn't make medical decisions for our children.

Your job should be focusing on how to fix our low quality of education in our State instead of forcing vaccinations that may cause keiki's to have learning disabilities.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:46:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Kawamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118, a clear-cut violation on the religious freedoms of the people of Hawaii. I do not hold an "anti-vaxx" stance, however, I believe every parent should have the right to choose to vaccinate or not vaccinate their children whether it is for religious reasons or for any other medical reason. Children should not be denied a proper education at a public or private institution for their religious convictions.

Mahalo for the privilege to testify.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:46:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsey Tuumalo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, my name is Chelsey Tu'umalo and I oppose this bill because, this is a topic of body autonomy and I deeply believe everyone should be able to have the right to choose the best medical option for themselves.

Our Keiki should be able to get an education without compromising their health or beliefs about their health.

I've witnessed a young relative suffer harsh skin reactions within a day of taking routine immunizations and had to be hospitalized, the mother felt complete regret after giving her child the vaccines. I have noticed friends and family having visual problems shortly after taking immunizations for school.

The eyes and skin are some of the first body parts to speak when something is not well within the body. I believe these occasional reactions are sufficient enough to oppose this bill therefore, there are other more severe mental and physical conditions I could place the vaccines at fault for, but I won't.

Vaccines, like much other medicines, have potential health risks and with those risks, whether it comes down to religious practice, spiritual beliefs, or health alone should be optional.

I oppose this HB1118 HD1 bill for I know the immunizations are not a complete health guarantee. While immunizations can be very beneficial they can also induce unwanted health complications, and that shouldn't be up to anyone other than the recipient of the immunizations and their guardians.

Thank you. Sincerely, Chelsey Tu'umalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:50:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
justin hite	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines are safe and effective. They protect those who get them, as well as the rest of the community. I have two children, and do not want them exposed to vaccine-preventable diseases at school.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:52:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nicole Heard	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in support of H.B 1188 relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements

Nicole Heard

2/20/25

While I understand that vaccine hesitancy and trust issues between the community and scientific experts, pharmaceutical companies, and the government do have some validity, I do not believe the risk that these trust issues and vaccine hesitancy pose to the overall health and well-being of the community outweigh the benefits of continuing to allow non-medical exemptions--for a multitude of reasons.

First and foremost, the overwhelming majority of opposition to this bill is rooted in a completely dishonest and ingenuine stance that this opposition is a result of a violation of religious freedom as guaranteed by the constitution. However, it is glaringly obvious that the true reason why there is so much opposition to this bill has nothing to do with religious protections or beliefs, but is actually rooted in a strong belief system that people should be entitled to bodily autonomy, and that vaccine mandates violate their ability to exercise informed consent. I personally observe many people who have no religious beliefs utilizing and abusing this exemption loophole NOT because of their religious beliefs, but because of their personal beliefs surrounding informed consent. This abuse has led to alarmingly low rates of childhood vaccination in recent years in the state of Hawaii, putting the community and vulnerable population of students at risk in an extremely dangerous and dishonest way that quite frankly has nothing to do with religious beliefs or constitutional rights. Therefore, I see no valid reason to defend the right to religious exemption as it's quite clear that religious exemptions are being utilized in a dishonest way that has absolutely nothing to do with religious beliefs.

It is absolutely wrong to put the community at risk of outbreak using the dishonest disguise of religion when it's very clear that personal beliefs, bodily autonomy, and informed consent are the real reasons people are abusing this exemption loophole. When too many people are consciously abusing existing loopholes that are directly putting our community at risk, it's time to close the loophole and discontinue the abuse of it-- which HB 1118 would effectively accomplish.

Furthermore, our healthcare system and infrastructure is already stretched thin and is in no position to cope with a (preventable) outbreak. As we have already seen the consequences of pertussis and influenza recently, it should be obvious to lawmakers and community members that we do not have adequate resources to justify taking on additional unnecessary risks. This risk not only comes with potential broad scale health impacts, but also comes with potential financial and economic impacts as well.

If/when a bill pertaining to bodily autonomy and informed consent is presented, then this argument/conversation and issue can finally be discussed in an honest and meaningful way-- but as far as this specific bill pertaining to religious exemptions and religious freedom goes, there is no legitimate argument from the opposition that is actually relevant to the topic of religious beliefs and constitutional rights. Therefore, if we are doing a risk-benefit analysis in this specific context, there is no actual benefit regarding religious protections that offsets the risks posed to the community, since this exemption is rarely(if ever) actually utilized due to religious beliefs. Closing loopholes that are detrimental to the well-being of the community when abused is imperative, and there is no justification to continue to allow this gross abuse that has been steadily increasing year after year. Loopholes that are detrimental and abused in any context, especially when a universally negative impact on the community is inevitable, must be revisited and laws amended to close said loopholes.

HB 1118 would effectively achieve this objective, and since there is no true argument against this measure that is relevant to religious beliefs, I have no hesitation to support this bill and I see no valid reason to defend the continuation of religious exemptions. Years of abusing this loophole coupled with an extremely taxed healthcare system has put us in a position where we don't have the luxury of allowing this loophole to continue any longer.

It would not only be unwise, but it would be outright harmful to the collective community to allow social trends to hold more weight than actual science based public health protections/mitigations. Vaccine hesitancy has been a continued social trend in recent years, and while I am generally a proponent of informed consent, in this scenario I have observed that trending public opinion surrounding vaccine hesitancy is driven more so by misinformation and propaganda rather than actual public health and scientific information, which poses immense challenges to achieving accurate and successful informed consent. This widespread reach of inaccurate information that lead to the growing vaccine hesitancy in our community is what's

actually driving the increased utilization of religious exemptions in recent years, not religious beliefs. Therefore, the grotesque abuse of this exemption loophole is undeniable, and if this exemption loophole is not secured via HB 1118, the reality is that the abuse of this loophole will only continue to increase, and in doing so, will continue to increase the community risks and economic and healthcare detriment.

Although I am a proponent of informed consent and bodily autonomy, that is not what this bill is about, therefore I cannot agree with the majority who oppose this bill and so I felt compelled to submit testimony highlighting the truths that the people in opposition are attempting to mask.

Exemptions are meant to be reserved for those who truly need them for medical reasons or for legitimate religious beliefs. Unfortunately the religious exemption has transformed into a avenue for vaccine hesitant parents to bypass the vaccine mandate under the disguise that they have religious beliefs that are not aligned with the mandate. Judging by social trends, this is clearly a facade as religious exemptions have increased by 250% over the past decade, while no increase in religious practices has been observed. If we want to have a discussion about informed consent and bodily autonomy, I would not be opposed to that. However, in the interim, misplacing that logic as a supportive argument against this bill is nothing but a logical fallacy with no relevance in this context. Allowing this to continue at the expense of public health is dangerous and misguided, and it is the responsibility of our leaders and the governing body to take the necessary measures to put an end to it before the inevitable consequences of school aged children falling well below optimal/effective herd immunity come to fruition.

Society has had the privilege of reaping the benefits of modern medicine in the form of vaccines and the resulting herd immunity for decades. These vaccine initiatives and mandates have been incredibly successful in protecting overall public health until recently- when fear of the unknowns surrounding the mRNA covid vaccine gained traction and led to widespread misinformation pertaining to all vaccines in general. While fear of the unknown surrounding a new vaccine technology is logical, that fear has clearly been misplaced and misconstrued into a blanket and generalized vaccine hesitancy-as evidenced by the fact that higher rates of this religious vaccine exemption correlate with the rollout of the covid vaccine and related misinformation campaign. However, since the mRNA covid vaccine is not one of the mandated vaccines, this is another example of logical fallacy that bears absolutely no relevance to HB 1118.

Most importantly, it is well-understood that school settings and school aged children are the main drivers of community transmission and outbreaks of communicable illness, especially pertaining to respiratory illnesses, which the majority of the mandated vaccines target. Therefore

it is imperative that the public health sectors continue to focus on implementing this vaccine driven mitigation strategy for the sake of the overall health of the community of Hawaii, including but not limited to closing loopholes that are abused dishonestly, such as the religious exemption loophole in question according to HB 1118, and I am hopeful that these facts will be embraced and supported by the committee when making their decision.

No matter what, a change in policy is non-optional, and should ideally be expanded beyond this singular bill. The existing all-or-nothing approach that forces people to choose between accepting a mandate or utilizing a (mostly fraudulent) religious exemption loophole to dodge all vaccinations completely is a detriment to public health, and this alarming social trend poses dangerous consequences for everyone-- regardless of where they stand on this issue. Implementing HB 1118 is a great starting point to remedy this situation. I am hopeful to see this bill put into action as soon as possible so that we can then address the other layers involved in this polarizing and complex social/health issue without taking on unnecessary risks and putting the public in danger in the process.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:52:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is kuulei Garcia and I oppose bill HB1118. Parents have the right to determine the best health care for their child and what vaccines they should get. Especially if it goes against personal and religious beliefs. No one else has authority over my decisions for my family.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:56:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mikian Rose Pelekai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Mikian Rose Pelekai strongly oppose this bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:56:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Leilani Dudoit Huihui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Immunizations are not without risk and there is plenty of scientific evidence to back this. They can cause physical and neurological damage to children. We have known this for decades. Also many of the so called vaccines do not create herd immunity. They do not prevent the illnesses. For example Covid -19 shots do NOT prevent Covid-19. Chicken Pox vaccinations do NOT prevent Chicken Pox. Just ask a dozen of my friends who gave their kids the Chicken Pox vaccine and their kids still caught it when exposed to another vaccinated child!!!! The decision to vaccinate and put your child at risk should be made by their parents.

****Testimony Opposing HB 1118 / SB 1437****

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118 (or SB 1437), a bill that threatens to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations for our schoolchildren. This legislation strikes at the heart of our fundamental religious freedoms by mandating that individuals receive pharmaceutical products in conflict with their beliefs. I firmly oppose any efforts to restrict religious vaccine exemptions.

Currently, states like West Virginia and Mississippi allow for such exemptions, whereas California, Maine, New York, and Connecticut do not. This trend is shifting towards recognizing the importance of personal and religious convictions concerning vaccination. These bills would promote institutional discrimination based on vaccine status, much like other injustices that prevent equal access to education and essential services based on attributes such as race or gender.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution, alongside Article I, Section 4 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, safeguards our right to religious liberty. I implore our Representatives and Senators to oppose HB 1118 (or SB 1437) and protect the ability of parents to claim religious vaccine exemptions for their children. Upholding these rights is integral to our values as Native Hawaiians. Thank you for considering my testimony.

Mahalo,

Millie

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:58:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Hirouji	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother for a sixth grader, seventh grader, kindergartener and one about to be in preschool. My three school-age children all attend Hawaii technology Academy Lahaina. We absolutely love our school, our teachers and support staff.

We are strong in our faith and do not consent to vaccines due to their ingredients. Our first son was vaccine injured at just 8 months old and had lat effects until he was 4years old. Since then we do not allow these foreign and heavy metals to be injected into our bodies, such as aluminum and mercury to say the least. We will not make the same mistake again, so I kindly request that you please allow us this opportunity to choose as parents to vaccinate or not. Please do not move forward with mandates.

I especially do not agree with the HPV gardasil requirement as I do not beloved boys can be carriers - how does someone without a cervix become a carrier?! The answer is simple, they cannot. I kindly ask, that you do your research on this. You will find many studies with medical and scientific data, proving that these vaccines are indeed not safe and have been proven harmful on so many levels, especially in young growing men like my own about to enter the 7th grade. My boys all have religious exemptions and can prove on their own without me how dangerous these mandates are to them and their peers. Please do not make them prove their innocence.

This bill HB118 is absolutely unconstitutional as it violates our religious beliefs, but our rights. If you care about the Keiki of Hawai'i, you will no longer tolerate this, and you will allow parents to choose what is right for their own families!

It is not, and never will be the government's responsibility to decide how my husband and I parent our children.

Mahalo Pumehana,

Erika Hirouji

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 4:58:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney J Norris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Medical and religious exemptions for vaccines for public school are crucial for the community. Vaccines for humans are not one-size-fits-all. Just like diet, supplements, medications, treatments, therapies, etc. are not one-size-fits-all either. We are bio-individuals. What works for one person may not work for another. Please do not pass a bill removing these important exemptions for families.

Let us make the best decisions as moms and dads for our kids.

It's already been a huge mistake to do this in other states. When is the government going to wake up to the fact that we want transparency in order to trust you again? This is the opposite of transparency.

Will you be accountable, since we all know the vaccine companies are not legally accountable themselves, if new information comes out that these vaccines are potentially harmful to our kids? You're aware there is a major health movement in this country working towards more medical freedom. This bill is totally against this movement to get to the bottom of the health issues crippling our country.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:03:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marinaomi thomas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all of the state law makers and representatives of Hawai'i. I thank you for reading this. Please find it in your heart and mind to not pass Bill HB118. It is a violation of religious freedom and biological freedom as well. As a Sunday school teacher and parent who has come into contact with many families over the years, I have witnessed many vaccine injured babies and children. My best friend is one of 5 children . All 4 of her siblings were injured after their t dap which they got at the same time as they were very close in age being raised by a single mother. They were all diagnosed with varying measures of autism, some barley functioning to not functioning at all. Her 24 yr old sister will forever have the mind of a 7 yr old. People with MTHFR gene mutations which is a very common mutation, may not do well with vaccines. Their bodies cannot process the Ingredients, toxins properly.

Further more, what's violated here if this bill is passed is the religious right to freedom to not take vaccines that contain animal and human DNA. If religions and basic human rights cannot be acknowledged in the United States, let alone Hawai'i. The foundation, morals and values of this country and the Hawaiian culture are being degraded and dragged through the mud. It would be indeed, a violation of a person's right to persue health, happiness and way of life. Please do not pass this bill. From the bottom of our hearts, do not take away all we have left; a say of what we put in our bodies and our religion. Thank you. Sincerely, Marinaomi Thomas.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:06:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Helge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to HB1118. All medical products whether they are over-the-counter painkillers, prescription medications, anesthesia, etc. have associated risks. Any time there is risk, there must be choice.

The 1986 Vaccine Safety Act removes liability from the manufacturers of vaccines for any damages caused by their products. I understand the desire to protect the 200+ individuals with medical exemptions. Their safety is important, but how many children's bodily autonomy will you violate and potentially harm in the process? 100? 1000? 10,000? And since the manufacturers are not liable for any potential damages, who then is responsible? The doctors who are financially incentivized by pharmaceutical and insurance companies to require their patients be vaccinated? The politicians who are financially incentivized through campaign contributions to mandate vaccinations? If an individual is harmed by a vaccine, and many are, there is little to no recourse. It is unjust, unfair, and wrong to require children be subjected to medical products, especially when the manufacturers of said products have no liability and so many in power are incentivized to act against their well-being.

Act in the best interest of your constituents. Preserve all exemptions from vaccinations and vote no on HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:06:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mika Steele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a medical provider, we strive and fight for patient autonomy, to work according to each person's wishes and to honor their decisions. Mandating vaccines do not only go against this but is an extreme form of control which is damaging to the health and welfare of this community. Becoming vaccinated should be a choice based upon informed decision making by each individual and their family. Otherwise, this bill can allow any form of substance to be introduced into our keiki if properly labeled as "vaccine." With growing sensitivities to certain chemicals/additives in the general population, this bill puts those children at a very high risk of becoming ill. Vaccination and wellness are not exclusive to each other. Vaccines only protect against specific pathogens. Parents of young children know that even if vaccinated, kids still get sick every 3-4 weeks. Vaccination does not decrease illness in general. If passed, you are forcing parents into a corner to comply to this if they have no other choice, and to receive a vaccine against consent is harming a person both physically and mentally. Vaccination should not determine who gets an education. This is not compassion or protection, this is bullying and segregation in a different form using the guise of our keiki. How can a governor support "my body, my choice" but support something like this that takes away choice. It also adds undue duress on families that have way more things to worry about than if their child can go to public school of which they are paying taxes to support? Please allow our local families to keep control of their children's health and wellbeing. This decision is not a government one to decide.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:06:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick Huihui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This decision has consequences on both sides. This choice should be left to the parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:08:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine T. Kupukaa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 hd1 because of concerns--bill has not been heard in Education committee and taking away religious exemption.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:10:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Girly Mabry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccination shouldn't be forced! Especially in schools! Only parents can make that choice if they want their children to get it or not! This is getting out of hand! It's like we're going back to Biblical times when the government wants to be in control, taking children from their parents to sacrifice to Baal. It's starting to look like that these days. Shame on you, Governor! The high rate of autism right now after vaccination is through the roof! And I used to work in the medical field; this is very sad and scary.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:13:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

If passed, the schools here in Hawaii will lose alot of attendance. And the homeschool community will grow.

And as a mother of vaccine injured children, I strongly support medical freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:15:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
beverly nicholson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I AM AGAINST HB1118 HD1 for the following reasons:

It is almost impossible to obtain a medical exemption for vaccine damages as physicians and nurses are afraid of losing their jobs if they give a vaccine damaged child an execution. We found that out during Covid. Many doctors and nurses lost their careers if they spoke out or refused their own vaccine. I have been vaccine damaged and found no doctor will acknowledge vaccine damage. I have spoken to many ER doctors during my health challenges about when checking children coming into the ER if they check records or ask parents if the child recently had a vaccine and not one out of about 20 that I have talked with said they even thought about it, one finally told me he was going to start checking the child's files.

Vaccines are way down because of the recent vaccine damages from the covid vaccines and the public's awareness of vaccine dangers. I believe the Pharmaceuticals are using Governors to push MANDATING vaccines as a way to regain their profits. It is well known that Pharmaceuticals give donations to politicians to sell products. It should not be so!

The NEW VACCINES will be MRNA type which are not fully understood long term and they say all vaccines will be MRNA, so we are subjecting children to unknown damages. Covid vaccines proved the dangers.

There are animal parts and human fetus parts and poisons used in these vaccines that we reject in our bodies and our children's bodies, WE NEED RELIGIOUS EXEMPTIONS !

Children's lives and health are not for sale. PLEASE VOTE NO on HB1118 D1. We need the right to accept or refuse medical procedures. Sincerely,

Beverly Nicholson 808 387 6326

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:19:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brigette Leavy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. It is taking away our freedom and trying to control us. My children and I will do as I see fit. I will not tolerate big pharmaceutical telling me to inject my child with toxins

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:22:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheree Kornelsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sheree, and I am the mother of twin daughters. When my daughters were just 5 months old, they received some of their vaccinations. We were reducing and delaying according to the recommended schedule, due to the fact that they were born premature. Tragically, they both experienced severe adverse reactions to those vaccines. The effects were immediate and undeniable. Their reactions included colic, vomiting, full body rash, high fever, prolonged crying, changes in behavior and loss of appetite, which led to long-term health issues that we continue to manage today.

As a mother, I trusted the medical system to keep my children safe, but the consequences of their injuries have shaped my perspective and my understanding of vaccine safety. Since then, I have had to make difficult decisions about their health care, seeking out specialists and alternative treatments to address the issues caused by those vaccines.

Because of this painful and personal experience, I am deeply concerned about any legislation that would diminish my ability to make informed, personal decisions about my children's healthcare, including their vaccinations. My right to make decisions for my children based on my religious beliefs is sacred. For my family, this is not just a matter of health—it is a matter of personal faith and medical autonomy.

I will not support any bill that seeks to relinquish my right to utilize a religious exemption from the vaccine schedule. I believe that every parent should have the right to protect their children from harm, especially when their experiences may be far different from the standard narrative. I urge lawmakers to respect our rights and ensure that every family can make healthcare decisions free from government overreach.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:22:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha and thank you to anyone who takes the time to read my testimony. I believe this bill is an absolute violation of my parental and human rights. I also believe it is backed and supported solely by big pharma and anyone getting a payout from such sources. As a mother of three young, school aged children, and person who values the kuleana of keeping myself and loved ones safe and healthy, I am extremely opposed to this being passed through. I am also very concerned about its nature in general and the motive of those who introduced HB11118. I am very disappointed that anyone, especially a government representative, would even try to pass this as a "law". I am truly offended. If this is made into a law, my children will not be attending their school and I will continue to keep their educations (and health) in my own hands.

I care about the health and safety of all keiki and community. I also believe Ke Akua gave us all we need to heal and maintain great health. I do not believe synthetic, man made chemical concoctions will ever be more healthy for anyone to inject into their bodies, willingly or not. This is scary and upsetting that I am even having to submit testimony on such an outrageous bill! Didn't we learn from COVID that not everyone is fit to receive vaccinations? Why are we not respecting one's right to choose what goes into their (children's) bodies. Again, this is an attack and violation of human rights. Stop targeting our children for gender reassignment surgeries and vaccinations that have harmful, life altering and deadly side effects. How dare any of you. This is the most vulnerable age group seeing as hardly any children are able or willing to speak up for themselves. Shame on you!

Please hear and listen to the voice inside your head and the tug on your heart, your na'au, which says this is JUST NOT RIGHT! Please stand for the people and reject this proposal. Your vote will show where your true intentions lie. You are public servants and shall conduct yourself as such. Lead by example and live/be pono. This bill should have a unanimose "NO" because it is not right. Thank you and God bless.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:26:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharlene Casil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is my duty to protect and care for my child's wellbeing. Therefore it is my choice as a parent to decide whether or not I want my child vaccinated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:40:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Goode	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my profound concern and opposition to the removal of religious exemption for our keiki in HB1118. The right to practice one's faith without undue interference from the state government is a fundamental principle enshrined in the First Amendment of the Constitution, which guarantees the free exercise of religion. This principle must be upheld to protect the rights of all Americans, including our keiki.

Religious exemptions are not merely a matter of personal preference but a deeply held conviction for many families. They are a testament to the diversity of beliefs and practices that make our nation strong and resilient. The government has a duty to respect and protect these beliefs, not to undermine them under the guise of public health.

The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) further reinforces these protections, mandating that the government cannot substantially burden a person's exercise of religion unless it demonstrates that the burden is in furtherance of a compelling governmental interest and is the least restrictive means of furthering that interest.

The removal of religious exemptions would undermine these protections, potentially leading to situations where individuals are coerced into actions that violate their sincerely held religious beliefs. This not only infringes upon individual liberties but also violates the constitutional guarantees of religious freedom.

I am also concerned about the increasing encroachment of the state government on the fundamental right of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children. The notion that the government should have the authority to override parental & religious decisions is not only deeply troubling but also a direct affront to the principles of individual liberty and family autonomy that have long been cherished in our society.

The Supreme Court has unequivocally recognized the "liberty of parents to direct the upbringing, education, and care of their children" as a fundamental right, established "beyond debate as an enduring American tradition". Despite this, we are witnessing a disturbing trend where government officials and agencies are usurping the role of parents, often substituting their own judgments for those of the parents.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations and to respect the constitutional rights of all Americans, including our keiki. The protection of

religious freedom is not only a matter of individual rights but also a cornerstone of our democratic values.

Thank you,

Kayla Goode

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:43:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keline Akiyoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We decided to give our kids their vaccines (despite being heavily concerned about the SIGNIFICANT number of vaccines they are dosed with before even turning 2 years old), but that was OUR choice for our family. At the end of the day, the government should not intervene in personal medical choices.

Forcing immunization mandates can create hardships for families who don't want it for their kids. For example, one parent might need to take off in order to home school their children. In Hawai'i's economy, having a 1 parent/income household is almost unsurvivable. This is what you will force more of our locals to be doing and possibly pricing more of us out of paradise, our home.

The threshold for herd immunity varies for each disease - for example, measles require 95% of the population to be immune while polio only requires 80% of the population. However, epidemiologists even say that these are estimates and elusive numbers; not facts. So a bill shouldn't force families towards a certain medical decision based off of theory or based off the HIGHEST number needed. If so, then they should also talk about the lower percentages as well which we would be reaching.

We saw how forcing Covid vaccinations on our military ended up - a lot of good people were antagonized and forced to leave. Others were heavily pressured to take a vaccination that they didn't agree with or didn't feel safe taking for themselves or their kids.

There are also a lot of minority groups who distrust the medical system or who have vaccine hesitancy. Forcing them to take a large list of vaccines will further deteriorate any trust building. Instead, create more community programs to educate the public, create incentives for PCPs to educate their patients, etc.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:46:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thor soder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I dont agree with this bill at all! My kids shouldn't be FORCED to get vaccinated to attend school I believe that infringes on basic human rights. Vaccines are a hot topic in this day and age and many believe that vaccines cause autism. My son was diagnosed with Autism at 2 years old, he is 4 now and non verbal. I believe it could be from vaccines. Until we get more clear cut evidence that vaccines are safe they shouldn't be mandatory. I believe with RFK at the head of health and human services there is going to be more evidence to come in the next couple years on how safe and effective these vaccines are. If this bill passes my kids will be homeschooled. Shame on this leadership to put this on children when it's not even mandatory for adults. Leave the kids alone!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:47:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in opposition of HB1118. This effort to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations seems reactionary to the federal administration climate (which I don't agree with), but it actually will add to more discrimination and limitation of the individual rights of the citizens of our state.

Religious freedom is a constitutional right. Our responsibility to protect those rights is more urgent than ever. I urge you to vote NO against this bill. There are alternative ways to address concerns without threatening religious rights.

Mahalo,

Danielle Surface

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:52:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiley Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and all that it stands for! It is not your right to say what we do with OUR children!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:54:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abbra Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

-OPPOSED-

How could these sponsors rightly be called “representatives”!?

This proposal is an outrageous overstep in authority that deeply erodes trust in our democracy.

Oppose this bill, and STOP the continual attack on our inherent rights. Religious freedom should not be infringed on EVER.

One of MANY enraged parents of Hawaii,

Abbra Green

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:56:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Sugimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE Bill HB1118. What happened to Hawaii.? Where is the common sense. Let the Rights of the Parents and or Grandparents continue to make the decisions for Our Own Children.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 5:59:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melinda Ferreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this BH 1118. Removing the religious and personal right is unconstitutional and a violation of our first amendment. Please say No to this bill. We don't need someone who does not know the individual situation to tell us what to do. We already saw a number of people lose careers having to quit because they would not take the dubious vaccination. I am surprised this is an issue now that Covid is gone. Mebbe the Governor needs to go back to the hospital rather than trying to lead the State.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:04:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynette Wijnveldt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to testify against this bill. This is a form of religious persecution.

The Constitution protects our religious freedoms. If I were to choose not to take a particular vaccine because of the way it's made or make sure my children were not given it because there were reasons concerning the making of the vaccine and my religion, this Bill would infringe on my ability to use my Constitutional right to use a religious exemption. Why are you singling out people of faith? Enough is enough. Do the research, most measles outbreaks happen in areas with a 98 per cent vaccination rate. There have been problems with vaccine efficiency. Some vaccines are tested using fetal tissue and that concerns me. I would use my religious exemption for those. Please consider the ramifications of what this bill would do.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:07:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert J. Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118. I feel this is too much government control on a parents religious rights for their children. Covid was a learning example of the misuse of government control and violation of a person's rights. Please turn our state elected official's direction to listening to it's people and not special interest.

I oppose HB1118 and my future vote will be influence by the results.

Make Hawaii Pono Again,

Robert J. Santos

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:08:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren T Sugimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ***OPPOSE*** bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:08:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

For the safety of ALL our keiki, it is imperative to pass this bill!

Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:08:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eileen Doane	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. I believe in religious freedom and the right of parents to choose what goes in their children's bodies and their healthcare.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:09:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposing bill, HB1118. Students should not be required to get the "vaccine" just to attend school in Hawai'i. Parents and students alike have the right to a "Religious Exemption" and should not be forced. I worked as a health aide prior and "Religious Exemption" has always been available to parents who did not believe in vaccinations due to their religious backgrounds and that should be understood, not questioned.

Governor Josh Green, you are not thinking of Hawai'i, it's people, nor the Keiki. You are only thinking of yourself and pushing False ideas and agendas. Our Queen, Queen Lili'uokalani, ruled our Islands and Lands in righteousness and always thought about and put her people first. She ruled with integrity and wisdom trusting Ke Akua to lead and guide her on the right path forward, "Ua Mau Ke Ea o Ka Aina I ka Pono! Parents have the right to know and make choices for their own children, not you, nor this state.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:10:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Rothstein	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to HB1118

People should be able to be exempt due to religious reasons from taking any vaccines. Vaccines can injure and ruin your childs body. HPV vaccine is an example. My child is young and not sexually active. People should have a choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:10:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quaytaysha Rosa-Yray	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha & thank you for taking the time in reading my statement! I ask to please oppose this bill because us moms should be the ones making the decision on getting our children vaccinated! Please don't take away our rights!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:11:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Becker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:16:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emiko Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 20, 2025

Re: HB1118

I DO NOT SUPPORT this bill as it will remove the rights of parent to a Religious Vaxx Exemption at the school.

There are data from DOCTORS that show that over time, children who are not vaccinated had a higher rate of HEALTH as compared to children who have been vaccinated. You need to give parents the choice to have their child vaccinated or not UNDER THE RELIGIOUS VAXX EXEMPTION and not leave the deicions to bureaucrats.

Sincerely,

Emiko Baker, Waikele resident

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:21:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelani Delizo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. I believe we should have a say to what goes in our children's bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:22:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wallyn Christian	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Wallyn Christian, strongly oppose HB1118.

The First Amendment protects freedom of religion, so mandating vaccinations without allowing exemptions is an infringement on religious liberty.

Forcing individuals or parents to comply with vaccination mandates is a suppression of free speech or expression, particularly if there's any restriction on the ability to publicly oppose such policies; meaning if a parent does not want to give their child a vaccine - they should not be forced to do so by an unlawful bill and act of the public servant voting against the will of the people.

Should any representative / senator / the governor agree to pass this bill then each of you have committed a crime as a public servant of the people and should face legal consequences immediately.

Again, I strongly oppose HB1118; this bill must be killed immediately!

Mahalo,

Wallyn Christian

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:23:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Perallon	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Please do not endanger our keiki's health by making health decisions when the parents of the children knows what is best for them.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:29:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yongxin Xiao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 3 now. I wasn't educated enough when I had my first 2 children to know that I had a choice and a voice to decide to not vaccinate them. Now that I am learning about it with my third child and being told I may no longer have that choice and voice to make my own decisions, it is very upsetting. I learned that my current baby daddy had vaccines as a baby and ended up having seizures and that scared me so we were so glad that we found a doctor willing to allow us on holding off and not giving our child any vaccines. It is very upsetting now being told that if this bill were to pass, we can't keep our children safe by our own choices. What will happen if our child has a seizure like the father and dies? Who then will be responsible for that consequence of making that choice for us? Please please do not let this important decision fall into anyone else's hands but our own. That isn't fair and it isn't right and takes away our rights as parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:36:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elyse Warren	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Government has no right to infringe on our First Ammendment.
Please respect the will of the People and Oppose this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:36:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Garric Purdy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a first time father. I fear for my kids life and I was allergic to shots when I was a baby and my mom said I almost died. I don't want that possibility happening to my kid. Why would I risk it!? The government couldn't pay me enough to go on without my daughter. Who then will be responsible for that consequence of making that choice for us? Please do not let this decision that belongs to us be decided by anyone but us. How can you say we have rights when this very bill takes that choice making decision away from us!? No to mandatory vaccines. My baby is healthier currently at 5 months old than her 2 half siblings who had all their shots.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:40:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Sky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha JHA Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1118. As a lifelong Hawai'i resident, born and raised here, and a mother raising my own children in this community, I am deeply concerned about the impact of this bill on our rights and traditions.

Eliminating religious exemptions disregards Native Hawaiian and other cultural healing practices that value natural health. Hawai'i's constitution protects these traditions, and this bill directly threatens those protections.

This bill also creates legal inequality by allowing medical exemptions but denying religious ones, which is a clear violation of the First Amendment. The government should not interfere in personal religious beliefs.

Most importantly, parents—not the state—should make medical decisions for their children. Removing religious exemptions strips families of informed consent, a core principle of ethical healthcare.

There are better solutions than an outright ban. Public health can be supported through education and open dialogue, rather than eliminating personal freedoms.

I urge you to vote NO on HB 1118 and uphold the rights of Hawai'i's families.

Mahalo for your time.

Chelsea

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:44:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Chiam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill to remove religious exemptions for immunization requirements.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:48:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shontel Sperl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose HB1118 due to the extreme violations of our personal religious beliefs. The following are ways in which these violations manifest themselves in the vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The use of cells, cellular debris, protein, and DNA from willfully aborted human children found in Adenovirus, Polio, Dtap/Polio/HiB Combo, Hep A, Hep A/Hep B Combo, MMR, MMRV Pro Quad, Rabies, Varicella, COVID, and the Shingles vaccines violate the very basic commands found in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:15 which instructs us to not murder. The following ingredients were derived from no fewer than 107 human souls who were sacrificed for social reasons and then used in past and ongoing vaccine research: PER C6, HEK293, WI-38 (RA 27/3), WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-4, WI-5, WI-6, WI-7, WI-8, WI-9, WI-10, WI-11, WI-12, WI-13, WI-14, WI-15, WI-16, WI-17, WI-18, WI-19, WI-20, WI-21, WI-22, WI-23, WI-24, WI-25, WI-26, WI-27, WI-38, WI-44, and MCR-5 plus many other ingredients obtained from human children not required to be listed by FDA guidelines. Supporting vaccinations and vaccination developments is an endorsement of the sacrifice of those and the continuing sacrifice of other human souls.

Genesis 4:1, 17 and Jeremiah 1:5 demonstrate that the deceased children used in the aforementioned vaccinations were recognized by God as human souls from the point of conception in the same way that we, as parents, recognized our child as a human from the moment we were aware of his/her presence in his/her mother's wombs.

Genesis 1:27 - 28, 4:1, 2 Kings 17:17-18, Psalm 22:10-11, 106: 35, 37-38, 113:7-9, 127:3, 139:13-16, Amos 1:13, Matthew 18:1-4, and Matthew 19:13-15 are just a few verses that illustrate the aforementioned children as blessings from God that are valued and loved by him, their Creator, in whose image they were created and that their killing is condemned and causes God's destructive anger to burn against their murderers and those complicit in those murders.

Exodus 20:13, Leviticus 18:21 & 20:2-5, Deuteronomy 5:13, 12:30-32, 18:10, 2 Kings 16:3, and Psalm 106:38 illustrate that all child sacrifice is condemned with no exception clauses allowing for the greater good or public exception clauses found anywhere in the sacred scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 10:31 remind us that we are to regard our bodies as temples of God's Holy Spirit and that we are to honor God, our Creator and possessor of our very bodies by not defiling them. Notwithstanding the presence of socially sacrificed human cells and debris in vaccinations, we firmly believe that the presence of neurotoxins, hazardous substances, attenuated viruses, animal cells, foreign DNA, albumin from human blood, carcinogens, and chemical wastes is in strict violation of our imperative to treat our bodies as holy temples of the very Spirit of God.

Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10-11, 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:23, Acts 15:20 and 29 informs us that blood represents the life force of human and animal species and that human blood was to be kept pure under all circumstances and free from contaminants such as animal cells, parts, and blood.

I ask that you respectfully adhere to our first amendment rights guaranteed as citizens of the United States of America by her great Constitution and reinforced on a state level by the fourteenth amendment without prejudice and do not pass HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:51:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol D. Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please protect religious freedom by strongly OPPOSING HB1118. Remember, the First and Fourteenth Amendments of the United States Constitution protect freedom of religion from government interference, which includes state governments.

This bill attempts to compel and coerce students to get immunizations, even if it is against one's sincerely held religious beliefs.

It is still so unbelievable to me that vaccine manufacturers are not held liable and accountable for their products. Read that again. For those of you who support this bill, do you really believe that it is okay for a vaccine manufacturer not to be held liable and accountable for their product, and then you want to mandate that product?

Please OPPOSE HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:53:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose HB1118 due to the extreme violations of our personal religious beliefs. The following are ways in which these violations manifest themselves in the vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The use of cells, cellular debris, protein, and DNA from willfully aborted human children found in Adenovirus, Polio, Dtap/Polio/HiB Combo, Hep A, Hep A/Hep B Combo, MMR, MMRV Pro Quad, Rabies, Varicella, COVID, and the Shingles vaccines violate the very basic commands found in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:15 which instructs us to not murder. The following ingredients were derived from no fewer than 107 human souls who were sacrificed for social reasons and then used in past and ongoing vaccine research: PER C6, HEK293, WI-38 (RA 27/3), WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-4, WI-5, WI-6, WI-7, WI-8, WI-9, WI-10, WI-11, WI-12, WI-13, WI-14, WI-15, WI-16, WI-17, WI-18, WI-19, WI-20, WI-21, WI-22, WI-23, WI-24, WI-25, WI-26, WI-27, WI-38, WI-44, and MCR-5 plus many other ingredients obtained from human children not required to be listed by FDA guidelines. Supporting vaccinations and vaccination developments is an endorsement of the sacrifice of those and the continuing sacrifice of other human souls.

Genesis 4:1, 17 and Jeremiah 1:5 demonstrate that the deceased children used in the aforementioned vaccinations were recognized by God as human souls from the point of conception in the same way that we, as parents, recognized our child as a human from the moment we were aware of his/her presence in his/her mother's wombs.

Genesis 1:27 - 28, 4:1, 2 Kings 17:17-18, Psalm 22:10-11, 106: 35, 37-38, 113:7-9, 127:3, 139:13-16, Amos 1:13, Matthew 18:1-4, and Matthew 19:13-15 are just a few verses that illustrate the aforementioned children as blessings from God that are valued and loved by him, their Creator, in whose image they were created and that their killing is condemned and causes God's destructive anger to burn against their murderers and those complicit in those murders.

Exodus 20:13, Leviticus 18:21 & 20:2-5, Deuteronomy 5:13, 12:30-32, 18:10, 2 Kings 16:3, and Psalm 106:38 illustrate that all child sacrifice is condemned with no exception clauses allowing for the greater good or public exception clauses found anywhere in the sacred scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 10:31 remind us that we are to regard our bodies as temples of God's Holy Spirit and that we are to honor God, our Creator and possessor of our very bodies by not defiling them. Notwithstanding the presence of socially sacrificed human cells and debris in vaccinations, we firmly believe that the presence of neurotoxins, hazardous substances, attenuated viruses, animal cells, foreign DNA, albumin from human blood, carcinogens, and chemical wastes is in strict violation of our imperative to treat our bodies as holy temples of the very Spirit of God.

Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10-11, 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:23, Acts 15:20 and 29 informs us that blood represents the life force of human and animal species and that human blood was to be kept pure under all circumstances and free from contaminants such as animal cells, parts, and blood.

I ask that you respectfully adhere to our first amendment rights guaranteed as citizens of the United States of America by her great Constitution and reinforced on a state level by the fourteenth amendment without prejudice and do not pass HB1118.

Thank you for your time. Have a blessed day.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:56:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barry Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please protect our religious freedom by opposing HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 6:59:24 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I'm writing to you as a God fearing mother who opposes HB1118. This bill goes against our our constitutional and God given rights as parents to CHOOSE how to care for our children.

Vaccination is a choice and should not be mandated by the government!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:00:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Manahel Al-hozail	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is absolutely against my constitutional right to practice my religion. None of the elected officials have the right to override the constitution. I strongly oppose this bill and find it an act of overreach. The first amendment prohibits this and this bill is an infringement upon my first amendment right to practice my religion.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:20:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Sky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

My name is Lily and I am a high school student in Hawai‘i. I strongly oppose HB 1118. I was born and raised here, and this is my home. But if this bill passes, I’m afraid I won’t be able to stay in Hawai‘i in the future. I might have to leave the only place I’ve ever known just so I can raise my children with the same religious freedoms I’ve grown up with.

I value my education and plan to major in psychology so I can become a therapist and serve the communities of the Big Island. But if this bill becomes law and I have to move, my talent and future contributions will be taken with me. Hawai‘i already struggles with keeping local professionals—this bill would only push more people like me away.

This bill also disrespects Native Hawaiian traditions and other cultural practices that value natural healing. People should have the right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs, and no one should be forced to leave Hawai‘i just to keep those rights.

Please do not pass HB 1118. I want to stay in Hawai‘i. I want my future children to grow up here, just like I did. But if this bill becomes law, I may not have a choice

Mahalo, Lily

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:25:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Governor Josh Green, I am writing to express my opposition to Bill HB1118.

I am compelled to oppose HB1118 for two primary reasons. Firstly, as a Christian, I firmly believe that parents have the inherent right to determine what is in the best interest of their children. I strongly feel that the government, nor the Governor, should not have the authority to make decisions on behalf of parents regarding their child's well-being. Secondly, religious exemptions have historically been available to parents, allowing them to exercise their right to choose. The government should refrain from interfering with this right and avoid creating legislation based on personal beliefs.

As stated in the Bible:

“For God so greatly loved and dearly prized the world that He [even] gave up His only begotten (unique) Son, so that whoever believes in (trusts in, clings to, relies on) Him shall not perish (come to destruction, be lost) but have eternal (everlasting) life.”

John 3:16 AMPC

Jesus died on the cross of Calvary and rose on the third day for me. I have the right to choose my beliefs, and no one can take that away from me or my children.

The Bible also states:

“The thief does not come except to steal, and to kill, and to destroy. I have come that they may have life, and that they may have it more abundantly.”

John 10:10 NKJV

No Governor should have the authority to take away my rights or those of my family and future generations.

Governor Josh Green, I strongly oppose your Bill HB1118.

The motto of Hawai'i, "UA MAU KE EA O KA AINA I KA PONO O IESU CHRISTO," serves as a reminder of the importance of standing up for righteousness and the well-being of the people, the keiki o ka aina. My queen stood up for these values, and I urge you to do the same.

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:26:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alohilani Zapata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

As a U.S. citizen, especially one who pays taxes, I am opposing this bill, because it takes away freedom and rights, which is what this Country was partly built upon. I say 'partly', because it was really founded on the one true living God, which those things follow. HB1118 has no right to pass because it goes against the Constitution, it's not consistent, and most immunizations do more harm than good.

In the United States Constitution, you will see that the very first amendment states that religious rights are protected by prohibiting Congress from establishing a religion or restricting a religion from practicing their beliefs freely. In 1982, you will always see the Supreme Court ruled, "A state statute is void to the extent that it actually conflicts with a valid Federal statute.". I am a Christian, a long with many others in this State. True followers of Christ, children of God do not believe in anything that would cause harm. There is no jurisdiction or justification to make this a law.

Secondly, there is no consistency in this bill. It states one thing for certain groups of people, and another for everyone else. It's very illogical to allow current students to be allowed to choose, but anyone who enrolls later on has no choice. This is your reminder that this is America, the land of the free.

Lastly, most immunizations, vaccines, and any other name they go by are a top factor to many of the illnesses we struggle with. There have been studies, secret meetings exposed, and so on. They kill your immune system, when the "healthcare" system claims they protect. The Flu shot makes most susceptible to the Flu. I, myself have personal unfortunate experience with this one in particular. My mother always made sure we didn't get immunizations/vaccines, but my father never listened. In 2008, he was the one to take me to my annual checkup. The nurse informed us I was "due" for the Flu shot, even though I told them no and explained what my mother always did, my father didn't care and had them give it to me. Three days later, I was sick with the Flu, and my health went downhill from that point, even though I was a healthy child from the start. I was 8 years old at the time. The Tdap creates the seizure disorder. All four of my siblings were given that shot and all four struggled with seizures for many years after that. I was the only one whom my mother was able to take me to that newborn checkup, so I was protected from getting it. 75% of children we know, where the parents didn't head to our warning got seizure disorder as well. HepB leads to Autism. That is another one that two of my siblings got injected with and

they both have Autism, a long with many others out there. I could go on and on, but I pray you get the point.

In conclusion, HB1118 should not and cannot be passed, because it's unconstitutional, it's inconsistent, and it's harmful.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:37:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin cencio Y Melendres	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I oppose this bill as this comes against everything America stands for!!! What are the bill of rights and constitution for if we are going to start to demand injections for kids just to go to school. This has never affected the schools before, why are trying to change something!!! This makes me very unsettled, as people that are supposedly trying to make a difference in this state would make these type of changes. Since when did being religious become a threat to society? To me that's what it seems to attack. Its like me saying I don't need a drivers license to drive a car. You're trying to control everything and that's what' it's all about!!! I oppose it and if this passes I will not have my kids attend school. What's next can't go to stores???

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:43:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael R. Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. What we put into our bodies and our children's bodies should be our choice / choice of the parent. Vaccination status should not impede upon freedom of movement and access to public services. As we saw with the Covid vaccine... it neither prevented contraction nor the spread of Covid. What makes other immunizations any different? Unvaccinated keiki are not a threat to public health, and it is a God-given (and constitutional) right to adhere to religious convictions without restriction or punishment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:48:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Przygodzinski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi, my name is Jillian Przygodzinski, and I am OPPOSED to HB. 1118 (or SB. 1437), which would eliminate religious exemptions for school children. This bill infringes on fundamental religious freedom by compelling individuals to receive pharmaceutical products against their sincerely held beliefs. I am opposed to any bills that would place restrictions on religious vaccine exemptions.

As a public school educator for 18.5 years- I am sure that I have had unvaccinated children in my classroom but I have never checked because that would be unconstitutional to treat someone differently because they are not vaccinated. Whether a child is vaccinated or not- does not determine if they are healthy. A child could be sick all the time due to a poor diet, lack of sleep, lack of exercise, the home environment in which they live, and numerous other factors. I have friends who have unvaccinated children and I am not fearful of my own children playing with unvaccinated children. They are healthy, strong, and happy. They are no different than vaccinated children yet you want to discriminate against them and treat them differently? We are now in the era of discrimination based on what you believe medically and you want to take away the religious right to have different beliefs? This is unconstitutional. I do not fear having unvaccinated children in my classroom and would NEVER deny any child equal educational opportunities in regard to what their family chooses to do medically because of their religious beliefs. The government needs to stay in their lane- we can't tell parents what to feed their children, enforce daily teeth brushing, tell them not to smoke or drink around their children, and so on. So why is this something you are trying to enforce? Why are you trying to get me to believe that parents who don't want to vaccinate their children for religious reasons are bad people and a danger to society? The parents I know don't smoke, drink, are the kindest humans I know and you want to take this right away from them? Their children are the sweetest and I will tell you they are healthy and haven't missed a day of school due to illness. So I will not buy into the reasons behind this bill. Parents have a right to their religious beliefs and the government has no right to take them away.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:48:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brendan Ajolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartedly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:52:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juliet Rice	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1118

Submitted by: Juliet Rice

Date: February 20, 2025

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB 1118, which would make it mandatory for all keiki to receive required vaccinations in order to attend school in Hawai‘i, without allowing for parental exemptions. While I understand the intent behind this bill, I firmly believe that parents should retain the right to make medical decisions for their children based on personal, religious, and medical considerations.

Hawai‘i has always valued diversity and respect for individual choice, and this bill threatens to take away a fundamental right—medical freedom. Every child is unique, and parents, in consultation with their trusted healthcare providers, should have the ability to determine what is best for their child’s health. By eliminating exemptions, this bill disregards legitimate concerns, including medical contraindications, religious beliefs, and personal convictions.

Furthermore, forcing universal vaccination as a requirement for school attendance could create unnecessary barriers for families who have well-founded reasons for opting out of certain vaccines. Education is a right, and no child should be denied access to learning because their parents choose an alternative vaccination schedule or decline certain vaccines altogether.

Hawai‘i already has laws in place that ensure high vaccination rates while allowing exemptions. There is no compelling reason to strip parents of their right to choose, especially when herd immunity and public health can be maintained without coercion.

I respectfully urge you to vote **NO** on HB 1118 and uphold parental rights, medical freedom, and informed consent in our state.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Juliet Rice

Julietkclark@gmail.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:53:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eldrick Poller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Before I go into why I disagree with the passing of this bill, I'd like to state a few things about myself. I am a democrat, I'd consider myself pro vaccine, I do believe vaccines do more good than harm, but most of all I am a Christian and I am a staunch believer in the constitution. While this bill would be considered to be for 'the greater good' it directly violates our first ammendment right. If we continue to interpret these ammendments to prompt different agendad where will we draw the line? The more we continue to reinterpret these ammendments for modernity the more we encroach on our rights as US citizens. Secondly, despite my support of vaccines and my belief in their success, I cannot support a bill that directly oppresses my fellow brothers and sisters in Christ. For different branches of us, we believe in different customs, and while I may not believe/follow those customs I will not argue against their right to follow such. I will not discard their faith for the support of my own. It is these reasons that I must stand firm against this bill and call upon all my fellow Christian representatives to vote against the encroachment of our rights to religious expression. Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 7:55:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alix Lillaz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

This bill saddens me, shocks me and scares me. One of the main reasons Hawai'i has been able to remain a special place and continue to keep aloha alive is because we are rooted in 'Ohana. This bill pulls the roots out from our culture and community and takes the power away from every 'ohana. It's our kuleana to take care of our keiki and this only harms their future. My keiki are vaccinated but that was my choice. Even though I felt pressured and would have preferred they not be vaccinated, at the end of the day it was my choice. This bill that makes it mandatory for keiki to be vaccinated is disgusting and goes against everything that Hawai'i is about. And to threaten parents with making education and other institutions unavailable to keiki who are unvaccinated is shameful. I hope you are able to read this testimony with an open mind and understand every parent's fear of not being able to make the decisions that we feel is best for our 'ohana. Thank you for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:02:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Alesna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With what happened with covid, and the vaccination scares, I do not agree with this mandate. Also, RFK is finding that vaccinations have highly negative effects. Let's wait to hear his findings.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:03:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlee Beaton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents should have the right to do what is best for their children without the government forcing their hand. I believe that the human body is a temple and therefore we have the right to choose what is put into our bodies, nothing should ever be forced or mandated without our will to do so.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:03:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa VT Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Ka Kou,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to bill HB1118. This legislation undermines fundamental personal freedoms, parental rights, and religious liberties. I firmly believe that the government is overstepping its authority, and this bill will not achieve the outcomes you intend.

Many families decide against vaccinating their children and explore alternative educational paths. Moreover, the potential side effects of these vaccines have been well-documented, raising legitimate concerns among parents. Trust in the government has diminished significantly, especially in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic.

It is crucial that we respect and protect parents' decisions regarding their children. I urge you to reconsider the implications of bill HB1118 and stand with families in safeguarding their rights.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,
Alexa VT Dudoit

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:07:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Levesque	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Sophia, I'm born in raised in Hawaii and a mother of 4 children. I write this testimony with tears in my eye's and my stomach in knots reliving the trauma of one of my worst moments. My child was vaccine injured during her 1st round of MMR shots. I was a young Mom and believed what my doctors told me. On that day I watched my baby go limp almost immediately, her eyes glassed over and her fever spiked. She was so weak she couldn't lift her head to drink water, or use the bathroom. It was truly terrifying, I thought I was going to lose her. I prayed with everything I had to my God to let her live, to come back to me and be healthy and happy again. This experience has changed me, it sent me down a spiritual path that has transformed my belief system. As parents we are our the protectors of our keiki. We know in our hearts what is best. I will never allow this to happen to another one of my perfectly healthy and beautiful babies. I will be forced to pull all my children from school to protect them if my voice isn't heard.

Mahalo,

Sophia Levesque

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:16:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Gravesen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. This bill is an unnecessary overreach that disregards constitutional protections and relies on outdated legal precedents that fail to reflect modern scientific and ethical considerations.

1. Jacobson v. Massachusetts (1905) is Outdated

- This case was decided over 120 years ago, before modern medical advancements and regulatory oversight.
- The ruling was based on a smallpox outbreak, a disease with a vastly different risk profile than today's routine vaccinations.
- The case did not consider long-term safety studies or modern scientific understanding of vaccine risks and individual immunity.
- The Supreme Court has since refined its interpretation of personal liberty and religious rights, making Jacobson an insufficient legal foundation for HB1118.

2. Vaccine Safety Has Never Been Fully Proven

- The long-term effects of many vaccines remain insufficiently studied, especially with mRNA technology that was rushed into mass distribution.
- Pharmaceutical companies are shielded from liability under the 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, raising concerns about accountability.
- The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has documented thousands of serious reactions, but reporting is voluntary and often undercounted.
- The CDC and FDA have a history of conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical manufacturers, casting doubt on impartial safety assessments.

3. The Constitution Protects Religious Freedom

- The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, and forcing individuals to violate their beliefs contradicts the very foundation of religious liberty.
- Courts have repeatedly upheld the principle that government cannot impose undue burdens on religious practice without a compelling and narrowly tailored reason.

- Given the varied risks and effectiveness of vaccines, there is no justification for eliminating religious exemptions, which have existed for decades without public health catastrophe.

HB1118 represents a dangerous precedent that undermines constitutional freedoms and disregards legitimate concerns about vaccine safety. I urge you to reject this bill and instead support policies that respect individual rights, informed consent, and medical freedom.

Katherine Gravesen

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:18:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lillian Montayre	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's unlawful when legislature wants to mandate an injection to the people (inclusive of children) to get vaccinated of any type of substance and that its professed to be an immunization program. We, the people have the personal right to decide by free choice and for our children whether to comply or not. Therefore, I wholeheartedly OPPOSE Bill #1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:18:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to HB 1118. It is a violation of people's intrinsic rights. What is more sacred than what we put in our and our children's bodies, you know! This bill to deny people's rights to religious exemptions from vaccines is downright outrageous. It is highly insulting that Hawaiian legislators believe that people are not entitled to make such personal decisions for themselves and/or their children. It is disrespectful. You have gone too far; this bill is unacceptable. I understand that this kind of rule/law exists in perhaps only two other US states. Why does the Aloha State want to represent itself as the greatest violators of people's integrity, rights and beliefs. The world will wonder what could possibly motivate this tyranny and ugliness. Thank you for your attention.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:21:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ranee Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: In Opposition to HB1118 "Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements." February 20, 2025, I sincerely appreciate the opportunity to offer written testimony in opposition to HB1118. I strongly oppose to this bill because it is a violation of human rights and is unconstitutional. This bill takes away my freedom to choose what's best for my family. I believe that this is a huge overreach by the government and should not pass. I truly believe that all children are not the same and what vaccines a child takes should be up to the parents to choose even if it's no vaccines! Vaccines should not be forced on anyone. I ask that all representatives will consider all written testimonies and our right to choose!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:24:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachelle Y Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118 to mandate vaccines for all children attending school in the state of Hawaii. First of all it is unconstitutional. We are the parents of our children. We should be making decisions for the welfare of our children not the government. Last I checked, I gave birth to my children not the government. It's a choice the parents should have to make not a decision for the government to make. You are taking away our amendment rights to have the freedom to choose. I am a Christian and I believe that GOD has given us our bodies, which is our temple, with an immune system. So, i oppose to vaccine mandates for the children of Hawaii attending school. Leave it up to the parents.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:26:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BARBARA Anneken-Nall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Representatives,

I am opposed to HB1118 and ask you to oppose it also. I understand the reason for the bill is because of an increased number of requested exemptions. That should lead you to ask why so many requests.

It is because we have lost trust in our public officials. Most recently we have been lied to and doctors censored on the COVID source, the effectiveness and safety of the shots, lockdowns, masking, etc...

We have learned to trust our own eyes, our own research of the data and our intuition when it comes to the health of ourselves and especially our children.

Not all of us will have an adverse effect from a vaccine but some will and that should be a risk we should decide for ourselves.

You say there is no evidence vaccines cause autism. I say there is no evidence vaccines do NOT cause autism. There has been an unexplained rise in autism coinciding with the vaccine changes.

Allow parents the freedom to raise their own children with their own values,

Hawaii resident and voter,

Barbara Anneken-Nall

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:26:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Chong	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Hawaii has a long history of supporting autonomy of body. Hawaii was one of the first states to recognize same sex marriages affirming the fact that the state cannot stand in the way of individual choices when it comes to love and marriage. I strongly believe it is important to recognize the deep rooted relationship of choice for the communities in Hawaii. This is a bill that aims to remove the an individuals' autonomy of body, for medical decisions. So, regardless of how one feels about vaccines, this is a greater concern of protecting medical freedom.

The exemption as written says that should individuals in schools be found to have an illness, those not vaccinated will not be permitted to attend class until it has been determined it is no longer an issue. I believe this is protective and allows flexibility of choice. Therefore, not putting one in conflict with their own religious tenets.

Vote NO to HB1118!

Sincerely, Concerned Mother

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:26:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bianca Foster	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I testify that forcing to vaccinate is unlawful, unconstitutional and against freedom of religion as the contents of vaccines are a conflict with religious beliefs.

I testify against this unlawful act.
sincerely,

BF

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:28:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Takayesu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. This bill is an unnecessary overreach that disregards constitutional protections and relies on outdated legal precedents that fail to reflect modern scientific and ethical considerations.

1. Jacobson v. Massachusetts (1905) is Outdated

This case was decided over 120 years ago, before modern medical advancements and regulatory oversight.

The ruling was based on a smallpox outbreak, a disease with a vastly different risk profile than today's routine vaccinations.

The case did not consider long-term safety studies or modern scientific understanding of vaccine risks and individual immunity.

The Supreme Court has since refined its interpretation of personal liberty and religious rights, making Jacobson an insufficient legal foundation for HB1118.

2. Vaccine Safety Has Never Been Fully Proven

The long-term effects of many vaccines remain insufficiently studied, especially with mRNA technology that was rushed into mass distribution.

Pharmaceutical companies are shielded from liability under the 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act, raising concerns about accountability.

The Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS) has documented thousands of serious reactions, but reporting is voluntary and often undercounted.

The CDC and FDA have a history of conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical manufacturers, casting doubt on impartial safety assessments.

3. The Constitution Protects Religious Freedom

The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, and forcing individuals to violate their beliefs contradicts the very foundation of religious liberty.

Courts have repeatedly upheld the principle that government cannot impose undue burdens on religious practice without a compelling and narrowly tailored reason.

Given the varied risks and effectiveness of vaccines, there is no justification for eliminating religious exemptions, which have existed for decades without public health catastrophe.

HB1118 represents a dangerous precedent that undermines constitutional freedoms and disregards legitimate concerns about vaccine safety. I urge you to reject this bill and instead support policies that respect individual rights, informed consent, and medical freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:28:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
M. Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO to HB1118. This measure does not support body autonomy and medical freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:32:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ana Millan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Ana Millan
95-211 Alenale Pl
Mililani, HI 96789
mindfulmillan@gmail.com
February 20, 2025

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Subject: Opposition to HB1118 – Protecting the Rights of Vaccine-Injured Children

Dear Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to repeal religious exemptions for school vaccinations. As a parent, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill would have on children who have suffered from vaccine injuries, like my daughter Addison.

At just three months old, Addison received the Hib vaccine, and shortly thereafter, she developed full-body eczema. She was later diagnosed with severe food allergies. While she inherited a genetic predisposition from her father, the environmental trigger for these health conditions was the vaccine. Addison suffered from debilitating eczema for years, with no relief from conventional treatments. It was only after seeking care from a holistic functional medicine doctor that we saw improvements in her condition.

Addison's food allergies have been managed through a specialized food allergy tolerance program in Long Beach, California. However, the legislative climate in California made it nearly impossible to obtain or maintain a medical exemption for vaccinations. When her temporary medical exemption expired, we were left with no choice but to make a life-changing decision—we moved our family to Hawaii in June 2023.

We settled in Mililani, where Addison was finally able to attend school under a religious exemption. This was a leap of faith, taken to ensure that our daughter, an immunocompromised child, had the opportunity to receive an education in a safe environment. Now, with HB1118 threatening to remove religious exemptions, we find ourselves once again fearing for our daughter's future.

I urge you to consider children like Addison—those who have already suffered due to vaccine injuries. They deserve the right to attend school, to learn, and to thrive without unnecessary medical risks. Removing religious exemptions would strip families of their ability to make informed decisions in the best interest of their children's health.

Please vote against HB1118 and protect the rights of vaccine-injured children to access education safely.

Sincerely,
Ana Millan

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:32:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sera manjarrez	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

Religious freedom is a fundamental American value, so fundamental that it is protected by the First Amendment to our nation's Constitution. And historically, religious exemptions have protected the tried-and-true American values of freedom of belief, worship and religious exercise. With that being said, I'm asking that you PLEASE oppose this bill!

Mahalo!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:32:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chelle Galarza
Haiku, Hawaii

Dear Readers,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which I believe poses a serious threat to our constitutional freedoms, religion, parental freedoms and medical autonomy. As a mother of two young girls, ages 7 and 4, I want to ensure they have access to education without any medical coercion. A parent shouldn't be forced to choose between my children's education and a right to practice our religion. Over the last several years there has been an absurd increase in the number of childhood vaccinations which is deeply concerning, especially because pharmaceutical companies are shielded from liability while profiting enormously from these products.

I am against any policies that give corporate gain over individual rights, informed consent, and true medical transparency. No one should have the power to mandate medical interventions while the corporations who make these products are legally protected from any consequences should their products cause harm. Why is this the case?

Regardless of where one stands on vaccines, every individual should have the right to weigh the risks and benefits and make personal health decisions without coercion or mandates. We deserve the right to choose and not be forced to homeschool otherwise.

HB 1118 disregards the US constitution, religious freedoms, informed consent, bodily autonomy, and the rights of parents to act in the best interest of their families who have a constitutional right to practice our religion.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and protect the rights of families like mine, and the future and educational opportunities of my children. I thank you for your time and consideration. I hope you will be a voice for our constitutional rights.

Sincerely, Chelle Galarza

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:34:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trysti Kawaiaea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Trysti Kawaiaea, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. (Personally relate to the bill topic and how it affects you, whether as a parent, student, or concerned community member.)

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:35:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Hashimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this unconstitutional Bill HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:36:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Callaway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

On behalf of myself, my family and many other families of Hawaii, I strongly oppose taking away religious exemption forms from Hawaii schools. The choice to vaccinate should be up to the parents. Not allowing a child to go to school because of their families beliefs is wrong. Please listen to these testimonies and oppose this Bill HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:36:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ikaika Liwai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support bill HB 1118. The decisions of getting our Keiki vaccinated should be entirely up to the parent/gaurdian choice and not mandatory in order to enter schooling or homeschool.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:37:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Saville	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Each family should be able to make decisions for their health, wellness and their families on their own. The government has demonstrated knowledge of potential harm in these vaccines and I don't want to subject my tiny babies to potential harm

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:38:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jen Kitahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing in opposition to HB 1118. I strongly believe the right to choose to vaccinate or not vaccinate should be kept within the family. I have witnessed many friends experience their children having adverse reactions to the vaccine schedule and I do not think that any government should force or have laws restricting citizens access to education both public and private if they choose to omit vaccinations. I respectfully ask you to please reconsider your votes if you are for this bill. Please consider that we all as individuals should have the right to choose what is best for our bodies and our children's bodies.

Respectfully,

Jen Kitahara

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:40:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government does not have the right to impede on peoples bonafide religious beliefs. Period. So if it means they believe that an unproven vaccine and or immunization is an overreach, and references their religion, so be it. I personally know a jehovahs witness who said he literally would refuse a cancer treatment shot if they made one, because of his religious beliefs. Its a real thing

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:40:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ikaika galves-alameda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:42:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennae Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Removing Religious Exemptions for Vaccines

My name is Dennae Smith, and I am here today to strongly oppose any effort to remove religious exemptions for vaccines. Religious freedom is a fundamental right protected by both the U.S. Constitution and various state laws, and it must not be compromised in the name of public policy.

For many individuals and families, vaccination is not merely a medical decision it is a deeply moral and religious one. Some vaccines are developed or tested using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical concerns for those who believe in the sanctity of human life. Others have religious objections to any medical intervention that interferes with divine providence over their health. The government should not have the power to force individuals to act against their sincerely held religious beliefs.

Eliminating religious exemptions creates a dangerous precedent. If the government can mandate a medical procedure that violates religious convictions, what is to stop future encroachments on other aspects of religious practice? Protecting public health is important, but it must be balanced with respect for religious liberty. There are alternative solutions, such as informed consent policies and natural immunity considerations, that do not require trampling on the rights of religious individuals.

Religious freedom is one of the bedrocks of our democracy. Removing religious exemptions would effectively exclude people of faith from public life and essential services like education. That is not the kind of society we should strive to create.

I urge you to uphold religious freedom and oppose any measure that removes religious exemptions for vaccines. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dennae Smith

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:42:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Sim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Nicole Sim I am writing this testimony in opposition of Bill HB1118. It is our constitutional rights as American Citizens to practice our religious beliefs. As a mother of 4 children; 3 of which, of school age our family relies on the ability of the vaccine exemption based on our religious beliefs to allow my children educational opportunities here in the state of Hawaii. Taking away this right would be unconstitutional and unjust for the children of Hawaii who need this exemption.

Please I implore you to vote against HB1118 for families across the state like me who firmly believe in and rely on the religious exemption for our children.

Thankyou for your time.

Sincerely,

Nicole Sim

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:43:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Chong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this.

This proposal removes the religious and personal tenets exemption from vaccines for the whole state of Hawaii. Any shots they want to make mandatory. Currently, the DOH supports the COVID vax for everyone 6 mo and older: flu, MMR, tetanus, polio, meningitis, hepatitis (for newborns), HPV boys and girls at the age of 12 and up, it's over 78 shots by the time a child is 18.

Again, I vehemently oppose this proposition.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:47:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Payomo-Sofa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to HB1118, we as parents need to have our children's rights protected. It should not be mandatory for them to get vaccinated in order to go to school. Why would you get rid of a religious exemption and force these parents to get their children vaccinated? More people are choosing to not vaccinate their kids for many reasons, and we don't need to tell you why. That's taking away our right to be able to choose. Also that means HB1118 doesn't care about a child's education because if you say that a child cannot attend school without getting vaccinated then what happens to the child? Since they aren't able to go to school what would they be doing? Some parents work a full time job or multiple jobs just to be able to survive so they can't homeschool their kids. So again I'm asking what happens to the child at that point? How do you expect them to learn, grow, and thrive and be a functioning member of society because they wouldn't be able to get an education at school because you didn't allow them to have a choice to not get vaccinated. Make it make sense. We need to have a say in how we want to raise our children and not conform just because someone thinks that being vaccinated is the only way to go. That is unacceptable that someone would even think HB1118 is a good idea. We need to stand up and oppose bills like this that take away from our first amendment rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:48:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jowell Rivera	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill as it takes away the rights of parents to make their own family decisions. Government has no business in the family unit at this level. If this bill passes, it will be overturned by the SCOTUS.

My body, my choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:50:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose to mandate anyone to have to vaccinate their child. They should have a choice to do it or not. Not all parents agree with vaccination. We live in America.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:51:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leycia Tabajunda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committees Involved,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. While I understand the importance of ensuring public health and safety, I believe this bill undermines the fundamental right of parents to make informed and voluntary decisions regarding the health and well-being of their children.

Vaccination is an important issue, but it is equally important to preserve the personal freedoms of parents to decide what is best for their children. Repealing the non-medical exemption would severely limit parental choice, disregarding individual circumstances, values, and beliefs, whether based on religious, philosophical, or personal grounds.

Parents should have the freedom to make informed decisions about whether to vaccinate their children, considering factors such as family history, potential risks, and their own moral or religious beliefs. Mandating vaccines without the option for non-medical exemptions infringes upon parental rights and individual freedoms, especially when there is no one-size-fits-all solution for health care. Every child's needs, medical history, and potential risks differ, and the decision should remain in the hands of parents.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation overlooks the fact that many vaccines have risks and side effects, and not all children are able to tolerate them equally. There are parents who have deeply held religious or philosophical objections to certain vaccinations, and repealing this exemption would force them into a position where they are required to make a decision that goes against their beliefs.

While we all agree on the importance of public health, we must strike a balance that also respects personal autonomy and parental rights. Instead of eliminating the non-medical exemption, I encourage the committee to explore alternative approaches, such as improving access to education on vaccination and addressing misinformation, which would allow individuals to make informed decisions based on facts, rather than mandating a blanket policy.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and preserve the right of parents to make choices that they believe are in the best interest of their children. Parents should not be forced to choose between adhering to their values and ensuring that their children can attend school.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will take these points into account as you move forward in deliberating on this bill.

Sincerely,

Leycia Tabajunda

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:52:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lena Marie Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, I don't agree with this because I should have say over my child and no one else. It would be taking away my right and my child's right to choose. As a parent I know what's best for my child.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:54:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Sir / Madam:

I am strongly opposed to HB 1118. I believe what goes into a persons body should be decided by that person and his/her doctor. Government should not mandate medical procedures. Medical procedures should always be a choice.

Thank you

Neal

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:55:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I Sam Shafer Jr oppose HB1118 to Vaccinate students in School public or Private.

This my Constitutional Right to oppose this Bill 1118 and let the parents of our Children to freely speak up on there behalf.

Sincerely yours,

Sam Shafer Jr

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:57:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my firm opposition to HB1118, as it infringes on the fundamental right to religious freedom, a protection guaranteed by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Any restriction on this right poses a serious threat to the values upon which our country was built.

Religious liberty is a cornerstone of both American and Hawaiian culture. By introducing government involvement in religious matters, HB1118 sets a concerning precedent that endangers individual rights and weakens the freedoms we hold dear.

Furthermore, this bill does not account for the diverse spiritual and cultural traditions that make Hawai'i unique. Our communities flourish because of this diversity, and it is essential to safeguard the right of individuals and religious institutions to practice their faith without government interference. Restricting religious expression in any way threatens the inclusive and respectful nature of our society.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the constitutional right to religious freedom. Protecting these fundamental liberties should remain a top priority, and this bill moves us in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:58:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
helen salvani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to express my strong opposition to HB 1118 which seeks to eliminate personal religious exemptions for vaccinations in hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach, which disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their Deeply held beliefs.

religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution and forcing individuals to choose between their Faith and education is unacceptable.

many families Have strong objections, which are in alignment, sincerely held religious believes, and this should be respected and honored.

I urge you to OPPOSE HB 1118 and stand for religious freedom, medical freedom and parental rights. Why you should respect a parents right to choose medical freedom.

Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:58:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Candeur	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Kelly Candeur

Date: February 20, 2025

Subject: Opposition to HB1118 – Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to prohibit new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children in Hawaii. While I understand the intent to protect public health, this bill raises significant concerns regarding individual rights, religious freedoms, and informed consent.

1. Infringement on Religious Freedom

HB1118 effectively removes religious exemptions for vaccinations, compelling families to act against their deeply held beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. By eliminating these exemptions, the state imposes a one-size-fits-all mandate that disregards the diverse religious convictions of its residents.

2. Violation of Parental Rights

Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children. This bill undermines parental authority by mandating medical interventions without allowing for personal or philosophical discretion. Such an approach erodes trust between families and public health institutions.

3. Concerns About Medical Autonomy and Informed Consent

Medical decisions should be made based on individual circumstances, in consultation with healthcare providers. Mandating vaccinations without allowing for exemptions disregards the principle of informed consent, which is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice.

4. Potential for Unintended Consequences

Removing non-medical exemptions may lead to unintended consequences, such as:

- Increased Homeschooling: Families unwilling to comply may choose to homeschool, potentially straining resources and reducing diversity in public schools.
- Public Distrust: Mandates without exemptions can foster distrust in public health initiatives, leading to decreased overall vaccination rates.

Conclusion

While public health is paramount, it must be balanced with respect for individual rights and freedoms. I urge the committee to consider the broader implications of HB1118 and to uphold the rights of Hawaii's residents by preserving non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kelly Candeur

kcandeur@gmail.com

808-250-5098

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 8:59:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Rouleau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 and SB1437 & HB1585 and SB3089

JR

justin rouleau

☐Reply

☐Reply all

☐Forward

☐

☐

To:Rep. Terez Amato;senmckelvey@capitol.hawaii.gov;citydesk@staradvertiser.com;+2 others

Sat 2/15/2025 9:01 PM

Dear Representative Amato and Senator McKelvey:

I have previously written you demanding to have the citizens of Maui's voices represented by a no vote concerning proposed bills HB1118 and SB1437. Representative Amato, I want to thank you for your response which was courageously written; however, I am still awaiting to hear from my senator.

Representative Amato, a graduate of an ecclesiastical school herself, surprised me with her nonchalant attitude concerning the freedom of religion and its guaranteed enshrinement in our Constitution. Her claim that denying citizens free exercise of religion is justifiable if compelling government interests are interfered with is contradictory to both the First Amendment and the

presumed view of a graduate from an ecclesiastical school. I am glad that Representative Amato discussed the proposal with counsel, after all, that is her job, but her reply of "For instance, see case law *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158" (Amato 2025) in an attempt to justify state control over religion is a tacit method of avoiding responsibility to the constitution that representatives and senators are sworn to uphold. I would expect a graduate from an ecclesiastical school to remind me of the precedent of God vs. mankind which ended in a great flood. Clearly that precedent points out that it is bad to fool around with God. Maybe this is why South Maui routinely floods—it is a message from God.

Prince v Massachusetts is a really tenuous way to argue that a state can nullify the free exercise of religion. Established in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803), Chief Justice John Marshall asserted, "It is emphatically the province and [duty of the judicial department](#) to say what the law is." This established the Supreme Court as the ultimate arbiter of constitutional interpretation, rejecting the idea that individual states could independently determine the [constitutionality of federal laws](#). Since the Constitution is federal law, Hawaii has no authority over religion. Furthermore, Article II, Section 4 of the Constitution outlines what punishment is available for elected officials who violate the Constitution they are sworn to uphold, stating that officials can be removed for "treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors." Mazie Hirono is famous for directly asking powerful people if they were ever found guilty of sexual misconduct—indeed it is her trademark question. I am going to imitate Mrs. Hirono and ask Representative Amato and Senator McKeelvey such a straightforward question:

Representative Amato and Senator McKeelvey, have either of you ever met with in private, had travel expenses paid from, accepted gifts from, accepted cash from, been promised future gifts from, been promised future cash from, received any mortgage payment support from, auto payment support from, campaign finance support from, or has any family member or friend ever received support, financial or otherwise, from any representative, employee, or scientist who is employed in the past or current time by the pharmaceutical industry or the medical industry? Silence to this question is connoted as a yes answer; much like pleading for the fifth amendment protection from self-incrimination.

Please stop attacking God. It is a losing fight. Contrary to Hawaii legislative belief, God still is the ultimate arbiter. Please focus on reviving bills HB1585 and SB3089 which limit the power of the executive emergency order. If you really want to champion children's rights, then revive and pass HB1585 and SB3089 so our children may know democracy, and not autocracy.

If you really want to be perceived an effective leader, create a bill that mandates the weekly testing of fire hydrants and will guarantee that citizens will be able to retrieve the weekly results

of those fire hydrant tests, as well as learn where in proximity to their house the fire hydrant is, how much water pressure it produces, and a guarantee that if a hydrant is not nearby a homeowner, one will be immediately installed. Senator McKelvey, you represent a district that lost a thousand homes due to the failure of water to be applied during a fire—surely a fire hydrant test law will be perceived as more helpful than a law that attacks faith.

In closing, I want to ask both of you to please place, as support, your names on a full-page Honolulu Advertiser notice I am planning that glorifies God, the children He created, and the Constitution which protects our right to worship as we see fit, and Hawaii's strong opposition to HB1118 and SB1437. Such a strong advertisement, endorsed by the legislators, will no doubt resonate well with the majority of Hawaiian families.

In closing, I would like to ask for any data the health committee cited as evidence, if such data exists, from independent third parties, and not from the special interest groups themselves, pointing out the percentage of vaccinated to achieve herd immunity, and the concept of herd immunity itself in relation to each specific disease; the percentage of children who suffer from measles, mumps, rubella, and any other diseases the vaccines are intended to mitigate in Hawaii. The 95% herd claim by the legislation is yet to be supported with any non-biased studies that the public is aware of; furthermore, the now retired Doctor Fauci is on record stating otherwise; he claims that " 85 percent of the US needs to get ... vaccine for "true herd immunity". Surely the state doctor is not as qualified as doctor Fauci. And, obviously, the legislators are not using Dr. Fauci's data. Please send the links to the data I requested to:

justinrouleau@hotmail.com,

"citydesk@staradvertiser.com",

"ablair@hawaiinewsnow.com",

"DHuff@hawaiinewsnow.com" .

With warm regards,

I am

Justin S. Rouleau

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:03:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Allison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Aloha, my name is Sasha Allison and I am here to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations in our schools.

First and foremost, the right to practice one's religion freely is enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This includes the right to make decisions based on one's religious beliefs regarding the health and welfare of their children. By removing the religious exemption, this bill infringes upon this fundamental right, compelling individuals to act contrary to their deeply held religious convictions. I am a healthcare worker and believe it is a fundamental personal right to make choices best for themselves and their family, regardless of religion.

Moreover, the diversity of beliefs in our community is one of our greatest strengths. Religious exemptions for vaccinations acknowledge this diversity and respect the cultural and spiritual nuances that guide many families. Eliminating these exemptions could lead to a homogenization of thought and practice, which goes against the very principles of inclusivity and pluralism our society champions.

From a practical standpoint, the removal of religious exemptions does not guarantee an increase in vaccination rates. Instead, it might push families to seek alternative education options outside the public system, potentially leading to less oversight and accountability over their children's education and health. This could inadvertently increase public health risks rather than mitigate them, as these children would be less likely to be monitored by school health programs.

Furthermore, this legislation could set a precedent for further erosion of personal and parental rights over medical decisions. Health autonomy is a critical aspect of personal liberty and should be respected unless there is a clear, overwhelming public interest that can be served no other way. In this case, the current system of exemptions, combined with educational outreach and support for vaccination, has proven effective for many years.

I also want to stress that many in our community who claim religious exemptions are not anti-vaccine per se; rather, they seek to live in accordance with their faith, which might include a preference for natural immunity or concerns about the ingredients in vaccines. A more inclusive approach would involve dialogue and education, offering alternatives or accommodations where possible, rather than outright bans.

In closing, I urge the committee to reconsider this bill. Instead of removing religious exemptions, we should look for ways to strengthen our public health initiatives through education, open dialogue, and respect for individual rights. This approach not only respects constitutional freedoms but also fosters a community where diverse beliefs can coexist with public health goals.

Thank you for your attention and for considering this perspective.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:03:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118, which prohibits the use of religious exemptions for vaccines. When COVID-19 broke out, I was attending Kapi'olani Community College. In-person classes were cancelled and moved to virtual but students were still required to get vaccinated. I was almost released from my classes because of my refusal to receive the Covid vaccine. This mandate goes against my religion, my belief, my culture, and most importantly my human rights. After obtaining a religious exemption from my pastor, I was cleared to continue attending my virtual classes. Fast forward to present day, the world is facing the health repercussions that the covid-19 pandemic has left. The vaccine has done more harm than good. The Bible teaches us not to conform to secular beliefs and values. The Hawaiian culture values righteousness and integrity. Taking away the autonomy to choose what goes into our bodies is evil and intolerable. This bill should not be passed. Auwe.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:07:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cary Kayama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I was all for vaccines and now I see the risks of some of them. I do not support HB1118. It is a total joke. This is 100% unconstitutional. A dictatorship is my book. I will not allow my kids to be forced to take a vaccine that they do not need. You are hurting the kids. Think about what you're doing.

Thank you,

Cary

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:08:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasha Bohol	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I hereby testify to oppose this bill! It is not Pono to have vaccines mandatory for children without parental consent. Stop with the lies, America and officials of congress. People have the right to oppose this nonsense. Covid was a scam and you guys continue to try to bring people down. Jesus loves you! Cut it out Govenor Josh Green!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:12:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John D'Adamo III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly opposition HB1118

Direct violation of our religion rights found in the U.S. Constition and the Hawaii State

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:17:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany McKenzie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 raises concerns regarding parental rights and bodily autonomy. While vaccination is a crucial tool for public health, the necessity of mandatory HPV vaccination for elementary school children, particularly when the virus is primarily transmitted sexually, warrants further examination. Parents have a right to question the timing of this vaccination, especially given that pre-teens are not typically sexually active. A more appropriate approach might involve comprehensive education about the human body and sexually transmitted infections, empowering children and parents to make informed decisions as they mature, rather than mandating a vaccine at such a young age. This legislation appears to overstep parental rights and raises questions about the balance between public health initiatives and individual liberties.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:19:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Gravesen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Religious freedom is protected and forcing individuals to violate their beliefs contradicts the very foundation of religious liberty. Government cannot impose undue burdens on religious practice without compelling and narrowly tailored reason. I think we learned from Covid that vaccines can be politically motivated and people should have a choice if they want to get them or not. Government should not be able to make the choice for you. My son should not be a pawn in the political games that are being played.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:21:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kiersten homalon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May and Should Concern:

I am writing in opposition to the HB1118 HD1 bill. Under no circumstances should the religious exemption be removed from the state of Hawaii concerning mandated vaccinations. We should be able to choose what is right for our bodies and our religion should also be respected. Science still does not support the efficacy of vaccinations especially concerning COVID-19 so it is not only unethical to mandate these vaccines but it is unconstitutional.

This is an incredible violation of our rights and freedoms as a citizen of the United States of America. We are still one nation under God.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:21:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Berdel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm born and raised on Maui and have been living here my whole life. I have a degree in Marine Biology from UH Manoa and am educated on how vaccines work and the efficacy of them. Ever since I was a baby I have always been vaccinated. I get my flu shot (and now COVID booster) every year.

Making vaccinations a requirement for schools in Hawai'i is paramount to keeping our keiki and ohana safe from sickness and disease. Herd immunity is one of if not the most important factor keeping our community safe. Without requirements such as these, if parents have the right to choose whether or not to vaccinate their children before sending them off to school, herd immunity will cease to exist and we will have outbreaks like the ones currently happening on the mainland.

At the time of writing this testimony (2/20/25) there are currently 58 confirmed cases of measles in Texas. All but four of these cases were in unvaccinated individuals. This shows how the herd immunity was compromised and allowed the virus to spread to those who were vaccinated.

Prior to 1848, measles as well as other diseases such as whooping cough and influenza were unknown to Hawai'i. After their arrival, these epidemics ravaged the islands with measles alone killing 10% - 33% of the population. We must also remember that Kamehameha III established quarantine measures and a Board of Health in response to these many diseases and that Kamehameha IV along with Queen Emma established Queens Hospital in 1859.

After the enactment of Hawai'i's immunization law in 1974, the number of cases of measles and other diseases decreased significantly. This provides proof that vaccines are beneficial to the health of our keiki and community.

We must not allow our community to suffer from what is preventable. Decreasing the amount of vaccine exemptions due to religious reasons will keep our keiki safe by increasing herd immunity, therefore making them less vulnerable to these diseases.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:21:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liane Mickey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118 which seeks to remove the right to religious exemption. This bill violates the fundamental rights of individuals to freely exercise their religious beliefs and makes unjustified intrusion in personal medical decisions.

Liane Mickey

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:21:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I believe a parent has a right to choose what immunizations and vaccinations are best for their child. No immunization/vaccination should be forced upon any child, especially where there is no long-term research or evidence to support its long-term effects. The government shouldn't be forcing us to take any vaccination/immunization or to put any foreign substance into our bodies without consent.

If a child is cleared by his/her doctor during an annual physical exam, then he/she should be allowed to attend school.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:22:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Duda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an unecssary push for immunizations for our keiki infringing on our constitutional rights to exercise religious freedom in our decision making around such matters.

I am not an anti vaccine person. I am a parent who vaccinates my children however I would not want to be forced to do such if I really don't think it's best for my child.

If you're a parent, would you want your child to be forced to get a vaccine if you held a religious conviction to not? The reality is the majority vaccinate their kids so why the need to burden those who hold a religious conviction.

The constitution is in place for a reason. Please keep it that way. Please vote no. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:25:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ramon Quizon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Strong Opposition to H.B. 1118 – Protection of Non-Medical Immunization Exemptions

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees on Health, Judiciary, and Hawaiian Affairs,

I write to you in fierce opposition to H.B. 1118, which seeks to eliminate new non-medical immunization exemptions for school-aged children in Hawaii. This bill represents a direct infringement on parental rights, personal freedoms, and deeply held religious and philosophical beliefs of many families across our state.

On January 23, 2025, Hawai‘i State Senator Ron Kouchi introduced Senate Bill 1437, and State Representative Nadine Nakamura introduced its House companion bill, H.B. 1118. These bills would remove all non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements currently available under Hawai‘i law, aiming to force vaccine uptake among school-age children.

The House Committee on Health held a hearing for H.B. 1118 on February 7, where the public showed up in full force to express opposition. Unfortunately, as seen in many other statehouses, the voices of concerned citizens did nothing to deter the majority of the committee, who still voted to advance the bill.

This push to strip away non-medical exemptions is happening at a time when other states are expanding these protections. Most recently, Mississippi and West Virginia—states that previously did not recognize religious exemptions—have now established protections for religious beliefs. Meanwhile, Hawai‘i lawmakers are attempting to align our state with only a handful of others—New York, Connecticut, Maine, and California—that refuse to honor non-medical exemptions.

Eliminating these exemptions is an unnecessary, heavy-handed government mandate that disregards individual medical freedom and religious liberty. It is unacceptable that the state is moving in the opposite direction of progress by stripping families of their right to make personal and informed health decisions.

H.B. 1118 has now been referred to the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee (JHA). I urge you to oppose this bill and protect the right of Hawai‘i’s citizens to make medical choices without government interference. Lawmakers should be upholding freedom, not restricting it.

I strongly encourage you to reject H.B. 1118 and any efforts to eliminate non-medical exemptions. The people of Hawai'i and visitors alike demand that religious and personal freedoms be protected. Let's not allow our state to fall in line with the few that have chosen control over choice.

Respectfully,

//signed//

R.MAUI QUIZON, Mililani Mauka

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:26:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The United States of America was founded upon religious freedom. It was SO important and foundational for a free and democratic society that our forefathers made it the very first amendment. This bill is an abomination to democracy and our constitutional rights. Mandating vaccination for children, is completely irresponsible and and an act of gross government overreach. "My body, my choice" does not *just* apply to abortion, it applies to any medical decision. Which vaccines we choose to give our children is between a family and their doctor. State legislature has no business here. Hawai'i must oppose this Pharma funded bill for the sake of our keiki and our freedom of choice over our own bodies.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:26:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
V Butler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 HD1 for several reasons:

1. It impinges on my constitutional rights and religious beliefs specifically elimination of religious exemption.
2. It undermines parental authority to determine what is best for their child's health.
3. Why did the House Committee on Education not hear the bill if this legislation directly affects students and the committee is responsible for educational policy?

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:29:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support medical freedom and oppose HB1118, which would remove the religious and personal tenets exemption from vaccines for the whole state of Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:30:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Joaquin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:32:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zoe Berg-Pitt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose making vaccines mandatory for children to attend school because I believe that parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children based on their own values, beliefs, and circumstances. Forcing vaccines could infringe on personal freedoms and parental rights. Each child is unique, and families should have the autonomy to choose what's best for their health and well-being, rather than being compelled by government mandates.

I oppose making vaccines mandatory for children to attend school because I believe that parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children based on their own values, beliefs, and circumstances. Forcing vaccines could infringe on personal freedoms and parental rights. Each child is unique, and families should have the autonomy to choose what's best for their health and well-being, rather than being compelled by government mandates.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:32:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shane Weldon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1118. There's just too many vaccines. My children will thank you later.

Mahalos,

Shane Weldon

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:32:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela M Mabini	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I believe it's a complete overstep to take away our virgin children's right to their free public education just because they don't get the HPV vaccine - a disease that can't be spread on the campus.

The religious exemption leaves room for some parents to honor the guidance they received from their God to not vaccinate. Its a much needed allowance. I would ask you to please leave the exemption intact.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:33:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am firmly opposition to this bill. Frankly, the requirement for a religious exemption to have the right to choose regarding the medical treatment of my children is unconstitutional. This bill intends to remove all medical freedom and choice out of the home, family, parents and into the government's control. This goes entirely against the rights for which our country was founded. Additionally, how can we maintain a pro choice, my body my choice mindset while supporting this bill. This is pure hipocracy and a clear infringement of our sovereign rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:36:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As Americans, we should not have to request exemptions from any federal, state, or local government regulations or mandates. We are free individuals and, as such, are not obligated to comply with anything that contradicts our personal beliefs and or wishes. A government body not recognizing this only demonstrates it is contrary to the Right(s) of the People.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:37:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J. Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Hawaii parent and lifelong health care worker I know the importance of our schools being a safe and healthy environment for our keiki to learn in. However, the decision to medicate or immunize a child should be determined by the parent and not government. Contrary to popular belief, flu vaccines and the CoViD vaccines have not prevented illnesses and in some cases cause more harm. Many residents of this state believe in natural remedies, holistic health, and God-given immunity. Please oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:40:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
karin omahony	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a Waimānalo resident and I oppose HB1118 and this attack on religious freedom. Parents are the ones who decide what goes in their children's bodies. The government does not have the right to force medical injections or treatments that go against parents beliefs and religion.

Vaccinations are not one size fits all to be forced on everyone. There are ingredients in many vaccines that are not acceptable, proven safe or allowable substances.

Thank you for voting no on HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:43:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose! This is crazy. How much is big pharma paying you??

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:45:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Stanwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is tyrannical and in violation of the constitution. It is also wildly reckless as there are a myriad of side effects of vaccines and no accountability. You should be ashamed and impeached Josh.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:46:29 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am glad to see this bill continue through our legislative process. Recently, we've seen record breaking measles outbreaks on the mainland and the return of once vanquished diseases. The cause? Widespread vaccine exemptions which significantly REDUCED herd immunity. So many lives will be negatively altered because of unfounded vaccine hesitancy, skepticism, disinformation, misinformation, and outright hostility.

I urge the Committee to SUPPORT this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:50:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

The first amendment gives every American the God-given right to exercise his or her religion, unimpeded by the Government, nor the duty to ask permission of those who are elected to serve the public.

Article 4 section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees a republican form of government. This means the majority does not get to vote out the rights of the minority.

On this crappy bill, the majority are opposed. Even if it were not, no amount of voting for this bill would override the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the People to be left alone with their decisions about their bodies.

To try to push this bill you are committing treason by warring against the Constitution of the United States and the Hawaii State Constitution, which has the Bill of rights in the first article.

You swore an oath to uphold both constitutions and are knowingly opposing it. It does not matter that you do not understand the founding documents, clearly you do not care either way.

The People are vehemently opposed to anything forced by the Government, especially something like a vaccine mandate.

The People never gave the Government the authority to control the People, nor the People's behavior.

Check yourselves.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:52:21 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli A	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, I am a public educator, a foster resource caregiver, a daughter, an aunt, a wife, a sister, and woman after the Lords heart...most important of all of those roles, I'm a momma to a little who needs someone to stand in the gap until their families are ready...

I stand in opposition to this bill as I believe we should have the right to decide what goes into our littles' body...they should be able to go and receive a public education, if they choose to do this, and should not be turned away because their family did not believe that a vaccination schedule, that has so many red flags around it, should be allowed to enter into their child's body...while ive seen so many 2 and 3 year old who are no longer able to speak, socialize, and engage with their families and while I'd like to believe that it's not due to external factors like a vax schedule, pesticides, terrible ingredients in foods, etc, i believe as a parent, i should be able to decide that I don't want my child(ren) to receive these immunizations due to my religious beliefs. Please vote in opposition to this bill and let parents decide for themselves. Thank you for hearing my testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:53:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Ninio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As A concern parent of 6 public school children I oppose this Bill and think we as parents should have a choice to decide if we would like our child to have this vaccine also they should have a choice considering it's there bodies also time and time again these vaccines have been shown to be dangerous to our children as well as us there are reports with facts that this vaccine are causing us to become sick as well causing deaths and injuries to our body why are you guys wanting to keep forcing it on us is not RIGHT and against our constitutional rights Please STOP forcing us to our deaths already and leave us and our innocent children ALONE Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 9:59:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tacquiya Harewood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee,

My name is Tacquiya Harewood, and I am a proud parent and resident of Hawaii. Thank you for taking the time to hear my testimony today. I come before you not only as a parent but as someone who deeply values both religious freedom and the right to make informed medical decisions for my family. I strongly oppose Bill HB1118 HD1 prohibiting non medical immunization exemptions and urge you to do the same.

Religious Freedom is a Cornerstone of Our Nation

As parents, we want nothing more than to protect and nurture our children, raising them in accordance with our faith and values. The First Amendment guarantees us the right to practice our religion freely, and that includes making medical decisions that align with our beliefs. For many families, vaccinations present a sincere religious conflict, and removing this exemption would force parents into an impossible position—choosing between their faith and their child’s education. No family should ever have to make that choice in a country founded on religious liberty.

No Health Emergency Justifies This Overreach

If we were facing a widespread public health crisis, I could understand the need for discussions about policy changes. But that is simply not the case. There is no immediate emergency that warrants such a sweeping, unconstitutional measure. We should not rush to strip away religious freedoms when there is no urgent need to do so.

The Current System is Already Working

For years, our state has had a fair and balanced system in place. Children with religious exemptions are already required to stay home in the rare event of an outbreak, ensuring the safety of all students. This approach has protected both public health and parental rights without issue. Why dismantle a system that has functioned effectively for so long?

At the heart of this debate are real families—parents like me who simply want to raise our children with the values and faith that guide our lives. This bill does not protect public health; it erodes religious freedom and parental rights. I urge you to stand with families like mine and oppose Measure HB1118 HD1.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tacquiya Harewood

Ah1053554@gmail.com

Honolulu, Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:08:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kira D'Adamo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to allow my testimony, in Opposition of HB1118. Relating to Non-Medical Exemption to Immunization Requirements. My testimony is submitted by my individual right as a citizen of Hawaii.

This bill is government overreach, plain and simple. It threatens our fundamental rights-our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our keiki

HB1118 creates concerned for the health of my children, future generation and infringes on our/my personal freedoms, Parental rights and religious liberties. Medical decisions including vaccinations, should remain a matter personal Choice, guided by informed consent.

Elimination non-medical exceptions would force the hand of belief in undergoing medical procedures against our deeply held religious belief and/or personal convictions. This bill is concerning and overreach of government authority.

As an individual & American Citizen, I would Like to remind you all that there is a freedom of Religion, granted by our Constitution. Creating this mandate would violate and void our constitutional right therefore allowing attack and changes for other Constitutions such as our own voice, freedom of speech, etc. .

Especially given recent experiences violating public trust with unsafe, unproven, ineffective data of experimental technology and the gaslighting, coercion, fraud, and obvious harm now being denied. No proven data or research has been collected to support the effects of the Vaccines in questions.

All parents should have the right to choose which medical procedures their children receive. All vaccines are recorded to have health risks. Where there is a risk there must always be a choice! And anything stating possible death, leads concern.

Passing this bill will not encourage families who don't vaccinate to comply. Instead, they will homeschool or leave the state.

May I respectfully remind you that our actions today will impact future generations to come.

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HB 1118. Should you have any questions, please feel free to send them to Our lord and savior, Jesus Christ Amen.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:10:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Ann Peralta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a native to Oahu Island. I stand in opposition to this bill that fully violates my rights as a citizen of the United States of America.

Born and raised here in Hawaii, never have we come to the point as we have these past years to mandate and violate these rights...

Especially when it comes to the basics of religion, what not only this country was founded upon, as well as this Aina.

This is full violations to our rights and to take that right is to not uphold the constitution to which we stand.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:11:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Hunt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The first amendment gives every American the God-given right to exercise his or her religion, unimpeded by the Government, nor the duty to ask permission of those who are elected to serve the public.

Article 4 Section 4 of the United States Constitution guarantees a republican form of government. This means the majority does not get to vote out the rights of the minority.

On this bill, the majority are opposed. Even if the majority were not opposed, no amount of voting for this bill would override the constitutionally guaranteed rights of the People to be left alone with their decisions about their bodies.

By pushing this bill you are committing treason by warring against the Constitution of the United States and the Hawaii State Constitution, which has the Bill of rights in the first article.

You swore an oath to uphold both constitutions and are knowingly opposing it. It does not matter that you do not understand the founding documents, clearly you do not care either way.

Additionally, by forcing injections you are violating bodily autonomy/integrity which is equivalent to rape and has been deemed criminal by both US Code and International Law. Any type of conditional arrangement such as denying an individual access to a public facility or school if they do not submit to an injection is a form of coercion which according to US Code is a felony.

The People are violently opposed to anything forced by the Government, especially something like a vaccine mandate.

The People never gave the Government the authority to control the People, nor the People's behavior.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:13:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Z. Marquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing today to express my strong opposition to any legislative measures that would remove non-medical exemption options for enrolling children in school. As a concerned parent, I firmly believe that the decision regarding vaccines should be a personal choice made by parents, not mandated by the government.

Every parent has the right to make informed decisions about their child's health and well-being. This includes the decision to choose whether or not to vaccinate. While I understand and respect the medical community's role in public health, it is important to recognize that personal beliefs, values, and individual health circumstances can influence a family's decision regarding vaccinations.

The removal of non-medical exemptions would infringe on parental rights and the fundamental principle of bodily autonomy. It is essential that families retain the freedom to make medical decisions based on their own research, understanding, and experiences without governmental interference. Vaccination should remain a personal decision made in consultation with a healthcare provider, not a requirement dictated by the state.

I urge this committee to carefully consider the consequences of removing non-medical exemption options and to preserve the rights of parents to make informed, autonomous decisions regarding their children's health.

Thank you for your time and attention to this important issue.

Sincerely,
Tracy Z. Marquez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:14:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Marzan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jasmine Marzan and I am writing this today in opposition to bill HB1118. This is a direct act against parents right to their children and religion. The government does not have any say in any religious decision. It is not their job to make decisions for families or their children. What happen to "our body our choice"? There are certain ingredients in many of the vaccines that contain abortated fetal cells with goes directly against our religion, which is followers of Jesus Christ. This is deeply rooted in conviction and goes against everything God and his followers stand for and to be forced to pollute our children's bodies just for them to go to school is despicable, cruel and unethical. For the government to FORCE (because that is what they are doing) and DEMAND that parents put their children at risk of health and their religious convictions is disgusting and against everything that this country stands for. We have rights to our own bodies and the children we bear and raise. Living in Hawaii most families do not have the luxury of homeschooling because of how expensive it is to live here (which is also caused by poor leadership of this state) and have no choice but to send them to public or private schools. By the government forcing this bill, they have no choice now but to vaccinate their children AGAINST their beliefs and morals. This is a separation of church and state. The state has no right to interfere with our religious beliefs. I pray God convicts all who are for this bill and all who are in power to advance this bill. May God pierce your heart with understanding. This is not right and God knows the government knows it. So think wisely. God is a just God. Whether it is in this bill passing or not, He always wins. Glory be to God in everything. God is Good.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:15:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip McColgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Should NOT be for private schools. No one is required to attend these schools. These schools should have the freedom to comply or not at they're own discretion. They should remain bastions of our civil and religious liberties.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:19:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I am a mother of four and I am firmly opposed to HB1118 that removes the medical exemptions for school aged children on the grounds of religious tenets under the department of health. I believe this takes away the parents right to choose what is best for their child according to their beliefs. We parents should have the freedom to choose if our child should have a vaccine or not. This is a serious threat to our freedom.
I beseech you to consider opposing HB1118.

Respectfully,,

Lorna Wong

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:19:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barrett Mejia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposite HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:21:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Taketa-Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is a violation of constitutional religious freedoms to remove religious vaccine exemptions as an option for those whose religious beliefs are against vaccination. Families should not have to chose between their religion and education for their children.

Please oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:24:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1118.

Mike Golojuch, Sr

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:25:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tara Ornellas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mom of 3 keiki and I live in Kailua district. I am opposed to HB1118 because I believe that all parents have the right to medical choice & religious freedom for their children/family. We should not be forced to vaccinate in order to send our keiki to school if we believe it's against our religious beliefs. The religious exemption is our right and sending our kids to school is also our right. If a parent chooses to vaccinate their keiki, then that's their choice. If another parent decides not to vaccinate their keiki, that's their choice and that keiki should still have a fair chance to attend school regardless of vaccination. You're gonna have a bigger problem on your hands when keiki are removed from the Hawaii school system and enrollment drops. Please consider that.

Mahalo,

Tara

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:29:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mac Hanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because I feel that every person should have a choice and more so if it involves what is put in their child's body, especially if it does not coincide with their religious and personal beliefs. I Feel this bill takes away, freedom, parental rights and children's option of getting an proper education because of beliefs. Please do what is right and do not allow this bill to pass.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:30:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Freed	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it goes against my Catholic faith. I believe we were all made in the image of God, our creator. God gave our bodies everything it needs to survive here on earth. I choose to keep my daughter's and my body free from vaccines and immunizations, especially ones tested or created with fetal cell tissue.

Aloha

Jencey K. Melemai-Watson
46-372 Kahuhipa Street
Kaneohe, HI, 96744
jmelemai@gmail.com
02/20/25

Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed bill mandating all children to be vaccinated to attend school. I understand the intent behind this legislation is to protect public health, and I appreciate the importance of vaccination. However, I have concerns about the scope and potential consequences of such a mandate. I believe that parents should have the right to make informed decisions about their children's healthcare, in consultation with their doctors. While I recognize the benefits of vaccines and encourage vaccination, I also believe in the importance of individual autonomy and parental choice. A blanket mandate removes that choice and could potentially lead to families facing difficult decisions.

I am particularly concerned about families who may have specific medical reasons or religious beliefs that lead them to choose not to vaccinate. This mandate could effectively exclude these children from the public school system, which raises concerns about access to education. I believe it is important to consider accommodations or alternative solutions for these families. Furthermore, I believe that open and transparent dialogue about vaccine safety and efficacy is essential. Addressing concerns and providing accurate information can help build trust and encourage informed decision-making. A mandate, without addressing underlying concerns, may not be the most effective way to improve vaccination rates.

I urge the legislature to carefully consider the potential impact of this mandate on families and children in Hawaii. I believe a more nuanced approach, one that balances public health concerns with individual rights and access to education, would be more beneficial. I encourage you to explore alternative solutions that promote vaccination while respecting parental choice. Thank you for your time and consideration of this important matter.

Sincerely,

Jencey K. Melemai-Watson

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:33:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina McColgan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118 as it is unconstitutional and a gross overreach of the government. This is discrimination against persons with true religious exemptions due to your inability to "distinguish between real religious exemptions and fallacious medical speculation by uniformed parties." This should also not be a requirement for private schools as they are PRIVATE entities.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:42:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bob McDermott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The "freedom of religious expression" is protected under the first amendment.

Gov.s package all D's with vote for it, i suspect.

Obviously, I do not support this measure, the democratic party is not listening to the people.

With Aloha,

Bob McDermott

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:43:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosa L Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Rosa L. Jaime, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. I as a Christian, I believe in God and his word and the principles in the Bible. 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 States that I am God's sanctuary and that the spirit of God lives in me and I in him. I would have to violate my deeply held religious belief. The fetal cell lines of aborted fetus that are used in creating these vaccines are in direct contradiction to my beliefs. For me to willfully act against my conscience is sinful. As believers we are raising our children to live by these same principles. So I am writing to voice my concern over the potential removal of the religious exemption for vaccines. Not only is it unconstitutional, but it is also discriminatory. We have the freedom of religion, and we have the freedom of choice when it comes to medical decisions. We must retain the right to choose. Where there is risk - and there is a plethora of documented risks associated with vaccinations - there must be choice.

We do not need to remove the exemption in order to maintain the health of our children; they are remarkably well already.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:43:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

<https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6027112/>

<https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/amendment-1/>

Fetal material from aborted fetus' are used to produce vaccines (see first link). Although the Catholic Church may allow exceptions, some have strong religious objections to those vaccines for this reason. I do not feel they should be forced to support the abortion industry nor the pharmaceutical industry that thrives on elective abortions. In this case, I feel like the state would be violating their first amendment right, by not honoring their religious exemption.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:46:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As United States citizens, I oppose this HB 1118! I have the right to decide when my children will have vaccinations the government no person should tell me what I should do with my children and my family and personally, my body. We should have the right to decide on our own self no government official. No law should be placed over a US citizen and be mandated to take vaccinations.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:47:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Mara Guzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kathy and I am the mother of two children ages 3 years and 3 months old. Since infancy until several years ago, I have received every recommended vaccine. It wasn't until i struggled with many health issues that I put the pieces together that vaccines have affected my health throughout the years in a negative way. I had the HPV vaccine in my early twenties and soon after experienced irregularities in my menstrual cycle, something I never had an issue with in the past. I was diagnosed with PCOS and had many other symptoms related to this condition. I didn't receive the flu shot until i began working in the medical field and i would have horrible colds several times throughout the winter, when previously i rarely got sick. I also had short term reactions to the flu shot of extreme abdominal pain and bloating for several days after receiving it. Once i made the connection to my health struggles and vaccines, i stopped receiving them and my health has only continued to improve throughout the years. I do not want my children to experience chronic health issues and take their health very seriously. My son rarely gets sick, is a very healthy and energetic boy and i do my best to maintain a healthy diet and lifestyle for myself and my family. I do not believe it is fair to discriminate against vaccinated versus unvaccinated, especially when vaccines are not held responsible for adverse events. The person receiving vaccines and their families will be the ones suffering the consequences in the case of an adverse event, therefor, they should be the ones to choose whether the benefits outweigh the risks. Denying education to children based on their religious beliefs is inhumane. All children should have equal access to education.

Thank you,

Katherine Mara Guzman

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:48:28 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Albert Guzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern, I Albert Guzman strongly oppose this bill HB118. It should be my Constitutional right as a parent to decide what is best for my children, NOT a school, institution or any organization who decides what is best for my children!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:52:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaile Pahukoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents/ families deserve the right to make their own decisions regarding vaccinations for their children and 'ohana. Religious exemption rights should remain available to children, parents, families. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:54:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melanie Rhoades	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill limits my parental choice and my personal and religious freedoms. Removing religious exemptions for student vaccinations means that I would be forced to go against my religious beliefs, forcing me to choose between my faith and access to education. It is something that shouldn't be allowed to pass into law in a country where we are free to practice one's religion without government influence. Isn't that the First Amendment?! While public health is important, policies should respect individual rights and religious beliefs. I will say again that I oppose this bill - HB1118. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 10:55:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill whole heartedly. If it is passed it will not stop those from believing what they believe. It will just cause them to pull their children out of Hawaii schools. That will not be good for the children or the future of our lands.

mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:05:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Huili Anderson	Classical Conversation Parent/Teacher	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I as a parent & teacher oppose HB1118 because I believe that we should have religious freedoms and freedom to choose whether or not we vaccinate our children based on what their best interest of health by well intended parent and not force upon.

Mahalo for your understanding & blessings to this great nation under our sovereign God.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:09:26 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christiane Munoz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our bodies, our ohana, our choice. Please let us decide what's best for our keiki. This is OUR right. Unfortunately, vaccines have a LOT of side effects, and many time these side effects can be life threatening. I personally know a couple or families that were DEVASTATED after vaccinating their child. Every single person reacts different to the shots, it would be cruel to make it mandatory for all children to be fully vaccinated. Please respect our choice!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:13:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Poulos	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

Thank you for the opportunity to express my strong opposition to this bill. Parents' rights to raise their children as they believe is healthiest and best for them will be undermined by this law. The bill states that there were 296 children that were not able to get vaccinated due to illness and therefore needed the other children to be vaccinated in order to protect them with herd immunity. I am very sorry for their illness, but that should not require thousands of families to lose their right to raise their children as they see best in order to create herd immunity for the few - perhaps other school options where they would have less contact with so many children would be best for them and more protective.

I have looked at the current CDC vaccine schedule for children and am shocked by the amount that is required now. When my children were growing up they only needed the MMR, DTaP, polio, and TB tests. Today you are giving children vaccines for asexually transmitted disease and dirty needles - HPV and Hep B. Covid-19 vaccines have also been required which were ineffective at best and deadly at worst.

Also, who are you to tell someone how to practice their faith. Freedom of religion is our First Amendment right - your job as legislatures is to protect our rights not to infringe upon them.

The parent-child relationship is the bedrock of all relationships and of a free society. Chipping away at that relationship in the name of safety will actually endanger us and our freedoms.

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1 and ask you to vote no.

Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:13:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1!

Parents should be have the right to refuse to vaccinate their children in order to attend a public school (funded by our tax dollars) whether it be for religious exemption or merely the fact that they do not want their children to be put at risk for severe adverse effects.

As of August 2024, thirty states and Washington D.C. allow exemptions for people who have religious objections to immunizations. Thirteen states allow exemptions for either religious or personal reasons.

Please give parents the right to decide what is best for their children when it comes to the matter of vaccinations.

Thank you for considering my testimony and opposition to this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:14:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chasity	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a Faithful servant of God. Our body is His temple. Through His Spirit, wisdom, discernment, it is our rights as Christians and Americans to have free of choice to practice our faith and choose what we want to put in our temple. To be able to glorify Our Lord and Savior and not defiling it by allowing the government to tell us what they want to inject us with. That goes all against the gift that God has given us and His laws as it is written in The Holy Bible. God has given us His temple which is our bodies to nourish and care for them and through His Holy Spirit to listen and discern what is the right thing to do. This is why I am against this Bill. Religious exemption should be a reason to defer these impure injections.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:18:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tristyn Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional, the first amendment guarantees freedom of religion. This is government over reach and the government should not control what people believe under their religion. How dare this bill even be presented to be placed into law, this is not Aloha, and this is not humane. I am fully against the bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:18:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmett Winters	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislator,

I am writing in opposition to Bill 1118 HB as it is a direct violation of my religious freedoms and the freedoms of all children in Hawaii. This bill would violate the rights of parents and children, forcing these to take a vaccine that goes against their religious freedoms. As a State that prides itself on the rights of others and their freedoms it would go against the constitution of Hawaii and the United States to pass Bill 1118 HB. I fully oppose this bill.

Emmett Winters, PhD

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:28:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel hollembaek	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

You can not and will not remove religious freedom from Family's and forced our keiki and parents go against their very right to be who they want and hold true to themselves.

Vaccines have been a choice and will always be a choice. Children in schools being forced to vaccinate is not only unconstitutional but against HIPPA laws. You're creating division within the state against 50k students and over 100k adults.

You're creating backlash and HATE against students to others.

If children are injured by vaccines, who will be responsible? The State? Have you even considering or weighing the legal situations here?

You will have lawsuits after lawsuits and waste millions of tax dollars. Are you ready for that?

This is blatantly and obviously created due to the Governors political position and his distain against RFK JR being nominated.

Your political bias has no merit or say among the people of Hawaii.

You know this a very religious founded state and you're forcing 50k students to now be forced to homeschooling.

Please do not pass this and hurt our children of Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:29:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Chiam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which proposes to remove religious exemptions for children to attend school in Hawaii. This bill, in my view, represents a significant infringement on parental rights and religious freedoms, both of which are core principles that are essential to a free and just society.

As a parent and a member of a religious community, I believe that the decision to vaccinate my child should remain a personal one, guided by my faith, values, and my understanding of what is best for my child's health and well-being. Religious exemptions have been a long-standing provision in our state and country, protecting individual's rights to make decisions based on their religious convictions. Removing these exemptions would not only force families to go against their deeply held beliefs, but it would also discriminate against those who choose to follow religious teachings over governmental mandates.

Many of us take seriously the responsibility to guide our children in matters of faith and health. Forcing parents to either choose between vaccinating against their beliefs or sending their child to school would create an unfair and untenable situation. It would also risk undermining the diversity of thought and belief that we cherish in this country, compelling uniformity at the expense of personal freedoms.

While I fully recognize the importance of protecting public health, I urge this committee to consider alternative solutions that balance the legitimate concerns about public safety with the rights of individuals and families. Parents should be able to make informed choices regarding their children's health, including whether to accept vaccinations based on their religious beliefs. While other religious individuals may believe in vaccines, my faith and beliefs are specific to me and my family. As a family, we believe God, our creator, designed our bodies perfectly and vaccinations simply are a bet against his perfect design.

Instead of eliminating religious exemptions, I suggest the legislature focus on education, dialogue, and outreach to those who may have concerns about vaccinations, addressing their worries through compassionate and informative means. The focus should remain on supporting health initiatives in ways that respect personal freedoms and beliefs, rather than imposing mandates that may divide or marginalize communities.

There is currently no emergency health issue at hand to entertain this idea of taking away religious freedoms and I urge you to reconsider the proposed changes in HB1118 and protect the religious freedoms and parental rights that are integral to our way of life.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Aaron Chiam

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:34:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juanita Delagarza	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

(For the record) Being a Mother to Land and Country and watching official's infringe on our constitutional freedom knowing that they are not for the people but for self care and money! It is our right to exercise our religious freedom to exempt children from vaccines. Having a Disabled American Veteran husband that had severe injuries and reactions to vaccines is difficult alone. But in addition my oldest son who was fully vaccinated up to age 16months got injured via vaccines. My heart broke having injured family members. My son is mostly Non verbal Autistic and still in diapers at 8 years old? How is Vaccinations helping our children our people but most of all our next generation if people are still getting severely injured !! Please have discernment and feel convicted to do what's right. For God and country amen'e! (For the record)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:34:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erwin Young	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 since it infringes on the "Freedom of Religion" which is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. The government has no right to interfere an individual(s) sincerely held religious beliefs, & even more so for parents who are legally responsible for their children education. This bill not only attacks Religious beliefs, but it also undermines the laws & rights of our country. Why would our Founding Fathers, who also held religious beliefs, create a country that separates State, & Church? Even Jesus said "Give to Caesar what belongs to Caesar, and to God what belongs to God" (Matthew 22:21). HB1118 would break down this barrier, & would cause more harm than good. One simply looks at companies who refused to accomodate those who were seeking an exemption due to their religious belief, to see a costly outcome. Even America elite special forces, the Navy Seal's, had won their case in 2024 regarding the COVID-19 Vaccine exemptions; this event not only cost the Navy millions in legal fees, but it has tarnished their reputation for not respecting their own Sailor(s) religious-belief. As a Christian, & as an tax-paying American, I strongly urge everyone to oppose this bill; to protect & uphold our Constitution, to protect our "Freedom of Religion," & above all to protect our Keiki's (children).

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:46:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Robert Andrade, and I testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1118!!! This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

As a Parent and Grandparent with school aged children and grandchildren this bill if passed, would cause hardship to my family.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their Faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also Respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1118!!!

Thank You for your time and consideration, GOD Bless

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:49:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Barientos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118, which removes non-medical vaccine exemptions, including religious ones. This bill violates our constitutional rights, especially religious freedom, and forces government control over personal medical decisions.

The First Amendment protects religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions forces people to act against their faith, which is unconstitutional. The government should not decide what medical choices people make based on their religion.

Parents—not the government—should decide what is best for their children’s health. This bill takes away parental rights and forces vaccinations, which can have serious side effects. If the state forces medical procedures, it must take full responsibility for any harm caused.

If HB 1118 is passed, lawmakers must:

- Create a fund for vaccine injuries and deaths.
- Take legal responsibility for any harm caused by forced vaccinations.
- Allow parents to sue the government for vaccine-related injuries.

Passing HB 1118 will lead to lawsuits, loss of trust in the government, and parents pulling children out of public schools. Forcing vaccines will only create resistance and division.

This bill violates our rights and freedoms. Lawmakers who support it must be held accountable. We demand the rejection of HB 1118 to protect our children, our rights, and our freedoms.

Reject HB 1118. Protect religious freedom. Hold lawmakers accountable.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:56:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie Toyozaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The rights of parents to make the decision of whether or not to have their child take a shot is their right. Our children don't belong to the state. The rights of parents to make an informed decision for our keiki are rights given to us by God. The state should not infringe upon these rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/20/2025 11:58:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hope Bourne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Hope Bourne and I'm a mother of a 1.5 year old in Maui. I strongly oppose this bill because every parent should have the option to choose their own vaccine schedule and/or right to vaccinate their children. Religious exemption should be available for all families because that is a right all should have.

Please oppose this bill and do not allow it to pass.

Thank you,

Hope Bourne

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:11:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Ward	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. For those who have personal beliefs regarding putting foreign and unexplainable substances in their bodies, this is a complete violation of one's freedom over their body and over their medical rights. The government is severely overstepping their boundaries in trying to obtain such drastic measures.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives. There needs to be a balance between what is pono, and what is an abuse of power.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:30:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Korben Yonting	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a father & I oppose this bill because it takes away the freedom and my right to protect my children. I am responsible for everything concerning my minor children: 2 sons (5 yr old & newborn in March) emotionally, spiritually, physically, and mentally.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:31:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

My name is David Moffat II.

Respectfully, I am providing testimony in opposition to HB1118 HD1.

I suggest that the State should focus on enforcement of current HRS and Hawaii Administrative Rules: "School administrators are facing similar challenges in Hawai'i, where roughly 17% of enrolled students are missing vaccinations or have no immunization record at all" compare to to the only "4% of Hawai'i students in public and private schools had religious exemptions."

<https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/02/hawai-i-lawmakers-want-to-make-it-harder-for-kids-to-skip-vaccines/>

If the goal is greater immunization, then the focus should be on the greater issue of 17% of students missing or having no vaccination records - how do the current enforcement tools and processes need to change to mitigate this?

Also, for concerns of outbreak of communicable disease - "epidemic conditions" and exemptions are addressed in current HRS:

§302A-1157 Exemptions from immunization; not recognized; epidemic conditions. If at any time there is, in the opinion of the department of health, danger of an epidemic from any of the communicable diseases for which immunization is required under sections 302A-1154 to 302A-1163, no exemption from immunization against the disease shall be recognized. Quarantine shall be a legal alternative to immunization. [L 1996, c 89, pt of §2]

I also support religious freedoms, which are protected by both the Hawaii State Constituion and First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

Per Hawaii State Constitution:

"Section 4. No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof"

Also, perhaps, what could be enacted is a more defined interactive collobrative process than current for administrators to verify religious exemptions to satisfy the State.

(§302A-1156 Exemptions...(2) If any parent, custodian, guardian, or any other person in loco parentis to a child objects to immunization in writing on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with that person's bona fide religious tenets and practices. Upon showing the appropriate school official satisfactory evidence of the exemption, no certificate or other evidence of immunization shall be required for entry into school. [L 1996, c 89, pt of §2; am L 2009, c 151, §9; am L 2014, c 45, §7])

To completely remove the religious exemption would result many legal challenges - for example as addressed by the Civil Rights Act of 1964. HB1118 HD1 would create a permanent segregated religious class denied access to education from Hawaii schools.

Thank you for your review and consideration of my testimony.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Chair Poepoe, and honorable members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

I apologize for my late submission of testimony, and I thank you for your gracious time and consideration.

My name is Elijah Lee, and I'm a second-year student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am also a 2023 graduate of the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa and a 2020 graduate of Kamehameha Schools Kapālama. My comments here are wholly my own and do not reflect any organization or institution.

I firmly and unreservedly oppose House Bill 1118: "Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements." I offer the following explanation.

I'd like to start off by stating that I *am* vaccinated, including against COVID-19. I do not oppose vaccinations, on religious grounds or otherwise. The point of my testimony here is to express my opposition, not to vaccines, but to vaccine *mandates*, which this bill would essentially impose. By repealing religious exemptions to vaccine requirements, this bill would effectively force unvaccinated students to receive vaccination, against the deeply held beliefs of themselves and their families, or be denied access to education.

The fundamental mistake of this bill is not *what* it seeks to do but *how* it seeks to do it. As I've already suggested, vaccines are not my enemy. In fact, I, as most people do, believe that vaccines can be a force for good in the world. Innovations in science and technology have allowed recent generations to counter dangerous diseases and deadly pandemics. Vaccines have saved millions of lives and prevented immense suffering. Vaccines are a potent and positive tool with which we can keep people safe and healthy.

At the same time, the fact that vaccines can be powerful devices for good doesn't mean that they're above reproach or scrutiny. Anyone who believes in safe and effective vaccines must also believe in a robust testing and vetting process. Vaccines are not perfect solutions. As with all medications, side-effects can be serious, no less when a vaccine has been pushed through an expedited approval process. This, of course, does not inherently prove that such a rapidly approved vaccine is unsafe or unwise to receive; I recognize the imperative to respond to a global pandemic. It does, though, mean that with less time to study and research long-term effects, it's not unreasonable for people to have questions and concerns about whether enough is known to make an informed decision. Skepticism and hesitance should not be vilified, especially when it is conceded that, though vaccines are safe for most, side effects *can* occur and occasionally with great severity. Like any other medical treatment, each patient must carefully weigh the risks and benefits. It should be no different when it comes to vaccines.

Yet, I do not deny that there are those whose resistance to vaccines is not based on sober, thoughtful, and rational considerations. It is certainly true that there is a contingent of people whose opposition to vaccines is a result of being uninformed or misinformed, though I simultaneously submit that such labels are used far too loosely and liberally. Even where such distinctions *are* warranted, however, the answer is not compulsion. The answer is conversation. Where our fellow citizens disagree with us, whether on vaccines or any other potentially controversial subject, our reflex should be discussion not dismissal. If members of the public are

uninformed, inform them. If they're misinformed, offer clarifications or compelling rebuttals. Solutions are available without resorting to the oppressive and intolerant approach proposed by this bill.

I digress. Many of the aforementioned concerns are not necessarily those that would be asserted for a religious exemption, which is the target of this bill. Yet, my point in discussing such perspectives is that a range of acceptable opinions exists, even where that opinion differs from our own. And even where such opinions cease to be acceptable by "reasonable" standards, the righteous approach remains respectful debate not science by force. As someone whose Christian faith does not, to my mind, conflict with receiving vaccinations, I do not purport to understand or defend precisely what one might contend in support of a religious exemption. All I can say is that, regardless of *why* someone elects not to receive a vaccination, that person deserves respect, consideration, and access to education. We need not accept another's opinions, but we should think twice before we reject their right to hold it.

If this legislature wants to increase vaccination and decrease those refusing it, it ought to pursue avenues of persuasion and explanation, not pretension and exclusion. And particularly here, where the bill concerns children in school, we should be incredibly hesitant to restrict access to education. If this legislature, as the bill contends, is concerned about "the health and safety of Hawai'i's keiki," it ought to look for ways to offer better support, not to withdraw it.

I want to close where I began: I am *not* against vaccines. I am *for* vaccines. I am also *for* the freedom to ask questions and voice concerns. I am *for* different perspectives and opinions. I am *for* open discussion and persuasion. I am *for* increasing rather than restricting access to education. The government must resist the temptation to attempt to solve problems by force. It must reject the instinct to force people into submission rather than to persuade the public about what it deems to be in the public interest. In a free society, the answer is not to mandate, it's to participate in the messy and sometime frustrating process of talking with others, especially those with whom we disagree.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote against House Bill 1118: "Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements."

Thank you for the opportunity to offer my perspective.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:38:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose, I don't agree! NO

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:40:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fiona Ledoux	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Fiona Ledoux, from Kapolei Hawaii oppose this mandatory requirement as it goes against everything I was taught with the Constitution. We have rights, therefore protection of rights, is Gov Green's job not this mandatory requirement and everyone's freedom of choice that is God-given. You the government, ARE NOT our kid's primary responsibility when it comes to their health decisions (that is completely up to us)! I absolutely OPPOSE this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:44:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

STRONGLY DISAGREE 🗨

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:57:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe in the right to religious exemption. Hawaii is part of the United States and it is unconstitutional to block the right to practice religion freely. Please do not take this right and freedom away from people.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:27:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvie Madison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I stand in opposition to HB 1118, which eliminates new non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements. This bill disresepts the individual liberty and health choice rights and exposes a stark hypocrisy in Governor Josh Green, who supports it.

On January 22, 2023, Governor Green stated, “As a physician and a Governor, I feel strongly about health care, including reproductive health care and a woman’s right to make health care decisions that affect her.”

Yet, HB 1118—backed by Green—undermines that very principle.

By mandating vaccinations and stripping away non-medical exemptions, it denies residents the right to make health care decisions aligned with their religious or personal beliefs.

In 2023-2024, 5.3% of students held such exemptions, a modest figure, yet this bill forces compliance, ignoring the Department of Health's existing authority to intervene during epidemics (Section 325-34).

Green champions autonomy when it suits his narrative, but this mandate reveals his selective commitment. If health care choice matters, it must apply universally—not just when politically convenient.

This isn't about safety; it's about control. I urge you to reject HB 1118 and uphold the freedoms that define Hawaii.

**Respectfully,
Sylvie Madison
Kailua-Kona, HI**

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:32:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louie Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All and to the people who will be voting on this bill,

I am here today to share with you my thoughts on why this bill, HB1118 should not pass and why I don't support it.

In America, the Constitution states we have the right, the ability to practice any religion or no religion at all without government interference.

The same should be with our health as well. There are many of us that practiced in certain religions that we believed in certain things we take into our body. The gov. should not have the power to mandate and force unwanted foreign things into one's body. The gov. is there to help the people and protect their rights. The people should always have the right to choose what they want. Therefore, please respect and uphold the Constitution to allow the people to have their religious belief.

Imagine if the shoes were on the other side and there is a bill to get ride of all vaccines, how would the people who believe in vaccines feel? It would not be fair right? We are not asking to ban all vaccines, we are just asking don't mandate it. Let the people who wants it, takes it. And for the people who doesn't want it, respect their rights.

The arguement goes both ways. There are positive results with the vaccines and it does help people and there are also negative results that hurt people when they take the vaccine. If this bill is mandate and force upon all the kids attending public school. You will see a lot of kids getting injure with side effects and other long term damage to their body. Please don't just think about the impact now but what about many generations afterwards. What about your own kids, grand kids, your nephew and niece?

For example, meat, steak is good. Do you think it would be fair to mandate everyone has to eat meat at least once a week because there is a study out there that shows it lower the chances of having high blood pressure. It wouldn't be fair because there are a lot of vegetarians out there and they don't want or eat meat. It's their choice, can't force it upon them just because there is a study out there that saids meat is good for you.

There is so many studies out there that proves that vaccines can cause harm and have side effects to kids and adults. Even with that said, I am not saying to get rid of all vaccines because I respect

the people who wants it, they can have it. So please respect the people who doesn't want it, they don't have to take it.

What happened to "my body, my choice"? If this right to choose is taken away from the people, then we are not in the land of the free and the brave anymore. Think carefully and vote to preserve FREEDOM and let the people have the right to choose!

I thank you very much for your time and allowing me to share my thoughts!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:37:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly strongly oppose this bill to remove religious exemptions from protecting my children and grandchildren to proceed with their rights to not vaccinate. My daughter who is now a young teen was vaccinated when she was a toddler and was constantly sick with whooping cough, fevers and skin breakouts. She suffered with these symptoms and was constantly pushed to take antibiotics that never worked. My baby girl was a miserable infant and toddler until I realized that what I thought would prevent all the disease which was taking the vaccines actually kept her sick. It wasn't until I detoxed her system that she became healthier. I also have family members who developed sever life long illnesses such as autism from vaccine injuries from all the heavy metals in each shot. I pray to our father in heaven that he will bring a soft heart and open ears to this hearing tomorrow and let all our voices be heard so strongly that we will overturn this bill in the eyes of the peoples righteousness. MAY WE BE COVERED WITH THE BLOOD OF JESUS...AMEN, MAHALO!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:39:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
renee kam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawai'i. This bill violates fundamental freedoms, disregards deeply held religious beliefs, and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal medical decisions.

As a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple given by God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and I have the God-given right to make informed choices about my health in accordance with my conscience and spiritual convictions. Mandating vaccinations and stripping away religious exemptions directly infringes upon my First Amendment rights, which guarantee the free exercise of religion.

Religious exemptions have long been recognized as a legitimate safeguard for those whose faith convictions prevent them from receiving certain medical interventions. Denying this exemption forces individuals to act against their conscience and compels them to violate their faith under the threat of exclusion from education, employment, or participation in society. Such coercion is not only unconstitutional but fundamentally un-American.

Furthermore, HB1118 disregards the principle of informed consent. Every medical decision carries risks, and individuals must be free to weigh those risks in light of their personal beliefs and medical histories. By mandating vaccines without allowing for religious exemptions, the

government assumes authority over deeply personal health decisions that should be left to individuals and families, not legislators.

Hawaii is a place of diverse cultures, beliefs, and traditions. Our laws should reflect and respect this diversity rather than impose one-size-fits-all mandates that undermine individual freedoms. Religious exemptions exist to protect minority beliefs from government overreach, and eliminating them under HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could extend to other areas of medical and personal autonomy.

I urge you to vote NO on HB1118 and uphold the constitutional and moral right to religious freedom. No one should be forced to choose between their faith and their ability to participate in society.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Renee C Kam

Honolulu, HI

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:03:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Hockett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I humbly submit this testimony in opposition to HB 1118 relating to the proposed removal of non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. Psalm 127:3 reads "Behold, children are a heritage from the Lord, the fruit of the womb a reward." God places children in families and He guides the parents through His Word in how they are to be raised, which would include how they are to be loved, trained, disciplined, and protected. Because this parenting responsibly is an inheritance from the Lord, it is wholly incumbent upon the parents to solely be able to make the decision as to what vaccines, if any, will or will not be given to their children. This is why I am opposed to the removal of Religious Exemptions. Thank you for your time and consideration. Take care and God bless...

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:04:49 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica J Medina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am a Native Hawaiian grandmother, who vaccinated my child in a time when human cells in vaccines would have only been the thing of horror movies. Sadly, today, the vaccines made using human fetal cells include chickenpox, rubella, hepatitis A, one version of the rabies vaccine, and one version of the COVID-19 vaccine (adenovirus-based version). A'ole!

As a Christian Missionary, I fully support my son's right not to vaccinate his children with these vaccines made from others who were created in God's image.

This is a VERY religious issue for us. Perhaps you as leaders of our community should be spending time and effort to influence the pharmaceutical industry to make vaccines available that don't violate the sanctity and dignity of human life, to be injected into other defenseless babies with no say in the matter. Some will grow up and be horrified that they were made to cannibalize others for their own "benefit" against their will.

This is a parental decision. Not one to be legislated and forced by government on families, leaving Hawaiian children with little educational options if they are banned from public schools.

Again, I strongly oppose HB1118.

Monica Medina

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:27:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Roldan	Roldan Ohana family of 6	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Janelle Roldan

PO Box 454

Paauilo HI 96776

As a mother of 4 keiki in Hawai'i I strongly oppose HB 1118. And as an island resident with a science degree, I care for my community and I strongly oppose this bill for scientific reasons as well.

Personally, my ohana of 6 does not believe in corrupting God's creation with DNA fragments from aborted fetal cell lines nor animal DNA that is used to grow these various vaccines. As an island community member I am also well aware of the fact that law suits against the CDC have proven the current vaccine schedule is both unsafe and unregulated.

Because the CDC has admitted in court proceedings that the current vaccine schedule is unsafe and unregulated, it should be illegal to continue pushing this schedule on any US, or Hawaiian Kingdom citizen. As a citizen of both the United States and the occupied Kingdom of Hawai'i I firmly request and demand that this unsafe vaccine schedule be made illegal.

That it be halted and no longer permitted to be pushed on our keiki and ohana. Court proceedings have proven it is unsafe and never tested nor regulated therefore this bill is a violation of our constitutional rights and human rights.

In addition, the vaccine ingredient list is an abomination and if more parents were properly and honestly educated on the risks of insertional mutagenesis also known as DNA mutations, autoimmune diseases and the dozens of life altering injuries that can take place with our current untested, unregulated vaccine schedule, this bill would never have made it this far.

This is a pro pharmaceutical bill that seeks to take the rights of Hawai'i citizens away using fear and false information to push an agenda that will pad the pockets of pharmaceutical companies as well as Josh Green. It will also harm and injure at least 10-15% and likely more because vaccine injuries have a cumulative effect. Toxins, heavy metals and DNA fragments in vaccines will bio accumulate and often result in neurological and developmental delays the more frequently they are given. The current number of vaccines has more than quadrupled in the last 3 decades and we are seeing the results with sky rocketing learning disabilities and childhood illnesses.

Vaccines are not keeping our keiki healthy they are making them more sick.

Those who would be forced to get this vaccine schedule are having their rights and health taken away from them.

This bill is an assault on families and its completely pilau and wrong. This kind of bill can only be motivated by greed and corruption.

You should be ashamed of yourself Josh Green. I know you know the risks and harm this vaccine schedule poses to our ohana and keiki.

I will pray that you would turn away from this pharmaceutical corruption that you have chosen to walk in.

This life is only a short blink of an eye while eternity is forever.

You are clearly choosing darkness and corruption for your soul Josh Green and I pray you would turn away from this for your own sake because the harm you are bringing upon Hawai'i ohana and keiki has spiritual consequences.

Jesus is the only one who can save you from the hole you've dug yourself into Josh Green.

You will reap what you sow.

Unless you turn away from this.

Aloha,

Janelle Roldan

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:10:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kailana Moa-eli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm kailana moa-Eli I strongly OPPOSE this HB1118

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:28:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keikilani Jadraque	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Keikilani Jadraque. I was born on Kauai and raised on the island of Hawai'i and call Hawai'i my home, my children's birth place and my husbands home. After Covid-19 we were pressured to move out of state due to work vaccine mandates and high cost of living for the working class. Our hearts yearn to return to the island where we hope to be able fo afford to live and return to our family and friends. Both my husbands and my parents, our sisters, brothers, uncles, cousins and our children's grandparents, cousins resides still on the island. Our plan was to work hard while here on the mainland so we can save money due to a lower cost of living and move back to Hawai'i so that our children can experience the Aina we grew up on and return to our Ohana. Sadly with this bill you are making our dreams and lots of other hard working families dreams impossible. You are again forcing families to choose between their beliefs and being able to provide food for their children... Only the rich would be able to afford to homeschool and have one parent stay home with their keiki so that their children could forgo the 80 plus vaccines you are requiring them to have before they are 18 years old in order to go to school. It breaks my heart that again, the government in Hawai'i cares so little about their peoples rights, religion, beliefs and what they think is best for their keiki. The childhood vaccine schedule for 2025 has 29 vaccines before 18 months old based on the schedule on CDCs website and around 80 before 18 years old. Think about that... WHY the increase drastically since I was a child? I had about 5 vaccines before I was 18. 5.... I am in my 30s and have never experienced any type of illness or infection due to my "lack" of the other 75 vaccines CDC and now YOU say is mandatory for my kids to go to school. My heart is sore from knowing that you would choose this path with such disregard for the working class, locals, Hawaiians and the honest people of Hawai'i who want to ensure the best life for themselves and their children.

Sincerely,

a mother, sister and friend

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:22:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Al Savea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition to HB1118

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118** because, if ratified, it will minimize exemption options from school immunization requirements, particularly the removal of religious exemptions.

Any law that challenges the basic freedoms and rights *guaranteed* by the United States Constitution should cause every American, especially our elected officials, to take pause.

The First Amendment specifies that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof; or abridging the freedom of speech, or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances" (<https://constitution.congress.gov/constitution/>).

While "Congress" is specifically stated in the *First Amendment*, according to *Cornell Law School's Legal Information Institute* (https://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/first_amendment/):

"The First Amendment has been interpreted by the [Supreme] Court as applying to the entire federal government even though it is only expressly applicable to Congress. Furthermore, **the [Supreme] Court has interpreted the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment as protecting the rights in the First Amendment from interference by state governments.**"

The removal of *religious exemptions* will directly affect the First Amendment rights of every citizen in Hawai'i. While not every citizen will choose to exercise their First Amendment rights, the fact is that they can and should be able to if they choose to do so.

Furthermore, per a memorandum from the Attorney General entitled, "*Federal Law Protections for Religious Liberty*" (<https://www.justice.gov/crt/page/file/1006786/dl>), it states the following:

"Americans do not give up their freedom of religion by participating in the marketplace, partaking of the public square, or interacting with government. Constitutional protections for religious liberty are not conditioned upon the willingness of a religious person or organization to remain separate from civil society. Although the application of the relevant protections may differ in different contexts, **individuals and organizations do not give up their religious-liberty protections by providing or receiving social services, education, or healthcare**; by seeking to earn or earning a living; by employing others to do the same; by receiving government grants or contracts; or by otherwise interacting with federal, state, or local governments."

As elected officials who have been charged with the duty of representing "The People", please consider honoring the fundamental rights afforded to all citizens by the United States Constitution.

Please oppose HB1118.

Thank you and God bless,
Heather DeFries

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:59:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rebecca goodnight	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I passionately oppose this bill. Have we learned nothing they history? Nothing is one size fits all and there should be freedom to choose what is right for your own child's health especially when side effects can be death or other serious conditions. We must give choice.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:09:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose to SB350 or HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:09:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandy Howatt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As more and more laws are created the big question is WHY? Now this one is going a step too far. You may not have faith in the Lord but many of us do. WHO are you not to respect my faith?

what do I want you to accomplish? Fund /fix our infrastructure!

Have a blessed day,

Sandy Howatt

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:18:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Quenga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY DISAGREE WITH THIS MANDATORY VACCINE SHOTS FOR OUR KIDS
THIS IS SOMETHING THAT I/WE AS PARENTS SHOULD HAVE A RIGHT TO MAKE
THIS DECISION FOR OUR KIDS AND THEIR FUTURE SO NO PLEASE DONT PASS
THIS BILL!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:30:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edna Salcedo-Keahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha!

I am against mandating vaccinations. (HB1118)

I feel that we the people have the right to decide to get vaccinated.

Please allow families to decide what is best for their own.

Mahalo,

Edna Salcedo-Keahi

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:42:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Georgienne Murray	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear JHA,

My name is Georgienne Murray and I am writing in strong opposition to HB118. As a soon-to-be mother, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill would have on my ability to make informed medical decisions for my child—particularly when those decisions are guided by my religious beliefs.

The right to make medical choices, especially regarding vaccinations, is not just a matter of parental authority; it is a fundamental issue of religious freedom. My faith calls me to carefully consider what goes into my body and my child's body, and I believe that God has given parents the wisdom and responsibility to protect their children's health in accordance with their convictions. HB118 would take away my ability to follow my conscience and my faith, forcing me to comply with a mandate that disregards my deeply held beliefs.

Religious liberty is a cornerstone of our nation's founding principles, and any law that undermines this right should be carefully scrutinized. By removing religious exemptions, HB118 essentially tells parents like me that our faith does not matter—that our sincerely held beliefs are secondary to government mandates. This is not just an attack on parental rights; it is a violation of the First Amendment.

Furthermore, denying children access to compulsory public education as a means to enforce compliance is nothing short of coercion. Public education is a right that should not be contingent on a parent's willingness to surrender their religious beliefs. Using school enrollment as leverage to force compliance with vaccination mandates puts undue pressure on families who rely on public education and creates a system of discrimination against children whose parents adhere to their faith. No family should have to choose between following their conscience and accessing the education their tax dollars support.

Every child is unique, and no medical decision should be made with a one-size-fits-all approach. Parents, not the government, are best equipped to make these decisions in consultation with their faith, their doctors, and their own understanding of what is best for their families. I urge you to oppose HB118 and protect the rights of parents to make informed, faith-based choices for their children without fear of exclusion or coercion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Georgienne Murray

Gigimurray13@gmail.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:05:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paula Holley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Covid vaccine mandate. My 3 children have all gotten Covid and all healed from it on their own with little medical help. I do not feel the Covid vaccine would benefit them. I do not feel it should be forced on their healthy bodies. I myself have had the Covid vaccine due to my husbands work duties and I have also had Covid several times. I do not feel getting the vaccine prevented us from getting Covid.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:15:28 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Snyder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and find it to be an overreach of government and unconstitutional. I do not believe the the government should take away our parental rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:21:35 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brea Caley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. It breaks my heart to know how many children will be denied an education. Please never allow something like that to happen!! We should have the right to follow our religious beliefs and have our keiki in school.

With great sincerity,

Brea Caley

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:21:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Galapon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose House Bill 1118. Parents should have the right to refuse vaccines for their children. It shouldn't be forced to attend school. I have nieces and nephews in the same age range (4 and below) with the same speech delays. Each of them are of different backgrounds, ethnicities, and lifestyles but the common denominator is the vaccines they've been given. It's too convenient to be a coincidence and it's unfair to be forced to vaccinate them in order to go to school. The vaccines have changed overtime and it's clearly affecting our new generations. Again, I strongly opposed HB1118. It shall not pass.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:26:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Char'nel-Cassandra Colin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha.

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove the right to religious exemption from vaccination requirements. As a parent who has made the personal decision not to immunize my children, I firmly believe that parents have the fundamental right to make decisions about the health and well-being of their children based on their values, beliefs, and circumstances.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and preserve the right to religious exemption from vaccination requirements. Parents must retain the right to make healthcare decisions for their children based on their personal beliefs and circumstances. Please consider the long-term impact on individual rights and freedoms before moving forward with this bill.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:33:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a mother of 3 on Maui, I am opposed to this bill removing my rights for a religious exemption for my children. This is my right as a mother and as an American citizen. You the government are over stepping. There is major concern when the Governor has connections to the Pharmaceutical industry that does sway him to push their vaccinations. Vaccinations are not a one size fits all. Parents are know their children. The government needs to respect parents religious choices.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:43:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilee Lyons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. I am appalled that this legislative body are taking the rights of parents to choose their right not to vacinate their children. We are becoming a socialist government! This is not pono!!!!

It is the right of the parents to choose not government!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:46:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Tokioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

Best,
Kris Tokioka

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:02:43 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrel Delagarza	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

(For the record) Here to protect life and property! Me and son where both injured due to regular vaccine and a walking testimony. (For the record)

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:09:21 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Woody Child	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:11:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christie Nemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:13:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nayna patel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the measure HB1118. Religious freedom is given by our forefathers. You cannot take away that from the people. Hawaii congress wants to control it's people in anywhere and every way thru can. This is unbelievable they are trying to force something in my body. Do they know our constitution says, I have a freedom to live my life the way I want to live as long as I am not hurting others. Flue has been around for many decades. It's not going anywhere if the vaccine worked, flue patients would've been less and less every year and vaccinated people wouldn't have gotten flue in the same season. But they do get the flue in the same winter. If the covid vaccine worked, vaccinated people wouldn't have died but they did. People were forced to admit COVID patients in the hospitals and they came out dead. This is what Hawaii congress wanted and the results were many people were killed in the hospitals. Rather than trying to control people, control yourself in controlling innocent citizens. Let them make their decisions on what goes in their body. You guys are out of control. Look at the logic or look at the proof how the vaccine worked out. Hawaii congress forced hospitals and doctors to admit positive covid patients and killed them. Stop telling us lies and forcing people into your traps

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:13:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it is a direct attack on my First Amendment right.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:41:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tami Yamashita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill because it has to do with religious freedom and my choice as a parent. I have the right to choose what is best for my child. This is a basic human right, especially for a responsible mother who loves and cares for her child. I am allowed to hold beliefs that go against medical advice. I earned that right as a law abiding citizen and as a human being just trying to take care of my child the way I believe is best.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:41:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerilynn kaulia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose of this Bill

You folks should have no right to make any decision for my family espically when it comes to medical and my children it is the parents choice weather or not to vaccinate their children.

you telling me every single government person would be okay with all thier kids getting manadatory vaccination in order to get the education they need i don't think so and it would go for not just thier children but grandchildren and so forth you folks are not thinking about the people you guys just thinking about yourselves this is not a bill that should be passed and a lot of people don't agree with this so please do the right thing and listen to the people of Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:44:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Pader	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 in its entirety. This bill ignores the rights and beliefs of many in the community who would choose to not have their children to get some or all immunizations. To deny these children an education based on their beliefs is not only unconstitutional but cruel. Where is the data to support such an extreme law? If you haven't asked that question, you are not doing your jobs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:45:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Ash	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB1118 , a bill that seeks to prohibit new non-medical exemptions for school-aged children's immunization requirements.

Families should have the right to make personal choices that best suites their family's needs and should not be restricted if they choose not to have immunizations.

I respectfully urge you to oppose HB1118 in order to protect Hawai'i's children, schools, and fundamental freedoms.

Natasha Ash

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:47:07 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Queypo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and members of the committee,

My name is James Queypo, and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am here today to express my strong opposition to HB1118, a bill that seeks to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccinations in our public schools.

This bill represents a significant overreach of government power and a direct infringement on fundamental parental rights and religious freedoms. Parents have the inherent right to make medical decisions for their children, in consultation with their healthcare providers. This right is deeply personal and should not be usurped by the state. Forcing parents to choose between their deeply held religious beliefs and their child's education is unacceptable.

The existing religious exemption acknowledges the diversity of beliefs within our community and respects the right of families to make choices that align with their conscience. Eliminating this exemption disregards the sincere religious convictions of many families in Hawaii. It presumes that the state knows better than parents what is in the best interest of their children, a presumption I find deeply troubling.

Furthermore, the argument that eliminating the religious exemption is necessary for public health is not supported by compelling evidence. Hawaii's current vaccination rates, even with the religious exemption, are generally high. Focusing on targeted education and outreach to address vaccine hesitancy, rather than eliminating religious freedom, would be a more effective and respectful approach. Demonizing and alienating families who hold different beliefs is counterproductive to building trust and promoting vaccination.

This bill sets a dangerous precedent by allowing the government to dictate medical decisions based on a narrow, one-size-fits-all approach. It undermines the doctor-patient relationship and erodes the trust between families and the state.

I urge the committee to reject HB1118. Protecting parental rights, religious freedom, and individual liberties is paramount. Let us focus on fostering open dialogue and education rather than resorting to coercive mandates that divide our community.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:54:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Rickard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 which mandates vaccines for children in school. This bill directly infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms and constitutional rights that must be protected.

Public health should respect both individual rights. Policy makers should support informed consent, medical and religious exemptions, and parental choice in healthcare decisions.

I use you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the constitutional and religious freedoms that are foundational to our country. Thank you.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:56:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Veronica Milotta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose.

As a parent of children with special needs I am very aware of the weight on myself and my husband to make medical decisions for our children. No one else should make that decision for our children but us. I was very upset with how COVID was handled, and despite the officials telling our community that we needed to have our children vaccinated for COVID, our doctors, who are well known in the community and service all of Ewa/Kapolei did not. The school wanted it and so did the government but my doctor didn't think it was time.

There are parents that have already lost the ability to find a doctor because during COVID, doctors were pressured to change their office to say unless you agree to their vaccine schedule, then you will not be accepted as a patient. That has to stop. People need medical care regardless of their beliefs. This is not building trust. You already removed this population's access to medical care for their kids and now if you remove their access to education, you will create a bigger issue in the future. This is wrong. Their beliefs are going to become more and more naturopath not less because that is what they have more access to.

These decisions for vaccination should be made with the parent in conference with their doctor and it should be an individualized decision. My children have all the traditional vaccines but will not receive any new vaccines that I don't feel have been properly vetted. We do not do flu vaccines due to my children's autistic issues and I still have concerns about COVID vaccine and HPV.

I know so many families that will pull their children out of public school if these bills are passed and many of them have vaccinated their children with other vaccines. I know parents of children who are about to enter school who will not enroll if this is passed. Another family has told me they might just leave the island and take their business to the mainland.

If you want people to be more vaccinated, then you have to use processes that educate people. You also need to be honest about past failures with the way COVID vaccine was handled. People don't trust you or the education department right now in the area of vaccinations. You need to build trust again.

Religious Exemption Changes: The bill strengthens the language around religious exemptions but limits them to public health emergencies, excluding school-related immunization requirements.

- **Impact on Families:** This legislation disproportionately affects families who hold deeply rooted religious or personal convictions, as well as communities with historical concerns about medical mandates.
- **Education Restrictions:** Children without the required immunizations will be unable to attend school, both public and private, impacting their access to education.

Mahalo.

4 Keiki represented

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:58:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Peoples	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We strongly oppose this bill. As a religious family, we are heartbroken at the thought of our parental rights being taken away by the state of Hawaii.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:00:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Walley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates my constitutional rights for religious freedom. It would negatively impact my children, and exclude them from activities causing discrimination for religious views.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:01:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CHELSEA U LAANUI	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My Name is Chelsea Laanui. I'm born and raised in Maui and a mother of 5. Growing up I was vaccinated however I feel the circumstances are much different these days. With the growing concern of what is being put in our bodies and people being more aware of the negative affects that come from that, it is crucial now more than ever to speak up. This is not only a religious issue but a human rights issue. I do not agree that in order for my children to go to school, they must get pumped with hundreds of chemicals. I do not agree that in order to get an education in a public setting anyone would have to compromise their religious beliefs and submit their children to harm. In the case where someone decides they do not want to vaccinate their children, for whatever reason, should not have to pull said children out of school or them to be expelled because they didn't get a vaccination. It should be the choice of the parents to get the vaccinations, not the state. Taking away the religious exemption will not get people to vaccinate their children. It will cause a divide in the community, less children in the public school system, and families to be forced to do things against their beliefs. The government should not dictate what we insert into our bodies. Ultimately the children and families will lose if this bill goes through. Please take into consideration the importance of choice and education. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:09:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanelle Tomas-Alconcel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **STRONGLY OPPOSE** HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away important rights from parents and families.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to decide what is best for their children. Some families have strong religious or personal beliefs about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between following their beliefs or sending their child to school.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to practice our religion freely. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill takes away that choice and does not respect personal faith and values. If the state removes this religious exemption, what other rights could be taken away next?

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child’s body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are very hard to get, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for basic medical rights when it comes to their children’s health.

4. What’s Next?

If this bill passes, it sets a dangerous precedent. Today, the government says religious beliefs don’t matter when it comes to vaccines. What will they take away next? People should always have the right to make informed decisions for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already struggles with school attendance and a high cost of living. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, more families may be forced to leave Hawai'i. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly urge you to **REJECT HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Chanelle

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:09:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Callaway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to mandate vaccinations for all keiki in Hawaii public schools. As a parent, I believe in making informed medical decisions for my children based on their unique health needs, and this bill disregards the fundamental right of parents to do so.

I am particularly concerned because I have autistic children, and like many parents in similar situations, I have carefully researched and consulted with medical professionals to ensure that every healthcare decision is made in their best interest. The medical community acknowledges that not all children react to vaccines in the same way, and forcing a blanket mandate ignores the reality that some keiki may have underlying health conditions or genetic predispositions that make certain vaccines risky.

HB 1118 sets a dangerous precedent by stripping parents of medical choice and placing all decision-making power in the hands of the government. Vaccination decisions should be made between parents and their doctors, not dictated by a one-size-fits-all policy. This bill disregards individual medical histories, genetic factors, and personal or religious beliefs, which are all protected rights.

Furthermore, Hawaii's public schools should be focused on education, not medical enforcement. Implementing this mandate could lead to unnecessary exclusion of children from schools, adding to the already significant challenges that families face—especially those with special needs children. The stress of navigating the public school system is already immense for parents of autistic keiki, and HB 1118 would further marginalize families who simply want to make the best medical choices for their children.

I urge the legislature to reject this overreaching bill and instead support policies that respect parental rights, informed consent, and individual medical needs. We all want healthy children, but medical mandates should never come at the expense of personal freedoms and parental decision-making.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Leah Callaway

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:10:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katelyn Kesinger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Katelyn Marie Kesinger am directly in opposition to Bill 118 HB. I am a Christian mother to 3 young Native Hawaiian boys all under the age of 4 years old. I believe it is my right, such as it is the right of every citizen regardless of their religious denomination to exercise their freedom to choose what we allow into our own bodies, let alone the bodies of young children who cannot speak for themselves. Please, give us the freedom as parents to have the right to exercise our religious exemptions from vaccines and still allow our children the chance to a fair education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:14:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Nojima	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in *STRONG OPPOSITION* to HB1118. This violates the rights of every citizen especially our keiki that look to their parents to make medical decisions on their behalf and NOT the government!

The government trusted Dr. Anthony Fauci's recommendation for everyone to get the COVID-19 shots only to find out that *"IN A RECENT SCIENCE PAPER, DR. FAUCI ADMITS THAT COVID-19 VACCINES DON'T WORK."*

Religious Convictions should be given precedence for families to choose what's best for their families health.and should this bill pass it would be extremely hard on families to pull their keiki out of school requiring alternative educational choices.

Please be Pono and Vote NO to HB1118.

Mahalo piha,

Cory Nojima

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:15:03 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin McKinley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Representatives,

H.B. 1118 is a direct violation of our 1st Amendment rights. It's as simple as that. We cannot have a governing body that violates its citizens rights, and still expect those same citizens to trust or have faith in those representatives. Our elected officials have a DUTY to protect, first and foremost, the rights of the people who who elected them in the first place. This is an egregious act and should be seen as such.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:16:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terfina A Khomitch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Covid vaccine mandate. My 3 children have all gotten Covid and all healed from it on their own with little medical help. I do not feel the Covid vaccine would benefit them. I do not feel it should be forced on their healthy bodies. I myself have had the Covid vaccine due to my husbands work duties and I have also had Covid several times. I do not feel getting the vaccine prevented us from getting Covid.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:22:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony to urge you to vote against HB1118. I have many concerns about this bill regarding Native Hawaiian rights and religious freedom.

I believe that parents, not the government, should make medical decisions for their children. This bill undermines informed consent, a core principle of medical ethics. There are less restrictive alternatives to consider - Instead of removing religious exemptions entirely, lawmakers should consider education, parental choice, and risk-benefit discussions as alternative approaches that respect both public health and personal freedoms.

There is increasing evidence of the link between some of the childhood vaccines and autism. To require the tremendous amount of childhood vaccines that is on the current CDC schedule is beyond the scope of the government and will not create equal access to education.

Is the State of Hawaii/school system prepared to handle the lawsuits from vaccine injured families? Many of the mandates of the Covid vaccine have not been upheld and damages are being paid.

Also, this bill disregards Native Hawaiian spiritual and cultural beliefs, which deeply value natural healing.

Forcing vaccinations infringes on these traditions. The committee should protect the rights of Native Hawaiians under Hawai'i's state constitution. There are constitutional concerns. Eliminating religious exemptions while allowing medical ones creates legal inequalities. Courts have ruled that laws must be neutral and generally applicable—this bill targets religious rights unfairly, raising First Amendment concerns.

Please I urge you to consider these points and vote against HB 1118.

Thank you for your efforts.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:22:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose this bill as it violates my US constitutional rights as am American citizen, a parent and grandparent of children. The state does not have the authority to mandate what vaccines I chose to take or my children. This infuriates me as a resident of Hawai'i. This corrupt attempt to steal parental rights away from families is one of the main reasons this state ranks so low in almost every aspect of society. Our public education system is rated the worst in the US. We need to focus on things that are important to the residents of Hawai'i and this is not one of them! This is a corrupt political move by an inept elected governor and everyone knows it. Every elected representative that supports this bill will drastically see support dwindle during the next election for sure and I will do everything in my power to Voice opposition against all the supporters of this bill.

William Parker

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:22:45 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha chair,My name is Nicole Santos and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and an education. While Public health is important policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:23:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Jakahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill takes away our religious freedom under the first amendment. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:24:33 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
S F	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 according to

Hawai'i Constitution Art 1 Sec 2 "All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property.

These rights CANNOT endure unless the PEOPLE recognize their corresponding obligations and responsibilities."

Government should not be allowed to take away our rights, especially our religious rights and freedoms.

My family has been directly hurt and deeply affected by vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:26:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118 on constitutional grounds, as it represents an overreach of government authority and infringes on individual bodily autonomy. Additionally, HB1118 discriminates against individuals who genuinely require religious exemptions, undermining the principles of religious freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:28:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanda Ferge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Chanda Ferge, and I strongly oppose the bill, HB1118. I believe that parents should have the ability to make medical decisions based on their beliefs, for their own children, without interference from the government. We all as Americans have a constitutional right to freedom of religious practices. Passing this bill would be violating our first ammendment right. It is unconstitutional.

Furthermore, this bill would create discrimination against children who would be grandfathered in (if they have already received a religious exemption) and those who would not be allowed to have a religious exemption. This is unjust.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony. Again I strongly oppose HB1118.

Mahalo,

Chanda Ferge

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:28:19 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Kaleikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements for school-aged children in Hawaii.

I am deeply concerned about the far-reaching implications this bill will have on students, families, and their ability to access free public education.

Parental Rights & Medical Freedom

Medical decisions should remain within the domain of individual families and their trusted healthcare providers. Parents know their children best and should have the autonomy to make informed choices regarding vaccinations without undue government interference. HB 1118 strips away this fundamental right and places a government mandate over personalized medical decision-making.

Bodily Autonomy & Informed Consent

Forcing a medical intervention on children without an option for exemption is a direct violation of bodily autonomy. Every medical procedure carries inherent risks, and families deserve the right to evaluate these risks and make choices based on their values, beliefs, and medical history. Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice, and HB 1118 disregards this principle by removing the ability to opt out.

Violation of Religious Freedoms

The removal of religious exemptions directly infringes on First Amendment protections. Many faith traditions emphasize the sanctity of the human body and oppose certain medical interventions. By eliminating this exemption, the bill places families in the untenable position of

choosing between their sincerely held religious beliefs and compliance with a government mandate.

Excluding Students from Public Education

By prohibiting non-medical exemptions, HB 1118 effectively denies these students their right to a free public education. Families who do not comply will be left with limited, often unaffordable, alternatives such as homeschooling or private education. This disproportionately affects lower-income families, further exacerbating educational inequities in our state.

Risk of Adverse Reactions & the One-Size-Fits-All Fallacy

While vaccines are widely considered safe, no medical intervention is without risk. The federal government has recognized this by establishing the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP), which has paid out billions in compensation for vaccine injuries. Each child's immune system is unique, and medical decisions should not follow a rigid, one-size-fits-all policy.

Furthermore, the argument for herd immunity fails to account for waning immunity in vaccinated individuals and the documented outbreaks of diseases like measles and pertussis in highly vaccinated populations. Immunity is not guaranteed, and HB 1118 assumes a level of protection that is not always achievable.

Discriminatory Impact on Families

This bill will disproportionately impact families who have previously relied on non-medical exemptions. These families will be forced to either compromise their deeply held beliefs, seek alternative schooling (which is not an option for many), or leave the state altogether. The financial and logistical burden placed on these families is unjust and unnecessary.

Slippery Slope Towards Further Government Overreach

By setting a precedent for eliminating personal choice in medical decisions, HB 1118 opens the door for future government mandates on other medical treatments. If exemptions for vaccines can be eliminated today, what other medical procedures might be mandated tomorrow without parental consent?

Conclusion

HB 1118 is an overreach that disregards parental rights, religious freedoms, bodily autonomy, and access to public education. The government should not be in the business of making blanket medical decisions for all children, especially when exemptions have historically provided a balanced approach to public health.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and instead support policies that respect medical freedom, parental rights, and the diverse needs of Hawaii's families. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:29:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop encroaching on my God given rights of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Freedom of religion is not negotiable. Passing this bill will take away my religious freedom. We survived the most recent epidemic in spite of the heavy handed draconian rules set forth by elected and unelected bureaucrats. Less is more.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:30:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mirian Bodine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IT IS NOT THE SCHOOL TO IN FORCE VACCINATION TO OUR CHILDREN. IT IS
BETWEEN THE PARENTS AND CHLD OR CHILDREN AND MEDICAL DOCTOR
DECISION. TAKING OUR FREEDOM TO MAKE CHOICES AND RIGHTS... I OPPOSSE
THIS BILL

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:49:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristyn Fujimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. To take away right for religious exemption is to take away freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:19:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118. I am a mother of two children who attend school in Hawaii. I have followed other states who have lost their religious or philosophical vaccine exemptions. I have witnessed family after family be denied medical exemptions in these states even when they are clearly warranted. I have witnessed doctors be bullied and scared into not giving medical exemptions. I have witnessed the rise in neurodevelopmental diseases when these mandates have been enforced. Targeting the religious exemption that families have now is a violation of our First Amendment rights. As parents, we have the right to decide what is the best medical care for our children. HB1118 undermines our right to informed consent. As medical visits go now, doctors and nurses are not providing informed consent. This a clear violation of the Nuremberg Code which protects the right of informed consent. Instead of taking away the religious exemption, maybe doctors could become more educated about the medicines they are using and help educate parents. I researched vaccinations for a decade before I became pregnant. I am very well informed, now having researched this subject for over 25 years. I have spent tens of thousands of hours reading scientific studies, reading books from many perspectives, reading the testimonies of thousands and thousands of mothers who have vaccine injured children. Vaccine injury often leading to a lifetime of disability is an issue that is only increasing. My religion does not condone vaccination, but my research over the past 25 years into this subject has shown me that there are a lot of problems that are becoming increasingly worse as a result of over vaccination. We now have the opportunity to make medicine healthier. To make children healthier. To make adults healthier. Let's take this opportunity to focus on health. Forcing parents against their will to vaccinate their children is not humane. Please oppose HB1118.

Sincerely,

Erica Brown

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:23:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roclyn Otani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

This is an attack on my constitutional rights and religious beliefs. The fact that we have to battle our representatives about such a topic really shows that the government has grown too big! It's not up to our "leaders" to tell us what is good for us. We are free people ,more and more this world and more importantly this island seems to have been compromised by big Pharma! This has nothing to do with health everything to do with control and punishment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:28:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alvis A Satele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Alvis A.J. Satele, and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and infringe on religious freedoms. As a parent, I believe it is unethical for legislation to require vaccinations for my child to be allowed to receive his/her public right to a quality education, or any child for that matter. This greatly infringes on our rights as parents to choose a direction for our children. This is a matter of taking away parental rights, more than it is whether you are pro or anti-vaccination.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:33:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandy-Alia Serikaku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou,

‘O wau ‘o Brandy-Alia Serikaku, a hō‘ole au i kēia pila, ‘a‘ohe loa au kāko‘o i kēia pila HB1118. He makuahine au, he 5 a‘u keiki a 1 keiki hānai ka‘u. 2 o ka‘u mau keiki, ‘a‘ole i vaccinated ‘ia ma ka hānau ‘ana a na‘u i koho e hana pēlā. Ua nui ka ‘ike i ho‘opuka a ho‘olaha ‘ia no nā hopena maika‘i ‘ole ma hope o ka loa‘a o nā vaccinations i ke keiki a ma muli o kēia ua loli ko‘u mana‘o, no ka mea ua ho‘ona‘auao ‘ia au. Eia hou o ka religious exemption, na‘u pono‘ī, ‘o ia ho‘i ‘o ka religious exemption kekahi o nā pono civila Hawai‘i e Hawai‘i ai au, e pa‘a ai ka pilina o ku‘u mau ea. ‘O ka lawe ‘ana i ku‘u pono religious exemption ka hana mua o ka wāwahi ‘ana i ka mauili Hawai‘i a he ho‘omau ‘ia o ka hana ho‘okolonaio kūpono ‘ole a ka State of Hawai‘i me ‘Amelika Hui Pū ‘Ia. Auē ke aloha ‘ole i nā ‘ohana, nā keiki a me nā Hawai‘i. Mai ‘ae i kēia. E kū i ka pono.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:35:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roseanne Tataipu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

In regards to the hearing of HB1118

on Friday, February 21, 2025 at 3:00PM

in Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

IN OPPOSITION

My name is Roseanne Tataipu. I am representing myself and my family of 6. We are in opposition against HB1118 for the following reasons:

- HB 1118 infringes on our Amendment 1 rights of religion by forcing us to get immunizations that do not align with our religious beliefs.
- In so doing, this forces parents to choose between religious beliefs or children's access to an education.

Once again, I am opposed to bill HB1118.

Roseanne Tataipu, representing my family of 6

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:35:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Otani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

This is against my constitutional rights and my religious beliefs. Our "leaders and government" should not be telling us what we can and cannot put in our bodies. It should be a choice NEVER forced. Big Pharma should never control and/or make decisions for WE THE PEOPLE!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:35:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Woollen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118. I support diversity, equity and inclusion relative to medical intervention. Some people that have a significant relationship with God believe it is a sin to inject their bodies with foreign substances. Although you may not share their belief it is none the less a reality for these people. In my opinion, if the state govenment makes these people choose between offending their God or breaking a state law, the state government would be stepping into the shoes of God. This is of course impossible and absurd and also very offensive. The state government is supposed to serve the people of Hawaii. The people of Hawaii have the right to their own religious beliefs and practices and these should not be threatened by the state government. I strongly encourage you to kill HB1118 now.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:36:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Soleil Hawthorne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose 1118 HB, this is a direct violation to religious rights over our what we allow being put into our bodies and the bodies of our children. Every person should have the right to decide whether they put their FAITH in medicine in the form of vaccines, vs. FAITH in natural immunity or other beliefs in our bodies natural ability to heal and adapt to disease etc.

Healthy food, nutritional support and exercise are safe approaches that don't pose a threat on our community or children vs. the money hungry pharmaceutical companies that actually BENEFIT financially from people being sick.

How many drugs have been recalled in the course of history due to proven medical harm? This includes many recalled vaccines. Vaccine injury is a real life event and the vaccine companies have no liability to pay for those who experience often life threatening injury and lifelong harm and disabilities. Many vaccines contain heavy metals (such as mercury, and aluminum) that cross the blood brain barrier and have the ability to cause permanent brain damage such as in the case of many autistic and autistic spectrum children.

I have personal friends whose children have suffered vaccine injury in the form of autism. Their vaccine schedule proves the time and event of direct cause. Also, the Covid vaccines have not even been around long enough to test for long term health safety. They are clearly being pushed for the reason of financial gain by the companies who make them. One of Governor Josh Green's BIGGEST sponsors is Pfizer.

I know countless people who have developed myocarditis (permanent heart damage and inflammation) shortly after receiving their covid vaccine.

I personally know many others who had a sudden recurrence of cancer after receiving their Covid vaccine and/or Covid booster shots. These vaccines have NOT been proven safe over the course of a human lifetime. They have clearly shown the opposite and should NEVER be forced on anyone, especially our children.

In addition to all of this, my husband is a first responder who has been on many calls since the roll out of these Covid vaccines for people experiencing heart attack, stroke, or chest pain. These particular events have been much higher than prior to the administration of Covid vaccines. On several of these occasions the patients or spouses thereof, mentioning upon scene that the patient

had just recently (within weeks or a few months) received their Covid booster shot. I don't think it's a coincidence.

With Aloha,

Soleil Hawthorne


OPPOSE HB1118

#HB1118 is a road to tyranny when Hawaii government blatantly violates to remove the Freedom to "religious exemption" and forces Totalitarianism on its citizens.

Whether you are a Christian, Atheist, Hindu, Buddhist, Naturalist or so on, The Right to Conscience or Religious Liberty is enshrined in the US Constitution to protect its people from rogue government leaders in a Democracy.

The Hawaii State Legislature must not be in the business of forcefully violating the US Constitution it swears to obey and faithfully uphold.

EXAMPLE:

As of August 2024, **three states** and Washington, D.C. require the HPV vaccine for school entry: 



Rhode Island

Requires the HPV vaccine for both sexes




Virginia

Requires the HPV vaccine for female students



Washington, D.C.

Requires the HPV vaccine for both sexes

Hawaii also requires the HPV vaccine for adolescents entering seventh grade. 

Totalitarianism

Form of government :



Totalitarianism is a political system and a form of government that prohibits opposition from political parties, disregards and outlaws the political claims of individual and group opposition to the state, and completely controls the public sphere and the private sphere of society. [Less ^](#)

Source: [Wikipedia](#) >

Submitted by
Choon James
ChoonJamesHawaii@gmail.com
CountryTalkStory.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:43:57 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andy Berky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill would unjustly force controversial vaccinations upon Hawaii families.

Aloha Representatives,

I am strongly against this bill. I believe in "my body my choice". This includes both reproductive rights and the right to not be injected with unwanted drugs.

Reagan & The 99th Congress Called Vaccines “Unavoidably Unsafe”. So, Congress gave vaccine manufacturers immunity from liability, with the agreement that the government would shoulder the burden of the vaccine injuries that they knew would come.

First of all, it is unconscionable to force an unavoidably unsafe product on healthy people. Also, vaccines are not what stopped epidemics in the previous centuries. Sanitation and better nutrition are what stopped them. Prior to that people were living in filth without indoor plumbing or refrigeration for meat. (Dissolving Illusions: Disease, Vaccines, and The Forgotten History – July 27, 2013 by [Suzanne Humphries MD](#))

And second, the government has not lived up to its side of the deal. People are not getting treatment or compensation for their injuries.

Also, as the pharmaceutical industry moves toward the mRNA platform these products will become even more dangerous. They are not in fact "vaccines" but genetic therapy.

Also, none of them have been properly tested with double blind placebo studies. They always give the "control" group a different vaccine. This is not science.

Please reject this bill.

Sincerely

Netra Halperin

Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:53:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a concerned parent, I strongly oppose HB1118. It directly infringes on the First Amendment right to religious freedom by removing the option to opt out of vaccinations. We need to protect the rights of individuals to make informed healthcare decisions based on their rights and not a mandated blanket vaccination compliance. It unfairly forces families to choose between their religious beliefs and their child's education. It is my right as a parent to protect my child and the freedom to choose what's best for my child's health. To be forced to take vaccinations with lack of evidence for necessity, raises much concern. I pray that our God will lead and guide you all to making the right decision. Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:55:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ben Tamamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because it does not allow for any new non-medical exemptions. This directly opposes a parents right to choose the medication or vaccines that the parent believes is in the best interest of their own child. The parent should be the authority on this subject, not the state.

Also, the phrase "bona fide religious tenets and practices" is unclear. What does this mean and who determines this?

This bill should not be passed because it infringes on parental rights.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:55:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason May	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Parental rights should not EVER be negated.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:59:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Salinas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Carla Salinas, and I whole-heartedly testify in opposition to HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:01:20 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dominique Anders	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My testimony is in opposition of HB1118. As much as I wholly believe in the importance of public health and safety for all - especially our keiki here in Hawaii- I cannot support this bill as it infringes on the rights of others based on their religious beliefs.

I'm also a parent of a disabled child who's health and safety is often at risk, more so when she gets ill. I rely on those in our community to do their part to vaccinate themselves and their children in order to keep kids like my child safe. And I'm so thankful for those who vaccinate with this in mind and yet, I still have to respect the religious beliefs of others who do not want to vaccinate their children.

Mahalo,

Dominique Anders

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:04:51 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mildred Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Opposing and not for this bill for my children and my future grand children.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:06:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristyn Nishimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:17:16 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davin Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, as it threatens the fundamental right to religious freedom protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Any law that restricts this right endangers the very foundations upon which our nation was established.

Religious freedom is an essential part of both American and Hawaiian traditions. HB1118 introduces unnecessary government intervention into religious matters, setting a troubling precedent that could erode individual rights and weaken the protections we rely on.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge the rich cultural and spiritual diversity of Hawai'i. Our communities thrive because of this diversity, and it is imperative that individuals and religious organizations retain the ability to practice their faith without interference. Any attempt to curtail religious expression threatens the inclusive and respectful nature of our society.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to reject HB1118 and uphold the constitutional protections of religious liberty. Safeguarding these fundamental rights must remain a priority, and this bill undermines those principles.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Davin Jaime

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:18:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margarita Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Margarita Ching & I testify in opposition to Bill HB1118 that would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms.

Hawaii has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:21:23 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandie Hirai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 20, 2025

Dear Legislators,

I write to you today with grave concern as both a person of faith and a parent whose child has suffered direct harm from previous vaccinations. While I deeply respect public health initiatives, I must voice my strongest opposition to mandatory vaccination requirements based on both Constitutional grounds and my child's documented medical history.

The First Amendment explicitly protects our religious freedom, but beyond this fundamental right, I must emphasize the traumatic experience our family has endured. My child experienced severe adverse reactions to their previous vaccinations, including [brief description of reactions]. These reactions were documented by our physician, and required emergency medical intervention. The prospect of being forced to subject my child to further vaccinations, given this history, is not just concerning – it's terrifying.

While Jacobson v. Massachusetts (1905) set precedent regarding public health measures, it never contemplated forcing children with documented adverse reactions to receive additional vaccinations. The current policy puts my child at direct medical risk while simultaneously violating our religious convictions.

Our family's religious texts and traditions emphasize the sanctity of the body as a temple. This belief has only been reinforced by witnessing my child's suffering from previous vaccinations. The current requirements force us to choose between:

- Risking our child's physical wellbeing**
- Violating our religious principles**
- Denying our child their Constitutional right to public education**

This impossible choice violates both the Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA) and basic medical ethics regarding informed consent and "do no harm."

We have extensive medical documentation from our healthcare providers detailing the adverse reactions and recommending against further vaccinations. Combined with our sincere religious convictions, we believe we present a compelling case for exemption that balances public health concerns with individual medical safety and religious liberty.

I propose the following alternatives for consideration:

- Medical and religious exemptions with enhanced health monitoring**
- Remote learning options during disease outbreaks**
- Individual health plans developed in consultation with our physician**
- Regular health screenings as an alternative safeguard**

The trauma of watching my child suffer from vaccine reactions while trying to honor our religious beliefs has been overwhelming. No parent should be forced to choose between their child's health, their religious beliefs, and their right to education.

I urge you to implement a comprehensive exemption policy that considers both documented medical reactions and religious beliefs. This would protect vulnerable children like mine while respecting religious liberty and maintaining reasonable public health measures.

With deep concern,

Brandie Hirai

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:22:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy golesh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vehemently oppose this legislation. Uphold the constitution, not this medical tyranny.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:29:29 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Feeney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha-

My name is Shawna Feeney born and raised resident on the Big Island of Hawaii and Mommy to three unvaccinated HEALTHY beautiful Boys.

I strongly OPPSE Bill HB1118- As this choice is MY choice as stated in the US constitution, but above that because it is my Maternal instict and sole purpose to protect my children.

Studies have now proven that Vaccinations are undoublty and unequivocally linked to Sudden infant death syndrome, paediatric asthma, autsim, inflammatory bowel disease, permanant brain damage along with so many other autoimmune diseases.

It is my right to chose. It is my right to protect my children in the best way i feel necesarry for their safety and well being, on all relligious and medical grounds.

Please I plead do not take this right away. My faith is with you. Mahalo for your time and attention.

sincerely,

A concerned Mother/ Hawaii Resident

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:30:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy Sison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I VERY MUCH OPPOSE!!!! This is UNCONSTITUTIONAL!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:33:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Cronin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm writing to express my deep opposition to bill HB1118. I'm pro public health for our keiki all the way to our elders. BUT, forcing medical advise and vaccination is not safe, wise, or what I or our community and state want. This bill has control and pharma lobbies written all over it. Stop forcing and pushing invasive measures and bills on the public.

Thank you and Aloha,

Dan Cronin

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:46:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lauren watt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe we all Should have medical and religious freedom. This bill is unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:48:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joni McCandless	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My ohana and I strongly oppose HB1118. Our ohana are devout believers in Christ and attend churches in Kaneohe & Kailua. We are not opposed to vaccines, however, we do believe it should be a parents choice to vaccinate their own child or not. HB1118 directly affects our 2 young sons in elementary school. My stepfather, who is a retired cardiologist, developed pericarditis after receiving the covid vaccine.

What happened to "my body, my choice"? Please say NO to HB118!

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Joni McCandless

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:49:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drake Akiyoshi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It seems to be a focus of the creators of this bill to force their ways on the citizens of Hawaii, claiming that their conclusion is based upon the science. As we have learned from COVID, the "science" is often skewed toward whomever is searching for the information. Living in this state my whole life, I understand that the government is very one-sided. This is inevitable; however, the problem lies when these types of bill are introduced and pass multiple committee readings. This bill gives the state power over our own health decisions, and those of our children. Why is it that our legislature is for a women's right for abortion, supporting the "my body my choice" movement, but then forces COVID vaccines on the population, and now mandated vaccines for the keiki? It's ironic that the legislature picks and chooses when to support my body my choice and when to force unjustified mandates on the population. If you are confident about the capability of the vaccines, why must you force it upon all children? If the vaccines are as effective as you say, then allow parents to choose whether or not to give it to their children. Those who choose to get it will be protected, according to you. Please stop going down the same path as California. We are not there yet, but it's bills like these that lead to more laws that give more "power" to the government. That is not the purpose of government. Allow parents and doctors to make decisions for themselves. That is not your kuleana. Again, do not remove rights of the majority to again cater to the will of a very small minority of individuals.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 10:49:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jack Mok	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe each person has different medical needs. The proposed bill allows government over reach on medical mandates and prevent certain believe or convictions to attend both public and private school.

Opposition to Removing Vaccine Exemptions

I strongly oppose removing exemptions from vaccine requirements. Below are several reasons why maintaining these exemptions is essential:

1. Loss of Credibility in Public Health and Pharmaceutical Institutions

The pharmaceutical industry and legislators lost credibility during the COVID-19 crisis. Key issues include:

- **Misinformation and Poor Decision-Making**
 - Authority figures either misled the public about the effectiveness and safety of mRNA vaccines and COVID-19 safety measures or were unable to distinguish facts from manipulation.
 - The widely promoted "six-foot rule" was later admitted to be baseless.
 - Lockdowns and vaccines that targeted outdated virus strains undermined our natural immune system.
 - Fear-based vaccine mandates, including employment threats and exaggerated mortality rates, heightened stress, weakened immunity, and harmed public health.
- **Accountability Matters**
 - Rather than doubling down on medical coercion, lawmakers should acknowledge the failures of COVID-era policies.

2. Ongoing Review of Vaccine Safety and Effectiveness

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services is currently reviewing the safety and effectiveness of childhood vaccines. Given this uncertainty:

- It would be negligent to mandate compliance with a vaccine schedule under scrutiny.
- Coercing individuals into vaccination before conclusive safety assessments is irresponsible and unjust.

3. Respect for Individual and Cultural Beliefs

Hawai'i's residents should not be forced to conform to a Western, for-profit medical model. There are numerous valid reasons individuals may choose to decline vaccines, including:

- **Ethical Concerns**
 - Opposition to animal testing or the use of animal DNA in vaccines.
 - Concerns about human embryonic or stem cell-derived vaccines.
- **Health and Safety Considerations**
 - Insufficient long-term safety studies.

- mRNA gene therapy being rebranded as "vaccines."
- Family history, allergies, and individual health concerns.
- Toxic ingredients such as mercury and aluminum in vaccines.
- **Philosophical and Religious Freedom**
 - Mandating vaccines under the guise of "consensus science" enforces a form of ideological conformity.
 - True science evolves with new data. Blind obedience to authority, without skepticism, risks turning science into dogma.

4. Risks of Expanding Vaccine Mandates

New vaccines continue to be introduced, including mRNA-based therapies. This raises concerns about:

- The cumulative toxic burden of multiple vaccines.
- The potential dangers of excessive exposure to adjuvants like mercury and aluminum.
- Ethical considerations: If ingredients such as aluminum and mercury were not in vaccines, would you voluntarily inject them into your child?

Conclusion

Public health policies should prioritize individual choice, informed consent, and respect for diverse perspectives. The principle of "**First, do no harm**" must guide all medical decisions. Removing vaccine exemptions disregards these principles and infringes upon personal freedoms.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:03:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dara Yatsushiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Standing in STRONG OPPOSITION - aren't we not allowed to pass state legislation that violates *Constitutional rights*?

February 21, 2025

I AM IN STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB118!!!

May I remind you all that YOU ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS, aka Public Actors, that REPRESENT THE PEOPLE, not your status and/or your paychecks. The First Amendment gives We, the People, the right to practice our own religion WITHOUT GOVERNMENT INTERFERENCE.

We, the people, have the right and free will to choose how to live and especially not to have chemicals enter our bodies, whether through food, water, the environment, and especially vaccines. Who are you all to undermine the wants of the people? We put you in your positions and we can easily remove you, just remember that when election time rolls around ~~You wouldn't be in your position if it wasn't for the people that voted for you and hoped you would do the pono, or right thing, for the people.~~ **LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.**

I will quickly remove my children from private and public school should you all decide to vote for your status/title and paycheck and against our religious rights and religious freedom . I'm pretty sure others will as well.

Finally, I am putting you all on notice and have attached the notices below that were ruled on by SCOTUS 9-0 and has been and is continually being electronically signed and mailed in by others in Hawai'i. On April 9, 2025, SCOTUS received the notices that were mailed to them via Certified United States Postal Service. Do your duty and continue to perpetuate what the U.S. Constitution has laid out. SCOTUS is returning to COMMON LAW and will no longer use Commercial Law to strip our God given rights from us. There's a reason why Church and State are to remain separated.

Finally, on February 14, 2025, President Donald J. Trump signed an Executive Order to prohibit federal funding for COVID-19 vaccine mandates in schools and they will not receive federal funding. <https://www.whitehouse.gov/fact-sheets/2025/02/fact-sheet-president-donald-j-trump-prohibits-federal-funding-for-covid-19-vaccine-mandates-in-schools/>

In complete OPPOSITION TO HB11118,

Tanya K. D. Alana Under duress/protest

To: Congressman Jim Jordan

To: Congressman Matt Gaetz

To: Congressman Thomas Massie

**The People’s Demand for Clarity on Correction and Punishment for
Government Actors not Keeping Oath**

Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal and Notice to Principal is
Notice to Agent

I, The People , one of the People (as seen in the 50 State Constitutions), have assembled with the People in order to demand that you, as a trustee of government, give us full disclosure on our inherent right to correct and punish government actors for not keeping covenant with the People as sworn by oath in the state and federal constitutions; And

Please take notice that the People have studied and realize that the old way of law (historical tradition, language, and constitutions) has been hidden from the People as evidenced by the recent rulings of the Supreme Court, showing attacks of the ATF and other administrative agencies as unlawful and that no government official was ever given the power to use the same agencies to attack the people (see evidence below);

Maxim: A new adjudication does not make a new law, but declares the old: because adjudication is the utterance of the law, and by the adjudication the law is newly revealed which was for a long time **hidden**. 10 Coke, 42 [Emphasis by Highlight Added]

Please take notice that we the People realize that attorneys and bureaucrats have been employing methods which are not law to attack the People who all government servants are the trustees of. Yet your oath demands that you protect the rights of the People, not adversarial parties, and punishment is due if one should disregard your oath (see evidence below):

Maxim: Punishment is due if the words of an oath be false.

Black’s 5th Definition: Oath. Any form of attestation by which a person signifies that he is bound in conscience to perform and act faithfully and truthfully e.g. President’s oath on entering office, Art. II, Sec. 1, U.S. Const. Vaughn v State, 146 Tex. Cr.R. 586, 177 S. W. 2d 59, 60.

Please take notice that it is my will, that you give clarity in regards to the People’s power to punish government actors for maladministration, malfeasance or attacking the People by use of unconstitutional statutes, agencies, or powers not granted in any constitution. If you believe the People have the power to punish said officials, please declare this openly in any court case or by official public statement as legislative body members. However, if you believe the People don’t have this power, please swear by affidavit under the penalty of perjury, and show constitutional provisions granting to you the power to attack the People or work with adversarial parties to deny the rights of the People.

_____X_____

Autograph

_____08-21-2024_____

Date

Notice from the People Regarding Gross Maladministration and Demand of Remedy for Remonstrances-Declaration that Legislation, Statutory Provisions, Executive Orders, Administrative Programs, and other Contractual Agreement Violate the Trust Indenture with the People

Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal and Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent

I, The People, one of the People (as found in Article I Hawaii Constitution), am writing to bring the following claims and facts, that you and your agents may provide due care and remedy.

As one of the People, I claim that there are statutes, acts, agenda, legislation, emergency proclamations, executive orders, edicts, mandates, democratic policy and the like, designed to control the People, acquire and repurpose property, the water and land for other's benefit and means, are being imposed on We the People, without our consent, following due process, and are unconstitutional; and, I claim further that Public Servants/Trustees carrying out this are in Maladministration, are in criminal trespass on the Constitutional rights/ Trust Agreement with We the People, and not in accordance with its expressed written provisions.

I claim that the loss of property, life, safety and happiness, obstruction of liberty, due to negligence and/or unconstitutional acts have created harm and violated my rights and the Trust Agreement/Hawaii Constitution.

All federal, state, county, its municipal government agencies, departments, organizations, the Executive, Legislative and Judicial Branches, its respective agencies, and its subsidiaries, employees and contractors with foreign interests and agendas are acting as Public Servants and Agents for Administration of Programs created by public servants, in partnership with corporations and private associations, funded by taxes collected by, and property of We the People, and as such are **restricted** by the provisions of the Constitutions of the United States, Hawaii Constitution, and of the other forty-nine (49) States (Declared and Undeclared Rights/Bills of Rights, People have ALL political power). I demand remedy for these remonstrances, [Emphasis by highlight added] See reference below:

HAWAII STATE CONSTITUTION PREAMBLE Text of Preamble:

We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of our Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono."

We reserve the right to control our destiny, to nurture the integrity of our People and culture, and to preserve the quality of life that we desire.

We reaffirm our belief in a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and with an understanding and compassionate heart toward all the peoples of the earth, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Hawaii. [Am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

POLITICAL POWER

Section 1. All political power of this State is inherent in the People and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the People. All governments are founded on this authority. [Emphasis by highlight added]

The People have the right to alter or reform the same, whenever the public good may require it. [Emphasis by highlight added]

As one of the People, I claim that the actions of all of the above-named Public Servants have far surpassed the danger of Maladministration, which event then requires us, we the People, to alter, reform, or abolish. (Please see authority above)

RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS

Section 2. All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights.

Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring

and possessing of These rights cannot endure unless the people recognize their property.

corresponding obligations and responsibilities. [Am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

It is the Peoples' obligation and responsibility as co-owners of the Trust Agreement to require and ensure that the servants abide by their obligations and responsibilities and to correct things when they are not. This includes when servants take it upon themselves to override these rights under the excuse of emergency or natural disaster.

DUE PROCESS AND EQUAL PROTECTION

Section 5. No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

HABEAS CORPUS AND SUSPENSION OF LAWS

Section 15. The privilege of the writ of habeas corpus shall not be suspended unless, when in cases of rebellion or invasion, the public safety may require it.

The power of suspending the privilege of the writ of habeas corpus, and the laws or the execution thereof, shall never be exercised except by the legislature, or by authority derived from it to be exercised in such particular cases only as the legislature shall expressly prescribe. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

EMINENT DOMAIN

Section 20. Private property shall not be taken or damaged for public use without just compensation. [Am Const Con 1968 and election Nov 5, 1968; ren Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

Please take notice, private property shall not be taken by the State for public use, it cannot be taken for private use or for the commercial use of others without just compensation as determined by the property owners and under contractual agreement between both parties. Consent of the property owner is paramount.

LIMITATIONS OF SPECIAL PRIVILEGES

Section 21. The power of the State to act in the general welfare shall never be impaired by the making of any irrevocable grant of special privileges or immunities. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

The governor does not have the power to, or appoint other elected, unelected servants, contractors or employees to any office or duty under any circumstance, including emergencies, and provide them with immunity from liability where declared rights violations are concerned. The People have all Political power, never gave the governor or any other servant more power than what the People have. Since any one of the People do not have special privileges or immunities from Constitutional Law, neither can those who work for the People. The Supreme Court affirmed in a 9-0 decision that servants do not have immunity when they violate their oaths to protect the provisions in the Trust Agreement/Constitutions with the People, and can be punished. The People intend to use the Common Law, the fundamental law to enforce this, by right.

ARTICLE 7 Section 4. TAXATION AND FINANCE

APPROPRIATIONS FOR PRIVATE PURPOSES PROHIBITED

Section 4. No tax shall be levied or appropriation of public money or property made, nor shall the public credit be used, directly or indirectly, except for a public purpose. No grant shall be made in violation of Section 4 of Article I of this constitution. No grant of public money or property shall be made except pursuant to standards provided by law. [Ren Const Con 1968 and election Nov 5, 1968; ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

Please take notice, in addition to the prohibition of the taxation of commercial property for private use, the People never granted the State, Counties or municipalities the power to tax the private property of the People, only commercial use property. This includes but is not limited to: land, cars, trucks and other property used in the mode of travel, crops not sold in commerce to the public or through Private Membership Agreement, private contract. The administrative programs doing so are in violation of the Trust Agreement, are null and void.

We live in a Constitutional Republic where the People's rights are violated. We do not live in a democracy or a democratic republic. No majority, consensus, entity, organization, corporation, elected or unelected servants, administrative program, foreign entity or private membership agreement (eg. UNITED STATES, Inc., United Nations, World Economic Forum, World Health Organization, International Monetary Fund, Federal Reserve) can violate these rights without consent, due process. This matter has been upheld numerous times by the Supreme Court.

The natural rights to preserve life, liberty, the safety and the property of each man, woman and child are Law. Each one has individual needs and requirements based on their own situation as it dictates. They are not up for debate. Democratic Policy that has infected government since the 19th Century, unlawfully replaced common law in order to bring in Administrative Procedure and Statutory Provision involving private matters of the People, unconditionally, as a circumvention and run around in order to flip the order of political power and rights to property. Yet, there is no provision granted by the people allowing this. There has been gross maladministration and violations attacking these rights. The acts leading up to, during and after the fire incident in Lahaina, Maui, are a clear example. The People demand remedy.

As one of the People, I remind you that the People in all 50 (fifty) states are entitled to the protections and rights listed in their several Constitutions which all contain similar language protecting the Peoples' rights as evidenced below from the United States Bill of Rights;

The Constitution of the United States Bill of Rights-Amendment X

“The powers not delegated to the United States by the Constitution, nor prohibited by it to the States, are reserved to the States respectively, or to the people.” [Emphasis by highlight added]

Please take Notice that all statutes, orders, Acts, mandates, administrative programs, treaties, contracted agreements, whether issued by a Presidential edict or Executive Order, gubernatorial proclamation, by State or municipal governments, or their agencies, that do not follow the Trust Agreement and maxims of law, are null and void.

Please take notice that I understand clearly that a statute, as written, is not the common law and was not created to interfere with COMMON LAW or STATUTORY RIGHTS of the People. I understand they are completely different. Statutes, mandates, rules, code, orders, are all government construct and limited to those employed within the government or contracted with government, operating in commerce. Though attorneys have failed to learn or inform the People of the difference, the federal and state legislatures have absolutely no power to create the Common Law, as the People are the source of that law.

Furthermore, all government workers swear, by oath, to protect the common law rights of men, and it is their duty to uphold them. Please see evidence for these statements below:

Common Law, Black's Law 5th Edition:

Common law. As distinguished from law created by the enactment of legislatures, the common law comprises the body of those principles and rules of action, relating to the government and security of persons and property, which derive their authority solely from usages and customs of immemorial antiquity, or from the judgments and decrees of the courts recognizing, affirming, and enforcing such usages and customs; and, in this sense, particularly the ancient unwritten law of England. The "common law" is all the statutory and case law background of England and the American colonies before the American revolution. People v. Rehman, 253 C.A.2d 119, 61 Cal.Rptr. 65, 85. "Common law" consists of those principles, usage and rules of action to government and security of persons and property which do not rest for their authority applicable upon 334

any express and positive declaration of the will of the legislature. Bishop v. U. S., F.Supp. 415, 418. [This is an excerpt from D.C.Tex., definition and Highlight is for Emphasis]

Please take notice that the Legislature is bound by the common law and cannot block those rights secured by the common law at any time;

Common Right, Black's Law 5th Edition:

Common right. Right derivative from common law. Right peculiar to certain people is not a common right.

Please take notice that there is no one in the Federal Congress(DC) or state Legislatures giving the People rights. What the Federal Congress and state Legislature create as statutory rights, are simply for persons under their statutory scheme. The rights of the People, declared in all state constitutions, are foundational, of highest authority, and all government officials swear by oath to protect them as their primary duty;

Constitutional Right, Black's Law 5th Edition:

Constitutional right. A right guaranteed to the citizens by the Constitution and so guaranteed as to prevent legislative interference therewith. See also Constitutional freedom; Constitutional liberty or freedom; Constitutional protections.

Please take notice that the People do not have a contract with BAR members, your attorneys, who continue to instruct you that you may run over the People’s rights, and then omit important parts of the law, so you may say that you had a good faith belief that all you did was acceptable. As one of the People, I believe it may be wise for you to learn the Constitutions that you swore to protect, and if you have not previously read them, you may wish to begin now. Please understand that it is you that swore and made an obligation to the People. If you should be found in trespass of your oath, your attorneys have absolutely no responsibility or punishment for hiding the law or failing to teach you the law and the Constitution.

All officers of government take Oaths to uphold the Constitutional provisions and thus to safeguard those rights. See reference below:

Oath of Office for Hawaii Elected Servants:

Article 16 Section 4. OATH OF OFFICE

Section 4. All eligible public officers, before entering upon the duties of their respective offices, shall take and subscribe to the following oath or affirmation: "I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will support and defend the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as ... to best of my ability." As used in this section, "eligible public officers" means the governor, the lieutenant governor, the members of both houses of the legislature, the members of the board of education, the members of the national guard, State or county employees who possess police powers, district court judges, and all those whose appointment requires the consent of the senate. [Ren and am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978; am SB 1440 (1992) and election Nov 3, 1992] [Emphasis Highlighted]

Please take Notice that the government officials lack authority, and there is a lack of historical precedent, because the People never granted that authority in any of the 51 Trust Indentures.

THE MATTER OF STATUTES

c. Constitutional-doubt canon

Statutes should be construed so as to avoid placing their constitutionality in doubt. *Crowell v. Benson*, 285 U.S. 22, 62 (1932).

Please take notice, the statute(s) passed and enacted by the legislature in Hawaii, which converted declared rights into conditional privileges by requiring a tax or fee in order to enjoy, engage in, or participate in exercising ANY Article 1 Right, or by instituting exemptions, and subsequently modifying terms or repealing them, for example, requiring the children of the People to be vaccinated in order to attend public or private school, and participate in the Title 42, non-positive law, revenue generating administrative program, should have followed this canon. Current legislative bills and acts amending existing statute and code, in order to require as many of the children of the People and adults likewise, to participate in the administrative program should follow suit as well. They are unconstitutional, they violate the private, declared rights of the People, and their liberty interests in making their own, private health decisions, even while participating in public.

Commerce Clause. The Commerce Clause, which entitles Congress "[t]o regulate Commerce ... among the several States," U.S. Const. art. I, §8, cl. 3, is the only enumerated power that conceivably empowered Congress to enact the Emergency Provision. While courts have broadly construed the Clause's language, two limiting principles prove relevant here. First, this Court "*always has* rejected readings of the Commerce Clause and the scope of federal power that would permit Congress to exercise a police power." *United States v. Morrison*, 529 U.S. 598, 618–19 (2000) (quotation omitted). Because Congress has no police power, and because regulating public health and safety is part of the police power, *Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 197 U.S. 11, 24–25 (1905), the Commerce Clause gives Congress no power to regulate public health and safety. Second, the Commerce Clause does not permit the regulation of private inactivity, such as the decision not to purchase health insurance. *NFIB v. Sebelius*, 567 U.S. 519, 557–58 (2012) (op. of Roberts, C.J.).

Please take further Notice the People never gave the Federal or State Executive branches the authority to create mandates, executive orders, Emergency Temporary Standards or policies that violate declared rights of the People, without consent or following due process, whether they are in private or acting as persons in commerce. This includes those persons who own or work as employees for corporations that partner and work under Federal Contract. The People never gave permission to Trustees to convert a declared or natural right into a conditional privilege. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

The People never gave permission or authority to subject the People (Who reserve PRIVATE status under Constitutional Authority) to statutory, commerce law, Acts, Statutes, Codes and Orders, which abrogate Constitutional declared rights, which contain provisions such as: exemptions that can set terms, can be amended, abolished or revoked whichever way the "political wind" blows, however a group, consensus, or majority wish to dictate at the time, and convert ANY of the declared rights into a conditional privilege. Likewise, the People were never given authority to waive those rights. The People do not need exemptions or conditional permissions in order to reserve or exercise ANY declared right. The declared rights of the People are PRIVATE.

Texas Constitution Article 1 Section 19: Deprivation of Life, Liberty, Etc.; Due Course of Law

"No citizen of this State shall be deprived of life, liberty, property, privileges or immunities,

or in any manner disfranchised, except by the due course of the law of.”
the land [Emphasis
by Highlight Added]

Kentucky Constitution Bill of Rights Section 2 - Absolute and Arbitrary Power Denied:

“Absolute and arbitrary power over the lives, liberty and property of freemen
exists Highlight]
nowhere in a republic, not even in the largest [Emphasis Added by
majority.” Norton v Shelby

County, 118 US 425 (1886) Supreme Court decision

"An unconstitutional act is not Law it confers no rights; it imposes no duties; affords no protection: it
creates no office. It is, in legal contemplation, as inoperative as though it had never been passed."
[Emphasis Added by Highlight]

Please take notice that government, its institutions, and existence is intended to only exist for the good of the
whole. History has shown this to be the contrary with regards to the Hawaiian People, the natives, the Kanaka,
the Kapuna. Federal, State and local governments have favored the will of corporations, individuals, and
revenue/profit over the life, liberty, safety, property rights, equal access to water, and happiness; violating their
Article 1 Declared Rights, in favor of special interests, and neglecting the whole. These acts are in gross
maladministration and the People demand remedy.

Madison v. Marbury, 5 U.S. 137 (1803)

Chief Justice John Marshall noted, “. . . A law repugnant to the Constitution is void, and that court, as
well as other departments, are bound by that instrument.” [Emphasis Added by
Highlight]

SUPPORTING MAXIMS OF LAW

Reference: MAXIMS OF LAW, by Charles A. Weisman

1. ACCIDENT

1d. Mistakes, neglect, or misconducts are not to be regarded as accidents. *Citizens Nat. Bank v. Cincinnati*, 19
Ohio Ded. 685, 687.

Elected servants cannot regard their mistakes, neglect, or willful misconduct as an accident. [Emphasis Added
by Highlight]

2. ACT, ACTS, ACTIONS

2d. Not what is said, but what is done, is to be regarded. *Co. Litt.* 36; 6 Bingh. 310; *Osborn v. Cook*, 11 Cush.
(Mass.) 536.

2r. Acts indicate the intention. 8 *Coke*, 291; *Broom, Max.* 270; *Troy v. Yelle*, 176 P.2d 459, 463.

Elected servants, your actions on record, and the events that have taken place, are what
show

your intention and what are being regarded in the
matter.

We the People, with all political power, demand remedy by repealing all executive proclamations, orders,
legislative statute, with language attacking, violating, trampling the Peoples Rights. Language must be replaced
with and include: “the People, as found in Article I in the Hawaii Constitution, are exempt .” [Emphasis Added
by Highlight]

11. AUTHORITY, POWER (See also SERVANT, JURISDICTION)

11f. Power can never be delegated which the authority said to delegate never possessed itself. *N.J. Steam Co. v.*
Merch Bank, 6 How. (47 U.S.) 344, 407.

Elected servants did not receive permission from the People to delegate authority to a foreign entity or to carry
out their agenda.(Eg. United Nations) The People have no charter with them. Likewise, you never possessed
authority to trample declared rights of the people or delegate it to others.

11i. Where there is no authority for establishing a rule, there is no necessity of obeying it. *Black’s*, 2d
1181; *Dav. Ir. K.B.* 69. Unless power is for no purpose. *Branch*,
Princ.

18. COMMON LAW (See Also: CUSTOM -:- LAW)

- 18a.** Those things which are derogatory to the common law are to be strictly interpreted. *Jenk. Cent.* 29; *Id.* p. 221, case 72.
- 18c.** Things derogatory to the common law are not to be drawn into precedent. Branch, *Princ.*
- 18e.** The custom of all the countries is the common law of the country. *Jenk. Cent.* 119.

51. GOVERNMENT

- 51a.** The government cannot load a citizen with imposition against his will or consent. 2 *Coke*, 61.
- 51b.** The government is to be subject to the law, for the law makes the government. C.L.M.
- 51c.** Obedience makes government, not the name by which it is called. C.L.M. **51e.** No one should hold two offices at the same time. 4 *Inst.* 100.

Police Chief John Pelletier holds two offices. One as Chief of Police and one as Coroner. This is a

conflict of interest, and John Pelletier **should resign**. Governor Josh Green has acted as though he

holds two offices. One as Governor of Hawaii and another as an agent for the United Nations. His actions on record show that the intent to abrogate the Hawaii Constitution in favor of carrying out the agenda of a foreign entity are conflicts of interest. He should resign. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

- 51i.** Individual liberties are antecedent to all governments. C.L.M.
- 51k.** The law is not to be violated by those in government. *Jenk. Cent.* 7.
- 51m.** Men must turn square corners when they deal with the government. *Rock Island R.R. v. U.S.*, 254 U.S. 141, 143.
- 51o.** All political power is inherent in the people by decree of God, thus none can exist except it be derived from them. American Maxim.
- 51p.** The main object of government is the protection and preservation of personal rights, private property, and public liberties, and upholding the law of God. *American Maxim.*
- 51q.** A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and a firm adherence to justice, virtue, and original law, are indispensably necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and good government. *American Maxim.*

It is the Peoples' wish, order and demand that the state and county governments return to its

fundamental principles with a firm adherence to the [Emphasis Added by Highlight] above.

The premise of Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal and Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent specifically means that both principal and agent are deemed to have notice of whatever either has notice of and ought, in good faith exercise care and diligence to communicate to the other, to its departments, branches, agencies, and its employees. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

51r. As usurpation is the exercise of power, which another has a right to; so tyranny is the exercise of power beyond right, which no body can have a right to. *Locke, Treat.* 2, 18, 199.

Please take note that We the People witnessed federal, state and county agencies, private contractors, FEMA, military and other contractors acting as security and police in Lahaina, Maui, immediately following the fires. They obstructed the Peoples rights for access to their property not only to deliver food and aid to those in need, they erected barrier fences and blockades, preventing access and observation of activity being conducted on the land, with the EPA recommending Soiltec to distribute chemicals onto their land without permission. They usurped an exercise of power they were never granted by the People.

The State has no right to regulate Private rights of the People, period. They were denied access to public docks and roads for emergency provisions after the disaster event. They were denied access to the cultural and religious areas affected by the disaster.

Please take notice that We the People wish, order and demand all federal, state and county agencies, private contractors, commercial buyers, developers and international corporations, cease and desist, and vacate the lands and properties surrounding Punalu'u in Ka'u on the Island of Hawaii; Leilani Estates in Puna on the Island of Hawaii where geothermal blasts are currently compromising the lava fissures, land, water, and marine ecosystem, and affecting the health and well-being of the people. This activity violates Article I of the Trust Agreement, the corporations have been notified, the servants have been notified of these violations, the people have been ignored, and corporations continue to do harm. The People, with all political power, have the power to force the legislature to revoke any license to do business within the State when the officers and agents refuse to take corrective action, after violating the People's Rights.

Please take further notice, that We the People wish, order and demand that all federal, state and county agencies, private contractors, commercial buyers, real estate brokers, developers and international corporations **vacate projects incentivized for development of commercial land expansion** throughout the islands and its

counties of O’ahu, Kaua’i, Moloka’i, Maui, and Hawai’i Island. This includes initiatives such as “Opportunity Zones” for new community development promoting commerce that the People did not authorize. It is unlawful to be brokering land for which no government official, agency, or real estate broker was given the permission to sell by the People.

Please take notice that We the People also wish, order and demand that any entity operating within the islands and compromising our rich soil with toxic contaminants be removed from operation; any person or agency compromising our natural cave ecosystem, disrupting our heiaus or excavating our iwi kupunas, dredging or mining of our ocean floors - the marine ecosystem immediately halt all operations. The People did not authorize or provide permission to conduct activities that directly affect the People’s land and natural resources. The unlawful statutes have allowed federal, state, county, and its unlawful agencies to mismanage the interests of Hawaii, to properly represent and protect the People’s culture. It is also unlawful to allow, authorize and approve foreign interests and buyers to our lands, just the same as it is for domestic interests.

Please provide proof of any constitutional provision that allows an elected servant, official, or its agencies to enforce or delegate any authority against the people.

This is a violation of Hawaii State Constitution, Article XII OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS, TRADITIONAL AND CUSTOMARY RIGHTS Section 7. “The State reaffirms and shall protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes and possessed by ahupua’a tenants who are descendants of Hawaiians who inhabited the Hawaiian Islands prior to 1778, subject to the right of the State to regulate such rights.”

This is a violation of the Hawaiian Kingdom’s Constitution of 1864, Article 1. “God hath endowed with certain inalienable rights; among which are life, liberty, and the right of acquiring, possessing, and protecting property, and of pursuing and obtaining safety and happiness.”

54. HOMES, HOUSE, RESIDENCE

54c. There is nothing more sacred, more inviolate, than the house of every citizen. C.L.M.

57. IGNORANCE (See also: KNOWLEDGE ~ ERROR)

57a. Ignorance of those things which one is bound to know excuses not. *Hale*, P.C. 42; *Broom*, *Max*. 267; 4 Bl. *Comm*. 27.

66. JURISDICTION (See also: AUTHORITY ~ JUDGE ~ JUDGMENT)

66d. Statutes are confined to their own territory, and have no extraterritorial effect. *Woodworth v. Spring*, 4 Allen (Mass.) 324.

Likewise, the political agenda of a foreign interest, without charter agreement or permission from the People has no extraterritorial effect. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

70. LAND, REAL ESTATE (See also: HOMES ~ PROPERTY ~ INHERITANCE)

70L. Water runs and ought to run as it has used to run. *Bouv*. 118; *Kauffman v. Griesemer*, 26 Penn. St. 407, 413; 3 Kent, *Comm*. 439.

It is past time to restore water rights back to the way they flowed prior to contracts with corporations, which diverted a significant volume of water for their special interests, over the natural rights of the inhabitants, the People. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

70p. *Allodial* land is that possessed by a man in his own right, free and absolute, without owing any rent or service to any superior. *Barker v. Dayton*, 28 Wis. 367, 377; 2 Bl. *Comm*. 104; 3 Kent, *Comm*. 495.

Private land ownership is a right of the People. Government is not superior and has no authority to tax, require registry or license in order to own or possess a private right. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

70q. The law of God and the law of the land are all one; and both preserve and favor the private rights to the land. *Keilw*. 191.

84. OATHS

84h. In law, none is credited unless he is sworn. All facts must, when established by witnesses, be under oath or affirmation. *Cro. Car*. 64; *Bouv*. 130.

This is why anything an elected servant says publicly or through a written document will not be

credited unless it is through sworn, notarized affidavit. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

91. PROPERTY RIGHTS & POSSESSION (See also: LAND LEGAL RIGHTS, INHERITANCE) 91ee. No man is compelled to sell his own property, even for a just price. 4 *Inst.* 275.

Please take Final Notice, all servants, employers, businesses, legislative body members, and Administrative Agency actors, that as one of the People, I wish for you to know all of the deception and ignorance of your attempts to remove the liberties of the People, are without excuse. The People are the Masters of government and the time for correction is now. I send this Notice in complete love and peace, and in the hope that these errors will be promptly corrected, so that we shall dwell in liberty, and you may stand honestly in your dealings with those you are hired or elected to serve.

The People, having all political power and hiring servants to carry out their business, never granted authority for those servants to coerce or force the people into contracts, programs or provisions, systems, foreign agendas, state statute or executive orders and proclamations that are falsely presented as law. I, as one of the People, hereby wish, order, and demand the recipients of this Notice show the Constitutional Provisions granting such authority, by sworn, notarized affidavit under penalty of perjury, where you believe you can trample upon the inherent rights of the People enumerated below; and provide the Constitutional authority being used to ignore/defy US and State Constitutional Laws, and Supreme Court precedents. The People shall not be deprived of life, liberty or property, without due process of law. Any other form of communication will be considered invalid as stated in the aforementioned maxim of law. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

The people demand that you show these items within five (5) days, or you agree, by tacit acquiescence, that you are working in maladministration to attack the People, against your Trust Indenture/Constitution, and are knowingly Trespassing against the rights of the People you swear to protect, committing Trust Fraud. If you fail to meet these demands, you agree to \$10,000,000.00 personally, for ANY and ALL encroachments against the rights of the People. This Notice shall stand as evidence against you that any transgression was with full knowledge and understanding of these issues. [Emphasis Added by Highlight]

To: Supreme Court

To: Jim Jordan, Thomas Massie, Marjorie Taylor Greene

Notice and Demand for Clarity in Regards to People's Remedies

I, The People, one of the People (as seen in the 50 State Constitutions), Sui Juris, by necessity, do present you with the following fundamental principles that you may provide immediate due care:

Please take notice that the People have assembled and taken proper time to study and have come to the realization that the constitutions are trusts and that the government is at all times, in a legal way, amenable to the People (see evidence below):

John Locke Two Treatises of Government

171. Secondly, political power is that power which every man having in the state of Nature has given up into the hands of the society, and therein to the governors whom the society hath set over itself, with this express or tacit trust, that it shall be employed for their good and the preservation of their property. (Underlined for emphasis)

New Hampshire Constitution Bill of Rights Text of Article 38: Social Virtues Inculcated

A frequent recurrence to the fundamental principles of the constitution, and a constant adherence to justice, moderation, temperance, industry, frugality, and all the social virtues, are indispensably necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and good government; the people ought, therefore, to have a particular regard to all those principles in the choice of their officers and representatives, and they have a right to require of their lawgivers and magistrates, an exact and constant observance of them, in the formation and execution of the laws necessary for the good administration of government. (Underlined for emphasis)

New Hampshire Constitution Bill of Rights Text of Article 10: Right of Revolution

Government being instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security, of the whole community, and not for the private interest or emolument of any one man, family, or class of men; therefore, whenever the ends of government are perverted, and public liberty manifestly endangered, and all other means of redress are ineffectual, the people may, and of right ought to reform the old, or establish a new government. The doctrine of nonresistance against arbitrary power, and oppression, is absurd, slavish, and destructive of the good and happiness of mankind. (Underline added for emphasis)

Please take notice that the People in assembly and study have realized in the historical context and in the text tradition of America, that the People instituted government for their benefit and needs, and that it is not acceptable for government officials to blatantly attack rights, block forms of redress, or decide not to protect the common rights of the People, which are derivative of the common law (see blacks law 5th edition). There has also been an open and consistent battle from government servants and attorneys, shaking a fist of rebellion upon the People, as though the People don't have the power to hold them accountable according to the law.

Understanding that the people have the right of redress, the People demand, wish and order, for you to provide clarity regarding the People's right, in a historical context of reporting crimes directly to grand juries (without being blocked by bar association members), a right to the use of Arbitration, a right of free access to legislative bodies as they have a duty to give redress freely, without obligation to purchase, denial or delay, as well as other remedies. This demand for point of clarity is made by necessity as the attacks are made on a loving and Christian people, who present the following evidence of attacks attached. If you believe that the People are constitutionally and lawfully allowed to be summarily dismissed and subjected to attacks by attorneys or actors in government, please respond by sworn affidavit within 14 days with constitutional provisions stating the same. However, the People dating back to the Magna Carta and scriptures, whose principles had an integral part in establishing our Republic, had a right to take a matter before the brethren, to arbitrate, and that the People in America have a guaranteed right to protect life, liberty and property, and that all servants are trustees. As such, the People have a right to immediate remedy for breach of trust and can demand remedy for wrongs done. This notice is sent to you in the peace and love of Christ that justice and restoration may be had as the People should not have to suffer wrongs and tyranny, while waiting for

a fictitious process and administrative nonsense. (Please see attached evidence of sufferings of the People).

Black’s Law Dictionary 5th Edition

COMMON RIGHT. A term applied to rights, privileges, and immunities appertaining to and enjoyed by all citizens equally and in common, and which have their foundation in the common law.

X

Autograph

08-21-2024_____
Date

Hello,

It is my wish as one the people to present to you examples of evidence of two New Hampshire state representatives and a group of attorneys from various parts of the country that took to social media to argue their claims of the people being without power to instruct or demand exact due regard to law as seen in the constitutions. These examples are given to you, that, by necessity, you should publicly acknowledge that the People's rights to demand the constitutions be followed as the contracts and trust they are, that the people may return judgement to truth and law. I want to thank you for returning to the One Step method which emphasizes founding generation's understanding of words. When I look in Websters 1828, it shows the word "instruct" to mean "To give Notice; to furnish with orders." As long as the people give Notice containing instructions for Trustees to fall back in line w the terms of the Express Trusts they swore oaths to, we should be expecting a due regard to those terms. We offer Trustees a way to rebut our instructions, but if they do not rebut, then we expect responsiveness and they swore oaths promising responsiveness at all times. Please see the following screenshots as just a very small sampling of how our Trustees are using public platforms, to dissuade other Trustees, from accepting lawful instructions by way of Notice.

1 1 4 519

The Peoples Notice of Recognition of Abused Power and Nullified Actions

Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent and Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal

I, The People , one of the People, as seen in the 50 American states (republican in form) Sui Juris, do present this Notice for you and your agents to take immediate due care;

Please take notice that the people have come together and assembled in order to examine the vitally important issues regarding our educational systems and attorneys failure to teach or use fundamental law and how it affects the functions of tribunals (presumed courts) which have not followed the common law as is required, nor fundamental principles (maxims) for decades, while attacking the people; and

Please take notice that we the People began to put the Supreme Court on notice, as well as Jim Jordan and other Congressional members, as is our duty under the constitutionally supported concept of creating an atmosphere wherein the People instruct government in a frequent recurrence to fundamental principles;

Maxim: A frequent recurrence to fundamental principles, and a firm adherence to justice, virtue, and original law, are indispensably necessary to preserve the blessings of liberty and good government. American Maxim. and

Please take notice that the People have been writing notices to the Supreme Court ahead of all the decisions reigning in the ATF, OSHA, mandates, forced vaccinations using bureaucrats, attorneys and tribunals acting unlawfully to take children, property and rights from the People, now and forever do declare these acts were void without utilizing proper judges and of no effect;

Maxim of Law 46d: Where the law prescribes a form, the nonobservance of it is fatal to the proceeding, and the whole becomes a nullity. Best, Ev. Introd. s. 59. and

Please take notice that as one of the People, I realize that any actions taken without lawful authority, courts of record, with an independent judge and trial by jury, whether at state or federal level, nullifies all such actions as is supported within Justice Gorsuch's concurring opinion re., LOPER BRIGHT ENTERPRISES ET AL. v. RAIMONDO, SECRETARY OF COMMERCE, ET AL.; "All of this served to ensure the same thing: "A fair trial in a fair tribunal." In re Murchi-son, 349 U. S. 133, 136 (1955)" The People are aware that the unlawful taking of children, property, rights or substance, without due process of law while serving as government officials/trustees is a breach of trust and unlawful.

Additionally, Justice Gorsuch's concurring opinion in SEC v JARKESY states;
"More than that, because it was "the peculiar province of the judiciary" to safeguard life, liberty, and property, due process often meant judicial process. 1 St. George Tucker, Blackstone's Commentaries, Editor's App. 358 (1803). That is, if the government sought to interfere with those rights, nothing less than "the process and proceedings of the common law" had to be observed before any such deprivation could take place. 3 J. Story, Commentaries on the Constitution of the United States §1783, p. 661 (1833) (Story)."

Maxim of Law 77f: No freeman shall be deprived of life, liberty or property but by the lawful judgment of his peers, or by the law of the land- that is by the common law. C.L.M.

Please take notice that the people are aware that no government official, from the lowest level to that of President, has immunity for acts that are not covered by an express grant of power. When government servants act outside of the constraints of their delegated authority, those actions are null and void and can be held liable as they are not acting within their official capacity. (See Trump v United States court case decision below)

Held: Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority. And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts. Pp. 5-43 (underlined for emphasis)

It is therefore my wish, demand and order that all local, state and federal officials forthwith, and without delay openly declare to the People that their children, liberty, property, and all else taken by use of statutory or unconstitutional tribunals be returned immediately, and that you make concerted efforts to contact all that have been unlawfully deprived of the aforementioned. If you should fail to correct any attacks on the People that bypassed the constitutionally (federal or state) mandated due process of law, you agree that YOU did so as a private act and are accountable and liable for all said trespasses and that there shall be no immunity for acts that

are executed without proper grant of authority as is upheld in the recent Supreme Court ruling; Trump v United States. Please understand that remedy shall be had by immediately acting in good faith and declaring to the People that they shall have immediate restoration of all that has been unlawfully taken by use of unconstitutional statute, Chevron Doctrine, or any other unconstitutional act. This notice is sent to you in the love and peace of Christ that justice may be had and past transgressions may become restoration.



Autograph

08-21-2024

Date

To: State Legislatures

To: Federal Legislature

To: Federal Supreme Court

Notice and Demand to Acknowledge Justice Gorsuch’s Admission of Unlawful Tribunals used against the People with Lack of Impartial Judges

I, The People , One of the People (as seen in the 50 State Constitutions), do present you with the following notice that you may provide immediate due care:

Please take notice that Bar Association members, bureaucrats and agencies have been using unlawful tribunals (under the guise of being courts) to act as judges in cases where the same hearing officer benefits;

Please take notice that these tribunals failed to allow judges to act as they would in courts of record where they would give constitutional due process. Evidence of what Gorsuch had to say in his dissent on November 7, 2022 (See attached pg. 9 of Gorsuch Opinion) is an admission of the wrongs done to the People in many cases involved in federal programs where States, the Federal and Political Subdivisions are being given financial benefits from the same cases they are all taking part in while disregarding fundamental rights of the People. This notice is given to you that you may look deeper into this occurrence as a Trustee and Servant of the People.

Please take notice that any CPS, Child Support Enforcement, Highway Safety Act, or other agency that held tribunals attacking the rights of the People are unlawful. The People are aware and demand that the Federal Legislature and Supreme Court acknowledge the same above statement. Should there be any further actions or participation in any legislative or executive branch tribunals, it will be understood that you are taking part with full knowledge, malice and understanding, by the People.

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Autograph

_____08-21-2024

Date

Attached Instrument: Page 9
1 Cite as: 598 U. S. ____ (2022)

SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES

THOMAS H. BUFFINGTON *v.* DENIS R. McDONOUGH,
SECRETARY OF VETERAN AFFAIRS
ON PETITION FOR WRIT OF CERTIORARI TO THE UNITED
STATES COURT OF APPEALS FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT
No. 21–972. Decided November 7, 2022

.....the APA and our longstanding and never-overruled precedent. It also turns out to pose a serious threat to some of our most fundamental commitments as judges and courts.

In this country, we like to boast that persons who come to court are entitled to have independent judges, not politically motivated actors, resolve their rights and duties under law. Here, we promise, individuals may appeal to neutral magistrates to resolve their disputes about “what the law is.” *Marbury v. Madison*, 1 Cranch 137, 177 (1803). Everyone, we say, is entitled to a judicial decision “without respect to persons,” 28 U. S. C. §453, and a “fair trial in a fair tribunal,” *In re Murchison*, 349 U. S. 133, 136 (1955).

Under a broad reading of *Chevron*, however, courts often fail to deliver on all these promises. Rather than provide individuals with the best understanding of their rights and duties under law a neutral magistrate can muster, we outsource our interpretive responsibilities. Rather than say what the law is, we tell those who come before us to go ask a bureaucrat. In the process, we introduce into judicial proceedings a “systematic bias toward one of the parties.” P. Hamburger, *Chevron Bias*, 84 Geo. Wash. L. Rev. 1187, 1212

(2016). Nor do we exhibit bias in favor of just any party. We place a finger on the scales of justice in favor of the most powerful of litigants, the federal government, and against everyone else. In these ways, a maximalist account of *Chevron* risks turning *Marbury* on its head.

Overreading *Chevron* introduces still other incongruities into our law. Often we insist that it is a basic requirement of due process that “no man can be a judge in his own case.” *Williams v. Pennsylvania*, 579 U. S. 1, 8–9 (2016). As far back as *Calder v. Bull*, 3 Dall. 386 (1798), this Court recognized that it would be “against all reason” to “entrust a Legislature” with the power to “mak[e] a man a Judge in his own cause,” and therefore “it cannot be presumed that[the people] have done it,” *id.*, at 388 (opinion of Chase, J.)

To: The Supreme Court Justices

To: Thomas Massie, Jim Jordan, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Lauren Boebert

The People’s Notice and Demand to Prosecute, Impeach and Punish Private Acts and Unconstitutional Deprivations

Notice to Principal is Notice to Agent and Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal

I, The People, one of the People, as seen in the 50 American states (republican in form) Sui Juris, do present this Notice for you and your agents to take immediate due care;

Please take notice that we the People have assembled, learned and become aware of our authority regarding the regulation of our government servants, and

Please take notice that since it’s clear that all government officials acting without constitutional authority are not acting in an official capacity and are therefore without immunity, we the People demand that Jack Smith, who has been placed in a position which is not in line with constitutional authority, and has deprived one of the People, and a past servant, of his right to be left in peace, that he be investigated immediately, be removed from office (or pretended position), and that he be held liable by being tried before a jury of his peers as the People now realize that any person doing acts not granted in the constitutions are simply doing private acts with no immunity (See Trump vs United States Below):

Held: Under our constitutional structure of separated powers, the nature of Presidential power entitles a former President to absolute immunity from criminal prosecution for actions within his conclusive and preclusive constitutional authority. And he is entitled to at least presumptive immunity from prosecution for all his official acts. There is no immunity for unofficial acts. Pp. 543.

Please take notice that the People realize that Jack Smith did not have authority to carry out the acts against President Trump and has therefore infringed upon the rights of one of the People without lawful authority; and

Please take notice that the People realize that no actor in government can hire another person or agent to do what they are not able to do themselves and government is not that which is in name, but that which is in obedience to the People and the Constitution that creates their seats (see evidence below);

Maxim: Obedience makes government not the name by which it is called. **Common Law Maxim**

Maxim of Law: 11f. Power can never be delegated which the authority said to delegate never possessed itself. **N.J. Steam Co. v. Merch Bank, 6 How. (47 U.S.) 344, 407**

It is therefore my wish, order and demand that all government actors take immediate action in providing justice to the People by means of the legislature conducting an immediate investigation, removing or defunding any office that will use power not granted to attack the People or that hire actors as agents to do the same, and that the Supreme Court using its power declare and make a statement of the unlawfulness of actors interfering with the lives, liberty and property of the People under the guise of lawful power and authority. Furthermore, I demand that the Supreme Court share by statement the Power of the People to use grand juries to prosecute any actor infringing on the rights of the People and declare the unlawfulness of actors using the idea of sovereign immunity to block the People from seeking justice. This notice is sent in the love and peace of Christ that you and your agents, by necessity, may provide due care.

Maxim: “Judicial notice is a form of evidence.”
Mann v Mann, 172 P. 2d 369, 375, 76 Cal. App. 2d 32.

X

Autograph

08-21-2024

Date

To: US Supreme Court (All Justices)

To: Jim Jordan, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Thomas Massie (Please submit to all Congress members)

The People’s Notice of Encroachment and Intent To Abolish

Notice to Principal Is Notice to Agent and Notice to Agent is Notice to Principal

Please take notice that I, _____The People._____, one of the People (As seen in the 50 American State Constitutions) Sui Juris, do present you with this notice that you may provide immediate due care; And

Please take notice that the People have assembled and realize that the only purpose of our forefathers creating constitutions and political bodies, is to protect the People’s rights and property (See Evidence from John Locke’s Two Treatises of Government below)

John Locke Two Treatises of Government Chapter XV of Paternal, Political and Despotical Power, Considered Together. Section 171.

171. Secondly, political power is that power which every man having in the state of Nature has given up into the hands of the society, and therein to the governors whom the society hath set over itself, with this express or tacit trust, that it shall be employed for their good and the preservation of their property. Now this power, which every man has in the state of Nature, and which he parts with to the society in all such cases where the society can secure him, is to use such means for the preserving of his own property as he thinks good and Nature allows him; and to punish the breach of the law of Nature in others so as (according to the best of his reason) may most conduce to the preservation of himself and the rest of mankind; so that the end and measure of this power, when in every man’s hands, in the state of Nature, being the preservation of all of his society—that is, all mankind in general—it can have no other end or measure, when in the hands of the magistrate, but to preserve the members of that society in their lives, liberties, and possessions, and so cannot be an absolute, arbitrary power over their lives and fortunes, which are as much as possible to be preserved; but a power to make laws, and annex such penalties to them as may tend to the preservation of the whole, by cutting off those parts, and those only, which are so corrupt that they threaten the sound and healthy, without which no severity is lawful. And this power has its original only from compact and agreement and the mutual consent of those who make up the community.

Virginia Constitution Article 1 Text of Section 3: Government Instituted for Common Benefit

“That government is, or ought to be, instituted for the common benefit, protection, and security of the people, nation, or community; of all the various modes and forms of government, that is best which is capable of producing the greatest degree of happiness and safety, and is most effectually secured against the danger of maladministration; and, whenever any government shall be found inadequate or contrary to these purposes, a majority of the community hath an indubitable, inalienable, and indefeasible right to reform, alter, or abolish it, in such manner as shall be judged most conducive to the public weal.”

Please take notice that as one of the People, we declare that you have become inadequate and are encroaching upon our rights by allowing FEMA and other actors to interfere with the People’s right to self-preservation and the misappropriation of funds. As such, we demand that you immediately stop funding the actions of FEMA and they should immediately cease and desist from interfering with the People’s rescue efforts. Furthermore, it is the intent of the People to reform, alter and abolish all constitutions, as seen necessary to end the inadequacy of all government actors failing to handle the People’s business with proper due service and care.

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Autograph

_____ 11-17-2024 _____

Date

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:12:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kevin Tinneney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a Hawaii resident with school-age children, I serve as a lifeguard for the City and County. Together, my wife and I also own and operate two small businesses in our state.

I am writing to express my urgent concern and opposition to HB 1118.

While I am not anti-vaccine—my children have received vaccines—I hold personal and religious beliefs that oppose certain vaccines derived from cell lines of aborted fetuses, such as the COVID-19 and varicella (chickenpox) vaccines. Forcing my children to receive these vaccines for school goes against my beliefs and is fundamentally un-American, infringing on our rights and freedoms as individuals.

I appreciate the advancements in vaccine science but firmly believe no family should be compelled to vaccinate against their religious convictions. The diversity of personal values is one of the strengths of living in America, and it's essential to respect those differences.

I urge you and the committee to reconsider this deeply flawed bill. Many residents in our state share my concerns, and it is in dire need of amendments before any consideration for passage.

For my family, the implications are severe. We may be forced to leave Hawaii, resulting in the loss of a dedicated 15-year lifeguard and two local businesses. It's disheartening to think that after years of serving this community and saving countless lives in the water, I along with my family, now face uncertainty about our future.

This bill doesn't merely impose vaccination requirements; it alters the lives of countless families in Hawaii.

I implore you to oppose this legislation or, at the very least, push for significant amendments.

Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:17:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Labanon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawai‘i. This bill violates fundamental freedoms, disregards deeply held religious beliefs, and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal medical decisions.

As a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple given by God (1 Corinthians 6:19-20), and I have the God-given right to make informed choices about my health in accordance with my conscience and spiritual convictions. Mandating vaccinations and stripping away religious exemptions directly infringes upon my First Amendment rights, which guarantee the free exercise of religion.

Religious exemptions have long been recognized as a legitimate safeguard for those whose faith convictions prevent them from receiving certain medical interventions. Denying this exemption forces individuals to act against their conscience and compels them to violate their faith under the threat of exclusion from education, employment, or participation in society. Such coercion is not only unconstitutional but fundamentally un-American.

Furthermore, HB1118 disregards the principle of informed consent. Every medical decision carries risks, and individuals must be free to weigh those risks in light of their personal beliefs and medical histories. By mandating vaccines without allowing for religious exemptions, the government assumes authority over deeply personal health decisions that should be left to individuals and families, not legislators.

Hawai‘i is a place of diverse cultures, beliefs, and traditions. Our laws should reflect and respect this diversity rather than impose one-size-fits-all mandates that undermine individual freedoms. Religious exemptions exist to protect minority beliefs from government overreach, and eliminating them under HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could extend to other areas of medical and personal autonomy.

I urge you to vote NO on HB1118 and uphold the constitutional and moral right to religious freedom. No one should be forced to choose between their faith and their ability to participate in society.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Krista Labanon
Kaneohe, Hawai'i

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:21:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaitlyn Williamson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Forced vaccine mandates are unconstitutional and I do not accept.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:24:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Sagon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent I won't allow anyone telling me or my wife what my kids can or cannot do. These are my wife and I kids. We're parents for a reason. And we make decisions for them until they are 18 years old. I will not allow anyone telling me how to raise my kids.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:27:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dural Duenas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:28:56 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

It's completely immoral and unconstitutional.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:37:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Bright III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Matthew Bright III and I oppose this bill. As a parent and grandparent the government does not have the right to mandate vaccines to my children as well as anybody else. Religious exemptions are protected under the Costitution which you as legislotors swore to protect.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:39:17 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Britnie Sanborn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of young children, I oppose this bill!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:46:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maria Leiva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in opposition to this bill because Hawaii Constitution Art 1 Sec 2 "All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property.

These rights CANNOT endure unless the PEOPLE recognize their corresponding obligations and responsibilities."

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:46:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Worman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Myself and my family of 7 are residents of Hawi and I would ask that you oppose this bill and its government overreach into personal medical decisions for our families and children in this community. As a nurse of 20 years, I have provided many vaccines to patients but I have also accepted many vaccine refusals. As a healthcare professional, it has never been and never will be appropriate for me to pressure anyone into receiving any recommended treatment. It is my job to provide information and education. It is the provider's responsibility to provide risk and benefit information as pertinent to that patient's health. And it is the patient and family's responsibility to determine what treatment they will receive or decline based on that counseling and their personally held beliefs and values. To coerce patients into receiving treatment is ethically wrong. It's immoral. We are called to respect every individual and their ability to think and make their own decisions whether or not we agree with those decisions. Hawaiian families should not have their children's education held hostage by medical treatment. This bill should not be passed. Forcing every child in Hawaii to receive the same medical treatment in order to be educated is ethically wrong. Those decisions should not be dictated by government mandate. That does not protect our children. It does not teach them that they are individuals with rights and protections as people. It teaches them to be followers, to not think for themselves, and to blindly accept the rule of others because they don't have their own voice. Let's raise Hawaiian children higher and better than that. Let's teach them to think for themselves and to wisely evaluate and make good decisions.

Every individual in Hawaii should be allowed to adhere to their personal belief system without prejudice! Many religious beliefs conflict with recommended medical treatments across the globe. How arrogant that a group of elected government representatives could attempt to dictate that all residents of Hawaii set aside their personal beliefs and values in order to participate in basic programs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:47:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

OPPOSE !!

Thank you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:48:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I believe everyone should have the right to choose what happens to their body and anything that forces them to do otherwise is a sin.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:50:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aldo Riley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly urge our elected leaders to oppose the further passing of HB1118. Not only does this bill negatively impose on the religious protections given under our Constitution, but it also impedes on the rights of a parent to make the best choices in life for the child. We The People should be able make the choice as to what vaccines are best suited for our children with the guidance of our personal doctors. Schools do not and should not have all personal medical information and by mandating certain vaccines requirements you will be forcing or limiting families from making informed decision that may have negative effects on other underlying conditions just so that their children do t have to miss out on an education. HB1118 is a bad idea, and overall goes against the "my body, my choice" narrative that many local politicians support.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:50:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Breon Michel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In complete opposition, and here are just a few reasons:

- These bills threaten religious freedom. Hawaii should not interfere in a decision that is a parent's right to make for their minor children, guided by their religious beliefs.
- The vaccination rate for children in Hawaii is already high at 94.8 percent. Religious exemptions have not created a public health issue.
- Vaccines are medical procedures that carry a risk of serious injury. The U.S. Supreme Court recognizes vaccines to be "unavoidably unsafe" and to cause injury and death in some recipients. The U.S. Government has paid out approximately \$5.2 billion to the victims of vaccine injury.
- These bills discriminate against children and families who refuse vaccinations based on religious beliefs by barring them from public education.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:55:48 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Kim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition to this bill. This is unconstitutional and a blatant power grab by the governor to run roughshod over our civil rights. Anyone who votes for this bill will be vigorously opposed by the public who overwhelmingly opposes the restriction of choice and bodily autonomy in every way.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:57:11 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a registered nurse and registered dietitian and mother to three little boys, I strongly oppose removing religious exemptions to vaccinations. Who are lawmakers to say that there is only one way of preventing disease? There are many ways to prevent and treat disease. Even in conventional medicine there is never just one single method or drug or treatment to treat or prevent an ailment. Also who are lawmakers to have such authority and power to dictate a person's or parents' conscience? This bill could potentially have crippling affects on schools and smaller private schools too who are no longer allowed to accept religious exemptions. This rigid rule would deter parents even more. Also there are legitimate reasons to not vaccinate for children and even adults who have autoimmune diseases. And there is medical evidence and consensus to protect those with sensitive immune systems from getting any invasive treatment, whether it be vaccine or an infusion drug. But often that can be harder to obtain. Let people have the freedom to decide for themselves. Today many more children and adults are legitimately sensitive to ANY kind of drug or medication. To all members of congress. Respectfully, Please get this idea out of your heads that vaccines are the only way forward. While they are important- they are not the only answer. There is never only one answer to prevent and treat diseases.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:03:30 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Markus Schale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee

From: Markus Schale

Date: February 21, 2025

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB1118 – Restriction of Non-Medical Immunization Exemptions

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing to voice my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. While I understand the importance of public health initiatives, this bill oversteps personal freedoms, violates parental rights, and disregards medical individuality.

1. This Bill Violates Personal and Religious Freedoms

The ability to make informed medical choices is a fundamental right. HB1118 removes non-medical exemptions, forcing individuals to accept medical procedures against their personal, religious, or philosophical beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects religious freedom, and this bill directly infringes upon those protections.

2. Parents Have the Right to Make Healthcare Decisions for Their Children

Medical decisions should not be dictated by the government. Parents are in the best position to decide what is right for their child's health, considering individual risk factors, medical history, and beliefs. This bill removes a parent's ability to make those informed, personal decisions.

3. The Importance of Medical Choice and Informed Consent

Informed consent is a cornerstone of ethical medical practice. The ability to weigh risks and benefits of any medical procedure is essential. HB1118 takes away this right, setting a dangerous precedent where individuals no longer have a say in what medical interventions they receive.

4. Unintended Consequences of HB1118

- **Increased Mistrust in Public Health:** Mandating vaccines without exemption options will alienate many families, leading to greater resistance and distrust of healthcare institutions.
- **Rise in Homeschooling & Educational Barriers:** Parents who refuse compliance will turn to homeschooling or alternative education, impacting Hawaii's public school system and reducing educational diversity.
- **Loss of Residents Who Value Medical Freedom:** Similar mandates in other states have pushed families to relocate. This could have economic and demographic consequences for Hawaii.

Conclusion

While I support public health efforts, they must be balanced with respect for civil liberties, medical freedom, and parental rights. HB1118 fails to uphold these principles. I urge the committee to reject this bill and preserve the rights of Hawaii's residents to make personal, informed medical choices.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Markus Schale

808.269.4102

mschale@hotelwailea.com

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:04:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Benigno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements should be allowed. The exemption already clearly states that the parent agrees to remove child from school setting if there is an outbreak.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:05:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Robinson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

AUWĒ HILAHILA NŌ KĒIA PILA! NO NĀ PO‘E MA HOPE O KĒIA, UA HO‘OWAIA MAI.

THIS BILL IS SHAMEFUL. FOR THOSE BACKING IT, YOU BRING DISGRACE AND SHAME ON THE “ALOHA“ STATE

To me, this bill, down to the bare bones is all about attacking respect. It is a huge overstep of all the individuals backing this bill. It is specifically about not respecting a person's right to make their own decision of what they feel is right for their own bodies.

This bill is a shame on Hawai‘i, that is purportedly called the "Aloha State"!?!? Where's the aloha for ALL people? Why is it that the bills being passed are not geared toward aloha for the lives of ALL people in Hawai‘i Moku‘āina, BUT are geared toward disrespect, greed, and forwarding the agenda of selfish people.

The Hawaiian word for respect is mahalo and there is no mahalo in this bill "championed" by people who want only to lord over others.

Those "championing" this bill don't care about children's safety, nor about the safety of any person in Hawai‘i.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:12:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik VanDenburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a voting resident in Hawaii. I strongly oppose this bill. There are many people in Hawaii who have personal religious convictions that would be violated if this bill were to pass. Please continue to honor the laws of the past which protect the individuals rights to religious exemption. Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:13:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roselin Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write to you today to offer written testimony regarding my opposition to bill HB1118 relating to Non-Medical to Immunization Requirements.

I, Roselin Dias, strongly believe that, ultimately, the parents and guardians should have the right to refuse any medical intervention or treatment for our children, such as a vaccine. Students in grades K-12, attending college and their parents, should have the ability to waive an immunization requirement for reasons of health, religion, and personal conviction.

To make matters worse, how can we refuse to acknowledge the well-being of the keiki we are tasked to educate? How can we in good conscience ignore the human rights of the students of our state? A family should not have to choose between their faith and education. We have that right to choose both.

In my opinion, any institution of education that receives public funding that requires a student to receive an immunization or vaccine as a condition of attendance be required to waive that requirement if the student objects to the immunization for reasons of health, religion and personal conviction. In addition, the school, college, or university should be prohibited from requiring the student to provide an explanation or justification for their request for a waive.

Objection to vaccinations is also related to faith and divine protection and healing to many Protestants, Catholics, Jewish, and Muslims. Here in hawaii, with our wide range of diversity, there are estimated to be up to 7,100 Jewish families, which is 0.05% and a few thousand Muslims, which is 1% of the States population. As well as many Catholic and Christian families. Will you deny them of their religious beliefs?

This comes down to the use of aborted fetal cells for vaccines' production, mainly among Catholic communities. This has raised ethical objections. Including during the C-19 outbreak when senior Catholic leaders from the US and Canada raised those same ethical objections to vaccines produced using cells derived from aborted fetuses.

Furthermore, the connection between the use of HPV vaccination and sexual promiscuity among Christian parents who consider this vaccine useless for their child as it is considered as a consequence of a certain sexual lifestyle.

Sheik A et al carried out a cross-sectional questionnaire-based study in which their observational results revealed that religious taboos were among the main reasons for non-vaccination. May I

also add the fact that the CDC list thousands of individuals claims on severe sideeffects they've endured due to the fact of a lack of well informed decisions. A risk that no individual should be forced to take.

Isn't a key part of a leaders job to actively listen to the people they lead. As this allows them to understand perspectives, build trust, and make well-informed decisions based on the needs and concerns of not just their team but their community(We the People)?

How is forcing such an act on those who stand firm in their beliefs and God showing good leadership?

It is an ashame that our leadership questions God's creation. God created our bodies to naturally heal themselves.

Genesis 1:31: God declared that all he made was very good, which could include the human body and its immune system. We have a biological order. Our bodies function a certain way. Are we not created triune man in the image of a triune God- spirit , soul, and body?

We are created as sons and daughters of God. He gave his creations purpose, body, mind, soul, and spirit. Free will. The enemy would like nothing more than to see that from happening.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:20:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dyan Sugita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Hawaii Constitution Article 1 Section 2 states that all persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherit inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property. As elected officials and to honor the oath you swore to, please protect the inherit, religious and civil rights of the people. As a mother of six children, it should be both my husband and my discretion, with the advise and wisdom of our pediatrician to decide what care my children recieve and this includes the vaccinations they may be subjected to. Each child is different and may have different health needs. Each is unique and forcing/mandating vaccines as a requirement in Hawaii Schools may cause more harm than good. Our children should not have to suffer or be held from receiving State education either. Please leave these type of decisions up to the parents. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,Dyan Sugita -
Mother/Concerned Parent

Testimony

Opposition to Hawaii House Bill HB1118 HD1 - Non-medical exemptions to required immunization

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Tanya Aynessazian and I offer testimony in opposition to HB1118 HD1. I believe this bill infringes upon inclusive policies that ensure all students have access to public education. More concerning is that this bill is an overreach of government authority and may have potential unforeseen consequences.

As someone with professional experience in developing patient studies on post- and pre- FDA approved drugs, I can say confidently that the pharmaceutical industry today is barely recognizable from where it was in the 1990s. Questions many of us had back then remain unanswered or with obscured results.

It's interesting to note the lack of studies conducted to specifically identify why some individuals are more susceptible to vaccine injury than others, and why some vaccinations or regulated drugs or drug delivery systems have higher rates of injury. These studies are needed to reduce today's understandable vaccine hesitancy and ensure maximum safety for all of us, but especially to infants and children who receive more drugs in their first seven formative years than any of us did at their age.

Many of us choose alternative therapies to long term drug use, but we talk about injecting drugs into our children at a rate that is unprecedented in an industry that is seen as above reprove. And while we can accept citizens' conspiratorial ideas as their own when it doesn't fit into our worldview, when deliberating policy it should be a best practice to explore relevant advocacy movements and take a balanced approach, seeking current data, information and analyses, utilizing multiple sources, following the money and intentions on all sources of information.

So what I'm saying is that while vaccines are widely accepted as essential for public health, focused inquiry is essential when mandates, while well-intentioned, could have unexpected long-term outcomes. Outcomes that could affect the health of the entire next generation of us - our children. Children are our future and the health of our future can hinge on just a handful of bad policies we enact.

Immunization schedules mandated for school attendance infringes on our personal freedoms, parental rights and spiritual and religious liberties. Medical decisions and treatments, including vaccination, should remain a matter of personal choice and guided by informed consent.

I look forward to how the right to choose advocacy movements will shape the way we view individual and public health, personal freedoms and the relationship we want between individuals and the state. I sincerely hope we can find a balance between public health and our individual rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

Tanya Ayenssazian

Hilo, HI

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:25:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Edwards	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stay out of peoples rights to religious freedom. You have no place to tell me or anyone else what I must put into my body or the body of my children. Vaccines have there place in society however with the insane amount of nonsensical additives put into vaccines these days they are becoming unsafe leading to terrible conditions like Autism. After the Covid vaccines failures I would think that you would be open for allowing people to make their own choices on what to put inside their bodies. God has given me the choice on how to take care of the body he gave me, he did not give you that choice. Taking away peoples liberties is a poor political move. Get on board with the new federal administration standards with Make America Healthy Again.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:30:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Strongly OPPOSE this bill HB118. As it violates constitutional rights and religious freedoms. May we all vote what is pleasing to the Lord. God bless!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:32:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is constance

and I testify in opposition to

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. (Personally relate to the bill topic and how it affects you, whether as a parent, student, or concerned community member.)

Hawali has long recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education. While public health is important, policies should also respect individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118. Mahalo fo your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:35:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the JHA Committee,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. This bill allows religious exemptions not to be used for school aged children who have a valid point of not wanting their children to be vaccinated. While I read that children who were granted a religious exemption in the past would be exempt from this new requirement, what isn't clear is would that also cover any new vaccines that are added to the list? I opposed having my older children get the HPV vaccine as they were not sexually active. They never contracted HPV and it isn't fair to penalize families who talk with their children, have open communication and strict boundaries to protect them from any sexually transmitted disease to then force them to get a vaccination with risks associated with it and to penalize them and not allow them to have the religious exemption to not get a vaccine with known risks. My younger son will not be getting the vaccine and should not be penalized or forced to get something that has risks associated with it. Religious exemptions are not just people who do not want to get vaccinated but have strong moral and ethical objections to vaccines that have risk and are not necessary. My son did not get the COVID vaccine and NEVER got COVID. I would ask you to not allow this bill to move forward and to kill it.

Respectfully,

Rebecca McGuire

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:41:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Hawaii Constitution Article 1 Section 2 states that all persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherit inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property. As elected officials and to honor the oath you swore to, please protect the inherit, religious and civil rights of the people. As a mother of four children, it should be both my husband and my discretion, with the recommendation and wisdom of our pediatrician to decide what care my children receive and this includes the vaccinations they may be subjected to. Each child is different and may have different health needs. Each is unique and forcing/mandating vaccines as a requirement in Hawaii Schools may cause more harm than good. Our children should not have to suffer or be held from receiving State education either. Please leave these type of decisions up to the parents. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,
Crystal Ganigan
Mother/Concerned Parent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:41:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

February 21, 2025

Dearest Honorables Representatives Tarnas (Chair),
Poepoe (Vice Chair), and Members Au Belatti, Cochran, Hashem, Kahaloe, Perruso, Takayama,
Todd, Garcia, Shimizu of Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs (JHA):

My name is Sherry Shimizu, I am a graduate of Pearl City High School and received a bachelor of science degree at Rochester Institute of Technology in New York with a major in Packaging Science or better known as Engineering and minor is Criminal Justice. I am a resident in Representative Gregg Takayama's Pacific Palisades, House District 34.

I am testifying today to express my very strong support for HB1118 HD1 in order to protect our keiki and community. Preventing disease outbreaks is way cheaper and efficient than cleaning up the mess and morbidity. The cost savings include public health costs, productivity costs and medical costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify and sincerely,
Sherry Shimizu

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:42:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I, Jacqueline Perez, oppose bill HB1118. I am a devout Christian and practice my faith religiously. Passing bill HB1118 will be a direct violation of our First Amendment right.

As a wife, mother of four, a devout Christian, business owner and human being, I am praying diligently and asking you to oppose HB1118. Please do your part to protect and respect everyone's religious and medical freedoms. One person's fear of getting sick should not warrant another's loss of religious freedom and personal autonomy. For those who want to vaccinate themselves and their families should have the right to do so and for those who want to partially vaccinate or not at all should also have the same right to choose. We all deserve a right to choose what is right for our lives and bodies. Parents on both sides of the matter can agree that we all want what is best for our families.

Please consider making the decision that protects our religious and medical freedom as Americans in a free country. We do not want to be forced to leave the state where we have been born and raised for lack of maintaining our freedoms. Thank you for your dedication and service, please do you due diligence and look deeply into these valid concerns. It matters that much to our family life. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Perez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:42:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I, Jacqueline Perez, oppose bill HB1118. I am a devout Christian and practice my faith religiously. Passing bill HB1118 will be a direct violation of our First Amendment right.

As a wife, mother of four, a devout Christian, business owner and human being, I am praying diligently and asking you to oppose HB1118. Please do your part to protect and respect everyone's religious and medical freedoms. One person's fear of getting sick should not warrant another's loss of religious freedom and personal autonomy. For those who want to vaccinate themselves and their families should have the right to do so and for those who want to partially vaccinate or not at all should also have the same right to choose. We all deserve a right to choose what is right for our lives and bodies. Parents on both sides of the matter can agree that we all want what is best for our families.

Please consider making the decision that protects our religious and medical freedom as Americans in a free country. We do not want to be forced to leave the state where we have been born and raised for lack of maintaining our freedoms. Thank you for your dedication and service, please do you due diligence and look deeply into these valid concerns. It matters that much to our family life. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Jacqueline Perez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:43:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Yvette Jones, I am from Hawai'i Island. I am writing in to oppose bill HB1118. I strongly believe that it is our right as parents to decide whether or not we want our keiki to get vaccinated. These are our keiki that God has entrusted to us and being forced to poison them is just wrong. It is violating our first amendment rights. We should have the free right to getting religious exemptions for vaccinations being pushed on us and should not be exempt from our first amendment right.

Mahalo for your time!

Yvette Jones

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:43:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Yvette Jones, I am from Hawai'i Island. I am writing in to oppose bill HB1118. I strongly believe that it is our right as parents to decide whether or not we want our keiki to get vaccinated. These are our keiki that God has entrusted to us and being forced to poison them is just wrong. It is violating our first amendment rights. We should have the free right to getting religious exemptions for vaccinations being pushed on us and should not be exempt from our first amendment right.

Mahalo for your time!

Yvette Jones

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:53:33 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Norman Harding	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill goes against bodily autonomy and the freedom provided in the constitution of the United States of America. This bill goes against our families religion of Christianity and is in opposition to our right to religious freedom. I strongly oppose the passing of this bill, not to mention it is more than angering that this bill had any traction and made it this far. Destroy this bill!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:54:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Akiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 as it is a violation of our rights. I am a mother of 5 with one special needs child and I believe that parents should have complete authority over what vaccines, if any, that their child should receive. I could go on and on about why I don't vaccinate my children and how research shows it is ineffective and unsafe. However, the bottom line is that we should have the right to choose. The U.S. constitution gives us, the people, the right to exercise our religious beliefs. I am asking you, our chosen leaders of Hawaii, to oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:56:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Riley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Hawaii Constitution Article 1 Section 2 states that all persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherit inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property. As elected officials and to honor the oath you swore to, please protect the inherit, religious and civil rights of the people. As a mother of 3 children, it should be both my husband and my discretion, with the recommendation and wisdom of our pediatrician to decide what care my children receive and this includes the vaccinations they may be subjected to. Each child is different and may have different health needs. Each is unique and forcing/mandating vaccines as a requirement in Hawaii Schools may cause more harm than good. Our children should not have to suffer or be held from receiving State education either. Also as a beleiver in Christ, it is my responsiblity to steward what the Lord blesses me with. Being a mom is one of those blessings, therefore I seek the Lord's Wisdom in all that I do. Please leave these type of decisions up to the parents. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Tina Riley - Mother/Concerned Parent

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:59:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Jacob Perez, oppose bill HB1118. I am a devout Christian and practice my faith religiously. Passing bill HB1118 will be a direct violation of our First Amendment right.

As a husband, father of four, a devout Christian, business owner and human being, I am praying diligently and asking you to oppose HB1118. Please do your part to protect and respect everyone's religious and medical freedoms. One person's fear of getting sick should not warrant another's loss of religious freedom and personal autonomy. For those who want to vaccinate themselves and their families should have the right to do so and for those who want to partially vaccinate or not at all should also have the same right to choose. We all deserve a right to choose what is right for our lives and bodies. Parents on both sides of the matter can agree that we all want what is best for our families.

Please consider making the decision that protects our religious and medical freedom as Americans in a free country. We do not want to be forced to leave the state where we have been born and raised for lack of maintaining our freedoms. Thank you for your dedication and service, please do you due diligence and look deeply into these valid concerns. It matters that much to our family life. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Jacob Perez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 12:59:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Guerreiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed of this bill as forcing vaccinations can raise constitutional questions related to several amendments, particularly

- **The 14th Amendment** – This amendment includes the **Due Process Clause**, which protects individuals from government actions that infringe on their life, liberty, or property without due process. I argue that mandatory vaccinations interfere with personal liberty.
- **The 1st Amendment** – I claim religious exemptions to vaccine mandates under the **Free Exercise Clause**.
- **The 4th Amendment** – This amendment protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, vaccinations constitute an intrusion on bodily autonomy.
- **The 9th Amendment** – This amendment acknowledges that people have rights beyond those explicitly listed in the Constitution, which some interpret to include medical freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:03:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barry Sugita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Hawaii Constitution Article 1 Section 2 states that all persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherit inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property. As elected officials and to honor the oath you swore to, please protect the inherit, religious and civil rights of the people. As a father of 6 children, it should be both my wife and my discretion, with the recommendation and wisdom of our pediatrician to decide what care my children receive and this includes the vaccinations they may be subjected to. Each child is different and may have different health needs. Each is unique and forcing/mandating vaccines as a requirement in Hawaii Schools may cause more harm than good. Our children should not have to suffer or be held from receiving State education either. Also as a beleiver in Christ, it is my resposiblity to steward what the Lord blesses me with. Being a father is one of those blessings, therefore I seek the Lord's Wisdom in all that I do. Please leave these type of decisions up to the parents. Thank you for your time.

Respectfully,

Barry Sugita - Father / Concerned Parent

Testimony in Objection to H.B. NO. 1118

Date: February 21, 2025

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature

From: Kelsie Chang

Re: Opposition to H.B. NO. 1118 – Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong objection to H.B. NO. 1118, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for immunizations. While I understand that the intent behind the bill may be to improve public health, it overlooks critical aspects of personal choice and parental rights when it comes to deciding what is best for their children's health. I firmly believe that non-medical exemptions should remain available, as many parents, like myself, have valid concerns about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, and our voices deserve to be heard.

1. Many Unvaccinated Children Are Healthy and Thriving:

First, I want to point out that many children who are not vaccinated are incredibly healthy, often healthier than those who have received all required vaccines. These children are not spreading vaccine-preventable diseases, and we have seen no outbreaks in our communities. The fear around unvaccinated children spreading disease is unfounded, as these children continue to thrive without contributing to any harm. There is no evidence of widespread outbreaks in areas with non-vaccinated children, and the concern over such outbreaks is largely based on fear rather than fact.

2. The Talk of Outbreaks Is Misleading:

The narrative surrounding vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks is misleading. I have not witnessed any significant outbreaks in my community among unvaccinated children. The push to eliminate non-medical exemptions is based on the assumption that unvaccinated children are a public health threat, but this is simply not the case. Many vaccinated children still become sick, and vaccines are not foolproof. We should not ignore the actual evidence, which shows that unvaccinated children are not the problem the bill makes them out to be.

3. Vaccines Are Potentially Harmful and Contain Toxic Ingredients:

Vaccines contain potentially harmful ingredients, such as mercury (thimerosal), aluminum, and formaldehyde. These substances have been linked to a variety of health issues, including neurological damage, autoimmune disorders, and developmental delays like ADHD. The risks associated with these substances are often downplayed by those promoting vaccination, and there is little transparency about what exactly is in the vaccines or the potential long-term consequences of injecting these chemicals into children. This is a serious concern, and the safety of these vaccines should be questioned before imposing mandatory vaccination policies.

4. Personal Autonomy and the Right to Decide:

The right to make informed decisions about what goes into our bodies is fundamental to personal autonomy. This right should extend to parents, who have the responsibility and duty to decide what is best for their children's health. When children become adults, they can make their own decisions regarding vaccines, but until then, parents should have the freedom to choose what is right for their children based on their own research, beliefs, and concerns. The government should not mandate what parents put into their children's bodies, especially when the risks of vaccination are not fully understood.

5. The Unacceptable Increase in Vaccine Requirements:

Over the past 13 years, I have personally witnessed an alarming increase in the number of vaccines required for children to attend school. I have seen two yellow vaccine cards in a 9 year difference, that are completely different, which shows how the requirements have expanded over the years. This shift is unacceptable. It is not right to keep increasing the number of mandatory vaccines without clear, compelling evidence that each new vaccine is necessary and safe. Parents are being pressured to comply with an ever-growing list of vaccines, many of which were not required when my older children attended school. This trend is troubling and should be addressed.

6. The Rare Availability of Doctors Willing to Treat Unvaccinated Children:

Another important issue that needs to be addressed is the scarcity of doctors who are willing to treat children who are not vaccinated. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a pediatrician or healthcare provider who will accept children who have not been vaccinated. This is a grave injustice. Doctors should be focused on the health and well-being of their patients, regardless of vaccination status, but many are driven by financial incentives and may prioritize vaccination over the holistic care of children. The pressure to vaccinate is often about making money for the healthcare industry, not about providing genuine care. The lack of discussion on the risks, ingredients, and potential side effects of vaccines is concerning. Instead of informing parents, doctors often focus solely on getting children

vaccinated, without fully explaining the potential harms or allowing parents to make informed decisions.

7. Violation of Constitutional Rights:

It is also important to note that this bill violates our fundamental constitutional rights. The right to make personal health decisions is a core principle enshrined in the Constitution, under the protection of individual freedoms and parental rights. By mandating vaccination and eliminating non-medical exemptions, this bill infringes on our right to bodily autonomy. The Constitution guarantees that individuals, especially parents, have the right to make decisions about their own and their children's health. This bill disregards those protections and undermines the freedoms that should be afforded to every citizen, particularly when the risks and ingredients of vaccines are not fully disclosed or well-understood.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reject H.B. NO. 1118. This bill infringes upon personal freedom and parental rights to make informed decisions about their children's health. Many families are healthy and thriving without the need for vaccinations, and we should not be forced into medical decisions that are not in line with our beliefs or concerns. Vaccines may carry risks that need to be discussed openly and honestly, and the choice should remain with the parents, not the government. The ongoing increase in vaccine requirements and the limited availability of doctors who will treat non-vaccinated children is a troubling trend that should be addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my objections to this bill.

Sincerely,

Kelsie Chang
PO Box 6885
Hilo, HI 96720
808-895-0270

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:10:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
dani cowan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is completely unconstitutional. I'm appalled that the government thinks it can force me, as a sovereign human, to inject something outside of my religious beliefs. This has to be stopped as it completely goes against free will.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:16:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Ho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE - We the people have the freedom to choose for ourselves.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:19:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Golesh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements, is a direct violation of our constitutional rights, particularly our rights to bodily autonomy, religious freedom, and parental choice. The government should not have the power to mandate medical procedures that force individuals to act against their deeply held beliefs or personal convictions. The First Amendment protects religious freedom, and for many, vaccination conflicts with their faith. Additionally, the right to make medical decisions for ourselves and our children is a fundamental aspect of personal liberty. No one should be coerced into a medical intervention that carries potential risks, especially when there are alternative ways to promote public health. HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent by stripping away individual choice in favor of government overreach. Instead of removing exemptions, lawmakers should respect personal freedoms and uphold the principles upon which this country was founded.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:20:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary blyth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge all lawmakers to defer to the religious rights outlined in the First Amendment protecting forced/mandated interventions in our bodies. Furthermore, anyone who ignores the documented harms related to vaccination is willfully making a decision against the very people they are supposed to protect. Where there is Risk there must be Choice. Even the vaccine inserts list death along with pages of other potential negative outcomes and harms. Please vote with your conscience and heart. Mahalo!

RE: Hawaii House Bill 1118 - Oppose

A Christian Statement on Vaccination and Religious Objection

To Committee Members, Hawaii Representatives and Governor,

As Christians with religious objections to vaccines, we share the goals of promoting good health for children and families, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. With these goals in mind, in good conscience we cannot agree to have the state mandate vaccinating our children. Some with religious objections to vaccination may choose to use some vaccines and some may abstain from all. We are united against religious discrimination which goes against our sincerely held beliefs.

Christian Reasons to avoid vaccination

1) Fetal Cell Lines

American vaccines have a serious moral issue with cell lines taken from aborted babies. The Bible teaches that “thou shalt not kill.”(1) Biblically, murdering another person is a serious offense which brings the need for redress. As God told Cain when he murdered his brother,, “What hast thou done? the voice of thy brother's blood crieth unto me from the ground.”(2) In addition to avoiding violence, Christians are also told to advocate for victims.(3)

Some of the most common vaccines are only licensed in America in forms that include live attenuated viruses cultured in aborted fetal cell lines.

The Rubella portion of the MMR or MMRV is Wistar RA 27/3.(4) It is documented that at least **eighty abortions**, likely more, took place in order to create simply that one vaccine(5) It also appears that the researchers involved had close relationships with abortionists, and obtaining babies’ bodies for the purpose of creating vaccines was intentional. What persuasion or coercion of mothers to that end took place is unknown.(6)

WI-38 is a cell line sourced from the lung tissue of a Swedish baby girl (7), and MRC-5 was taken from a baby boy. Both of these are currently in use in America, and this alone would be enough to give Christians serious pause. What is even more alarming is that the cell lines do not last forever, and there is a demand to continue to produce cell lines. One

recent one is Walvax-2, taken from a Chinese baby girl. She was one of nine aborted babies used in starting this new cell line in 2015.(8)

Many Christians avoid vaccines which include fetal cell lines. This is due to the great loss of life in producing these vaccines, concerns about human dna remnants in the vaccine itself, and a desire to avoid creating an incentive to develop similar cell lines in the future. Jessica Farnsworth, MD writes, “The only recourse I have, and would argue any Christian should have, is to boycott these products. How else will the pharmaceutical companies be influenced to produce ethical vaccines...?”(9)

2) Sexual Ethics and Substance Abuse

The Bible says, “But put ye on the Lord Jesus Christ, and make not provision for the flesh, to fulfil the lusts thereof.”(10) Christianity teaches radical self-control(11) and a lifestyle with high moral ethics, including lifetime monogamy.(12) We are to flee from sexual immorality of any kind(13) and are not to abuse the body with recreational intravenous drugs.

For most people, sexual contact or needle-sharing are the only ways to be exposed to infections such as HPV (sexual only) or Hepatitis B. Generally, these vaccines are administered in order to enable one’s children to make Biblically sinful decisions. If adults choose to pursue these lifestyles or work in high-risk fields, they can make the choice to get the vaccines. But to require Christian parents to provide them to children (who are generally not at risk of these diseases) is a violation of conscience.

3) Biblical View of the Body

We are not permitted in the Bible to treat the body in a way that we believe will harm it. The Bible teaches us that the body is created in the image of God(14), the temple of the Holy Spirit(15), a living sacrifice to the Lord.(16)

Some of us have children who have suffered vaccine reactions. Some have children with other serious health challenges. Some have children who have been told not to vaccinate by their doctors for health reasons. Some of us do not believe that one or more of the vaccines on the schedule would be a healthy choice for our family.

In addition, some believers may wish either for health or spiritual reasons to avoid blood products(17) or products from unclean animals in the levitical law, such as pigs or monkeys.(18) All of these items appear in vaccines.(19) The scripture states that “to him

that esteemeth any thing to be unclean, to him it is unclean,” (20) and instructs us not to violate the consciences of those convicted over this type of issue. (21)

For those with a sincere belief that vaccination would harm our bodies, it is a duty to God to avoid it.

4) Love of Neighbor

Jesus taught, “Thou shalt love the Lord thy God with all thy heart, and with all thy soul, and with all thy mind. This is the first and great commandment. And the second is like unto it, Thou shalt love thy neighbour as thyself.” (22) Love of neighbor is the second commandment of our faith. It is unloving to ask those families in our community who have already experienced vaccine reactions to risk further injury. There are some families with genetic predisposition to reactions who already have one permanently disabled child and are now being asked to risk injury with their other children.

It is also unloving to force others to violate their religious beliefs.

5) God’s design for the family

Children are a blessing from the Lord, (23) and are given to their parents to raise and teach them. (24) This is a great privilege and a serious responsibility. The Bible instructs fathers to “bring [children] up in the nurture and admonition of the Lord.” (25) There are many charges to parents in how they are to raise their children in the Bible, but no such instructions to the government. Ultimately children belong to God, and He has given the authority to make weighty decisions such as vaccination to the parents and not to the state. (26)

6) Church Attendance

Attending church is a Biblical practice. The Bible teaches, “And let us consider one another to provoke unto love and to good works: Not forsaking the assembling of ourselves together...” (27)

Some churches have childcare centers, schools or other educational facilities on-site. In addition, some churches rent schools and hold their worship services there. Facility-based mandates do not allow unvaccinated or partially vaccinated children to come into school locations. They severely interfere in the practice of faith by discriminating against some

Christian youth and preventing them from attending church or participating in church activities.

7) Christian Education

Biblically, Christians are to provide their children with an education.(28) Legally, the right of religious parents to enroll their children in schools which provide a public, private, or religious education is also recognized.(29) Those who have a religious conviction against vaccines should not be excluded from all schools that provide this type of education. If we are prevented from enrolling our children in public, religious, or private schools, that is not merely a violation of medical or educational freedom, it is a violation of our religious rights.

Vaccine mandates may also prevent churches from providing religious instruction by opening a school, thus interfering with the church's faith expression.

Conclusion

The Bible is very clear that "we ought to obey God rather than men,"(30) and so we cannot sit idly by as laws that violate our beliefs are passed. We will keep our eyes on our "hope of glory"(31) and even when it is difficult seek to find a way to keep a clear conscience toward God. There are multiple levels at which vaccine mandates interfere with the free exercise of religion. As Christians we oppose government coercion in this area and support free choice, and exercise our religious rights protected under the 1st Amendment of the US Constitution.

Thank you for reading my letter.

Sincerely,

Sharon Cloud

Aiea, HI

Endnotes and Resources:

1. Exodus 20:13
2. Genesis 4:10

3. Proverbs 31:8-9

4. Merk, M-M-R ® II (MEASLES, MUMPS, and RUBELLA VIRUS VACCINE LIVE)

https://www.merck.com/product/usa/pi_circulars/m/mmr_ii/mmr_ii_pi.pdf FDA, Package Insert - ProQuad - Refrigerator Stable Version

<https://www.fda.gov/downloads/BiologicsBloodVaccines/Vaccines/ApprovedProducts/ucm123793.pdf>

5. Leiva, Rene. A Brief History of Human Diploid Cell Strains. The national Catholic bioethics quarterly 6(3):443-51 · February 2006

https://www.researchgate.net/publication/6704825_A_brief_history_of_human_diploid_cell_strains

6. Ibid. Wadman, Meredith. Medical research: Cell division. Nature 26 June 2013.

<https://www.nature.com/news/medical-research-cell-division-1.13273>

7. Wadman.

8. Ma, Bo et al. Characteristics and viral propagation properties of a new human diploid cell line, walvax-2, and its suitability as a candidate cell substrate for vaccine production . Human Vaccines and Immunotherapeutics. 2015;11(4)

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4526020/>

9. Farnsworth, Jessica. Development of Vaccines from Aborted Babies.

[https://cogforlife.org/wp-](https://cogforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/farnsworthvaccines.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3J8ggS2AryzrtWD)

[content/uploads/2012/04/farnsworthvaccines.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3J8ggS2AryzrtWD](https://cogforlife.org/wp-content/uploads/2012/04/farnsworthvaccines.pdf?fbclid=IwAR3J8ggS2AryzrtWD)
AWfPu160NCYfWcrwE9r6K3PPHabeMaM5YVjuXslArw

10. Romans 13:14

11. Proverbs 25:28, Galatians 5:22-23, 2 Timothy 1:7

12. Exodus 20:14, Proverbs 5, Matthew 19:4-9, 1 Corinthians 7:2, 1 Thessalonians 4:3, Hebrews 13:4

13. I Corinthians 6:18

14. Genesis 1:27

15. I Corinthians 6:19

16. Romans 12:1

17. Acts 15:20

18. Leviticus 11

19. See ingredients such as “monkey kidney cells,” “hydrolyzed porcine gelatin,” and “human albumin” in Vaccine Excipient & Media Summary , cdc.gov.
<https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines/pubs/pinkbook/downloads/appendices/B/excipient-table-2.pdf?fbclid=IwAR0mMUycZcKCYRcRZM5SG5IOp6CF5r9f8fAnatjlvPYdxUNfUvr95U2ASc>

20. Romans 14:14

21. Romans 14, full chapter

22. Matthew 22:37-39

23. Psalm 127:3

24. 1 Samuel 1:27, Proverbs 1:8, Proverbs 22:6, Proverbs 29:17, Isaiah 8:18, Colossians 3:21, etc.

25. Ephesians 6:4

26. Of course, parental authority is forfeited in situations of criminal abuse. Abusive behavior towards little ones is condemned in the strongest of terms in the Bible, which underscores the importance of one’s responsibility to one’s children (Luke 17:2).

27. Hebrews 10:24-25

28. Deuteronomy 11:18-20, Psalm 78:5-7, Proverbs 22:6, Ephesians 6:4, 2 Timothy 2:15

29. US Constitution , Amendment 1. *Pierce v. Society of Sisters of the Holy Names of Jesus and Mary*, 268 U.S. 510 (1925). UNESCO Convention against Discrimination in Education 1960, Article 5. “It is essential to respect the liberty of parents and, where applicable, of legal guardians... to ensure in a manner consistent with the procedures followed in the State for the application of its legislation, the religious and moral education of the children in conformity with their own convictions...” http://portal.unesco.org/en/ev.php-URL_ID=12949&URL_DO=DO_TOPIC&URL_SECTION=201.html

30. Acts 5:29

31. Colossians 1:27

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:26:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Chantavong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in opposition of this bill HB1118, it is a direct attack on my religious freedom given to me by the first amendment through that US consitution. I as a concerned citizen of Hawai'i does not agree nor approve of this bill. Thank you for your time.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:33:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a former Hawaii Public School Teacher, and now a parent of 2 school-aged children, I support Bill HB1118. There has been a rampant increase in misinformation surrounding vaccines. From 2013 to 2023, the number of students with a religious exemption grew from 2,100 to 7,500 kids — a roughly 250% increase. This does not correlate with increased religious beliefs, but rather with the increase in anti-vaccine propaganda. With the current Measels outbreak in Texas, now spreading to nearby states like New Mexico, it is imperative we secure measures for the future of Hawaii's keiki. It makes no sense that current political leaders oppose measures such as this, claiming that it infringes on their constitutional freedoms, when in the same breath, they advocate for Christian principals to take precedence in the same public schools. This dangerous misinformation regarding vaccines is further being pushed by the new Secretary of Health, RFK Jr, who will only continue to remove and undermine health protections and policies for the foreseeable future. A film that was produced by Kennedy several years ago raised the idea that vaccines could be disproportionately harming people of color — and grossly misrepresents a study by the Mayo Clinic on the rubella vaccine. With Hawaii having a complex and dependent relationship with tourism and the US Military, a decrease in vaccinated individuals could cause catastrophic loss of life, or at the very least, contribute to future generations' emotional, mental, and physical scars caused by previously eradicated diseases. We must act now to put guard rails in place for Hawaii, for when this current administration's inevitable policies directly affect and endanger our island communities.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:36:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claire Fricke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a DOE employee, I STRONGLY oppose this bill. Attempting to make it legal to deny access to a free and appropriate education (FAPE) due to religious beliefs is immoral and unconstitutional. Listen to the people of Hawai'i. PLEASE.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:39:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sayuri Van	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Representatives,

I'm strongly oppsing to HB1118 since it's against our constitution.

All vaccines contains aborted fetal cells and as Christian we strongly condemn not to give the vaccines to our precious children.

We should have a medical freedom and religious freedom according to our constitution.

Thank you for your understanding and support.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:48:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kanoe K	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill HB118. Parents should be able to choose what is best for their child or children without feeling threatened to go against their religious practices in order to get an education. By passing this bill, our religious freedom will be stripped away. Most families free willingly live their life grounded with the foundation of their chosen faith. Removing the religious exemption for vaccinations is upsetting as it also threatens children, the right to an education.

Mahalo.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:50:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chantel Kapuras	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, my name is Chantel Kapuras and I am testifying against HB112. This bill removes religious exemptions for student vaccination and limits parental choice on what vaccines we choose that is best for our children. This bill also goes against our constitution right for our religious freedom. The Church and State are separate for a reason.

Hawaii has for a long time recognized freedom of choice and it should continue to do so. Every person has the right to choose what goes into their body and their children's body. It should not be forced. Although public health is important, policies should respect individual choices. This is why I am testifying against HB112.

Thank you for your time.

Chantel Kapuras

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:51:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicia Banks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 1:56:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Pennington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I respectfully thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony against HB1118.

I am a Christian and believe my body is a temple of Christ. I believe it is my right to state what goes in and out of my body - the temple of Christ. To force me to take this is totally against my believes in putting something in my body that is against my belief. I believe I must stay pure to Christ . Please do not force me ti take something into my body that I stand against .

Mahalo Nui Loa

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:04:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D. Miyahira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

I testify in opposition to HB1118 relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations in private and public schools, limiting religious freedoms.

I understand that this bill was proposed with medically fragile children in mind and with the belief that higher immunization rates are important for these who have a more difficult time fighting off infection. There is debate about the effectiveness of herd immunity. But besides that, various sources say that even the common cold can be fatal for the immunocompromised. Given the prevalence of the common cold, prevention of the spread of illness to this population should come from various other means rather than forcing people to get vaccinated against their beliefs. Public health is important but policies should also respect diverse perspectives.

Hawai'i has always recognized the right of families to make medical decisions based on their religious beliefs. Repealing religious exemptions will force parents to choose between their faith and their children's education. For some, removing their children from school will be an option, but given the high cost of living in this state, most families will be faced to make the difficult decision of choosing between their deeply held religious convictions and accessing education.

We exist in a country that allows freedom of religion and free exercise thereof, and for these reasons I testify in opposition to HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

D. Miyahira

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:14:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Faumuinq	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS RIDICULOUS BILL FROM OUR RIDICULOUS HYPOCRITICAL DICTATOR GOVERNOR JOSH GREED AS IT GOES AGAINST OUR CIVIL HUMAN RIGHTS & CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS! WHAT HAPPEN TO "MY BODY MY CHOICE"?! ONLY GOES FOR YOUR GUYS WOMEN'S RIGHTS & ABORTION/MURDERING OF BABIES HUH?! NOT TO MENTION VACCINES & COVID "VACCINES" AKA GENE THERAPY(ALTERING OUR DNA) (TRANSHUMANISM AGENDA)(& A BIOWEAPON/TICKING TIME BOMB) WERE NEVER TESTED ON HUMANS..COVID "VACCINES" WERE ONLY TESTED ON RATS & THEY ALL DIED. THEN TESTED ON SOME KIDS & SOME HAVE DIED & BEEN INJURED FOR LIFE! & OFFERED LUMP SUM PAYMENTS TO KEEP QUIET! IT'S ALSO NOT APPROVED ONLY STILL UNDER "EUA" SO THERE'S NO SUING OR LIABILITY THAT CAN HAPPEN TO BIG PHARMA. ALL VACCINES ESP THE COVID JABB HAVE ALSO BEEN SHOWN TO BE NOT SAFE OR EFFECTIVE & HAVE BEEN SHOWN TO HAVE CAUSED MORE HARM THAN GOOD. MANY HEALTH ISSUES MEAN MORE PROFIT FOR BIG PHARMA & EVERYONE ELSE IN CAHOOTS WITH THEM. WEAKENS THE IMMUNE SYSTEM BEING MORE SUSCEPTIBLE TO MORE SICKNESSES & ILLNESSES INCLUDING "LONG COVID". MORE SICK HUMANS ESPECIALLY OUR KEIKI SUCH AS AUTISM, ECZEMA, ALLERGIES, ADHD, SIDS, CANCER ETC...& THE COVID "VACCINE" ALONE HAS CAUSED MILLIONS OF DEATHS MORE THAN THE PLANDEMIC ITSELF. LISTEN TO THE SILENCED EXPERTS & VICTIMS IF THEY ARE NOT DEAD ALREADY. I AM NOT GOING TO ALLOW & RISK MY CHILD TO HAVE ANY DANGEROUS EXPERIMENTAL INJECTIONS FOR ANYONE & TO POSSIBLY CAUSE SERIOUS HEALTH ISSUES OR DEATH. ANOTHER FACT ON THEIR DOCUMENTS IS THAT SHEDDINGS/SPREADINGS ARE REAL AND YOU WONDER WHY SO MANY HAVE BEEN SICK OR KEEP GETTING SICK & NON VAXXERS AROUND FRESH VAXXERS! SO IF YOU FOLKS PASS THIS BILL THE WHOLE EDUCATION SYSTEM WILL LOSE MORE STUDENTS- MORE MONEY IN YOUR GUY'S POCKETS FROM PUBLIC & PRIVATE "EDUCATION" SCHOOLS. & IT WILL ALSO CAUSE MORE CHAOS & DIVISION IN THE PEOPLE & WITH YOU PEOPLE IN OFFICE THATS SUPPOSED WORK FOR US- THE PEOPLE NOT THE OTHER WAY AROUND JUST TO ALIGN WITH YOUR PUPPET/POCKETS. I SUGGEST YOU GUYS DO YOUR RESEARCH & HAVE A HEART FOR THE PEOPLE'S LIVELIHOOD-HUMANITY. THANK YOU!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:16:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judah Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Judah Perez, oppose bill HB1118. I am a devout Christian and practice my faith religiously. Passing bill HB1118 will be a direct violation of our First Amendment right.

As a devout Christian and human being, I am praying diligently and asking you to oppose HB1118. Please do your part to protect and respect everyone's religious and medical freedoms. One person's fear of getting sick should not warrant another's loss of religious freedom and personal autonomy. For those who want to vaccinate themselves and their families should have the right to do so and for those who want to partially vaccinate or not at all should also have the same right to choose. We all deserve a right to choose what is right for our lives and bodies. Parents on both sides of the matter can agree that we all want what is best for our families.

Please consider making the decision that protects our religious and medical freedom as Americans in a free country. We do not want to be forced to leave the state where we have been born and raised for lack of maintaining our freedoms. Thank you for your dedication and service, please do you due diligence and look deeply into these valid concerns. It matters that much to our family life. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Jacob Perez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:19:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaise Perez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Blaise Perez, oppose bill HB1118. I am a devout Christian and practice my faith religiously. Passing bill HB1118 will be a direct violation of our First Amendment right.

As a devout Christian and human being, I am praying diligently and asking you to oppose HB1118. Please do your part to protect and respect everyone's religious and medical freedoms. One person's fear of getting sick should not warrant another's loss of religious freedom and personal autonomy. For those who want to vaccinate themselves and their families should have the right to do so and for those who want to partially vaccinate or not at all should also have the same right to choose. We all deserve a right to choose what is right for our lives and bodies. Parents on both sides of the matter can agree that we all want what is best for our families.

Please consider making the decision that protects our religious and medical freedom as Americans in a free country. We do not want to be forced to leave the state where we have been born and raised for lack of maintaining our freedoms. Thank you for your dedication and service, please do you due diligence and look deeply into these valid concerns. It matters that much to our family life. Thank you!

Respectfully,

Blaise Perez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:20:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Ye Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a licensed naturopathic physician and mother of 2 children, who both have religious exemptions to vaccines.

I strongly OPPOSE HB 1118.

This bill goes against every family's constitutional right to choose & freedom of religion.

What is right for one child, is not necessarily right for another.

Vaccines can definitely be helpful but unfortunately, I have seen cases where they have been detrimental to a child's development and dangerous to their health.

I have been hired to attend births in hospitals to protect a family's newborn child from being vaccinated after their first born was vaccinated, was a previously social child to being withdrawn and diagnosed as autistic.

I support in a family's right to choose, especially when it comes to their religion.

Thank you for your time, energy and service.

Respectfully,

Dr. Ye Nguyen

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:20:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maiola Vivas	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 HD1. The bill states that "The legislature further finds that decreasing immunization coverage due to non-medical exemptions increases the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be fatal to children." however no evidence or statistics are given to support what the legislature finds to be true. The bill then sights the more than doubling of non-medical exemptions clearly due to covid in 2020. The Covid vaccine does not prevent covid in the one who receives it and does not prevent transmission by the one who receives it. Removing religious exemptions for children for this vaccine would have no effect on how widespread the disease would have been, only the severity of symptoms for those who caught it. This bill is an overreach of government authority to remove religious liberty from the people of Hawai'i. The government and physicians should not have more authority over the religious freedom of a child than that child's parents or guardians.

Mahalo for your attention,

Maiola Vivas

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:26:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Nobriga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Constitution demands a separation of church and state, therefore to disallow religious exemption for citizens is against the constitution. Forcing parents to go against their religion in order for their child to attend school is against the constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:28:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents have every right to protect their children.

It is proven that aborted babies were used to create vaccines.

No one should be forced to inject toxic chemicals and aborted baby parts into oneself nor their children!

Vaccines do more harm than good. 1 out of 36 children now have autism and vaccines are proven to be one of the main causes of it!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:30:50 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariko Furukawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no scientific data proving the safety of all mandated vaccines. The state should first make such data publicly available.

Eliminating religious exemptions violates the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:30:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikos Leverenz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHC Committee Members:

I write in strong support of HB 1118, HD 1, which limits non-medical exemptions to vaccine requirements in Hawaii schools.

Only a very small number of established religious sects oppose vaccination, [with most having no objections: Dutch Reform Church and Church of Christ, Scientist.](#)

At a time when the federal government is eroding and degrading the nation's public health infrastructure, including vaccine recommendations, it is critical for state government to protect the health of the public. [Vaccines are one of the most effective health interventions in history.](#) The deterioration of vaccine requirements and vaccinations will disproportionately impact the health and well-being of those from under resourced communities.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:40:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Mau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118. Whether or not I will personally be affected by this bill, I believe every United States citizen should maintain their constitutional right to religious freedom. If someone has a bona fide religious tenet or practice that prevents them from receiving a certain vaccination, then we as a law abiding nation must grant them that right. Likewise, if a guardian or parent of a child shows that the child under their care requires a religious exemption to a vaccination, then we as good citizens must respect their religious belief and allow the exemption.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:42:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I do not agree with this bill at all to rip this religious exemption out of our hands when we stand on faith believing that we do not immunization to be safe. My family and many families knows how dangerous vaccinations are to children's bodies and it does not make them healthier. We do not stand on this bill because it is our right and freedom to determine that our faith stands before it all.

Mahalo,

Linaray Ughoc

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:47:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear House Committee Members,

Re: HB1118 - Please vote NO and do not allow this bill to be passed, it is disgraceful that a Constitutional Republic based on many of the tenets of Democracy would ignore a Religious right.

1. The forefathers/pilgrims of America escaped Europe for Religious freedom, how can you disregard this constitutional right. Is it not hypocritical to say "My Body, my Choice" to killing a human being but not for a vaccines.

3. If an adverse effect does happen no one will take responsibility, will the state take responsibility because people were forced to take it? Will the State be liable for life long medical damage.

4. For many believers, Religion is a God-given right, not one that a government can suppress or determine when its tenets apply and when they don't.

5. Covid was a BIG Lie perpetuated on the American people from the making of the virus until now but truth is now coming out, Dr. Paul Offitt, a member of the FDA Vaccine Committee admitted that they knew that natural immunity was better than taking the vaccine but they decided to continue lying about it and mandate it due to Beaureacratric concerns. There were ways to help people who got sick rather than just letting people get sick enough to have to go to the hospital. How can the system ever be fully trusted.

6. It also begs the question of Big Pharma kickbacks, donations, and investments by politicians who push these types of mandates since Pharma is not accountable they'll just continue to make more & more money. How many people or what percentage of people who may be harmed by a certain vaccine does it take before Someone is accountable.

7. This is a very bad bill and whenever the government takes an inch, they later take a mile and the atrocities against freedom get bigger, seems like we're already pushing towards Eugenics.

Praying for a Pono outcome, Respectfully,

Alison Lopez

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:50:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Sadler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB 1118, which eliminates religious and personal exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is unfair, discriminatory, and unconstitutional.

HB 1118 creates an unequal system where some students will retain their exemptions while others will be denied their rights. Why should one child be allowed to attend school based on an exemption while another is forced to comply against their family's beliefs? This is not equality—it is government-enforced discrimination.

Additionally, religious freedom is a constitutionally protected right. Forcing individuals to violate their deeply held beliefs is not only unjust but unlawful.

Please stand up for fairness, religious liberty, and personal choice by voting NO on HB 1118. I appreciate your time and commitment to representing the people of Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Anne Sadler

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:57:20 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaylene Sheldon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Committee House Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

My name is Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon and I am against HB1118 because it is a violation of our rights to our bodies and a violation to our religious freedoms and it violates our sacred, traditional medicines. We should be writing bills that support preventive medicines and preventive health education. We should also look at choosing our own health care instead of choosing legislative agendas. Thank you for your time!

Kaylene Kauwila Sheldon

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:58:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasa mcdonald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to this bill, it is against our religious freedom and our human rights. We as parents have the right to make the best decisions for our children. Our children have the right to education and religious freedom.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:59:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha e Committee Members,

I am writing to strongly oppose the bill that seeks to eliminate the religious exemption for vaccinations required for children in public and private schools. This bill would force myself & other parents to choose between their deeply held religious beliefs & the opportunity for their children to receive a public education. I believe this policy would infringe upon both personal freedoms and religious rights, with far-reaching consequences for families across the state.

Religious freedom is a fundamental right protected by our Constitution. For many ‘ohana, including my own, the decision to seek a religious exemption from vaccinations is a deeply personal matter, rooted in our faith and beliefs about health & the body. By removing the religious exemption, the state would impose its views on how children should be raised & cared for, disregarding the conscience of those who hold differing views. This is not simply a matter of public health; it is a matter of the right to practice religion freely without governmental interference.

In our family, we take health very seriously. My daughter is not fully vaccinated, and she has never had the flu or experienced any serious illness. In the two years of her public education, I have respected the health of her others & removed her from her school setting until she fully recovered. I have provided a physicians note each time & followed their instructions to restore her health. I understand the importance of vaccination and the role it plays in protecting public health, but I also believe in the need to evaluate each child’s health needs individually. For us, my decision to delay or forgo certain vaccinations has been based on thorough research and careful consideration of what is best for her specific health circumstances.

I am not against vaccines in principle, but I feel that the one-size-fits-all approach imposed by this bill fails to recognize the individuality of each child's health. It is not simply a matter of public health mandates—it is about respecting the right of parents to make decisions that align with their religious convictions & their understanding of what is best for their keiki.

Eliminating the religious exemption would be an overreach of government power and an infringement on the deeply held religious beliefs that guide many of our health decisions. The ability to make personal medical decisions for our Keiki is a core element of parental rights, & this bill would undermine that fundamental freedom.

Additionally, I ask the committee to consider the unintended consequences of this bill. Forcing all children into a single, mandated vaccination schedule would alienate many families & increase distrust in both the healthcare system and the state's involvement in personal health decisions. This can only harm public health efforts in the long run.

I urge you to reject this bill & preserve the right for 'ohana to make informed, conscientious decisions about their children's health based on their individual circumstances and religious beliefs.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mālama Pono,

Micki Kauwalu-Key

8082259366

kauwalu@hawaii.edu

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:06:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Respect my right to religious practices

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:19:54 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mei Shikiya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear legislators,

I am writing to oppose this bill. Please do not take away some of our most basic human rights -- the right to religious freedom and the right to choose what goes into our children's bodies. We are not a Communist country, so let's not start acting like one. Launching a campaign to try to increase vaccine uptake is one thing, but forcing parents to choose between their religious rights and an education for their children is unconstitutional. Doing so would impact countless numbers of families all across the islands in an unjust way. Let's also not forget that the possibility of vaccine injury is real. Please do the right thing by the people of Hawaii and kill this bill.

Mahalo for your time and conscientious consideration.

Sincerely,

Mei Shikiya

Testimony in Objection to H.B. NO. 1118

Date: February 21, 2025

To: Members of the Hawaii State Legislature

From: Miriam Correa

Re: Opposition to H.B. NO. 1118 – Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong objection to H.B. NO. 1118, which seeks to remove non medical exemptions for immunizations. While I understand that the intent behind the bill may be to improve public health, it overlooks critical aspects of personal choice and parental rights when it comes to deciding what is best for their children's health. I firmly believe that non-medical exemptions should remain available, as many parents, like myself, have valid concerns about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, and our voices deserve to be heard.

1. Many Unvaccinated Children Are Healthy and Thriving:

First, I want to point out that many children who are not vaccinated are incredibly healthy, often healthier than those who have received all required vaccines. These children are not spreading vaccine-preventable diseases, and we have seen no outbreaks in our communities. The fear around unvaccinated children spreading disease is unfounded, as these children continue to thrive without contributing to any harm. There is no evidence of widespread outbreaks in areas with non-vaccinated children, and the concern over such outbreaks is largely based on fear rather than fact.

2. The Talk of Outbreaks Is Misleading:

The narrative surrounding vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks is misleading. I have not witnessed any significant outbreaks in my community among unvaccinated children. The push to eliminate non-medical exemptions is based on the assumption that unvaccinated children are a public health threat, but this is simply not the case. Many vaccinated children still become sick, and vaccines are not foolproof. We should not ignore the actual evidence, which shows that unvaccinated children are not the problem

the bill makes them out to be.

3. Vaccines Are Potentially Harmful and Contain Toxic Ingredients:

Vaccines contain potentially harmful ingredients, such as mercury (thimerosal), aluminum, and formaldehyde. These substances have been linked to a variety of health issues, including neurological damage, autoimmune disorders, and developmental delays like ADHD. The risks associated with these substances are often downplayed by those promoting vaccination, and there is little transparency about what exactly is in the vaccines or the potential long-term consequences of injecting these chemicals into children. This is a serious concern, and the safety of these vaccines should be questioned before imposing mandatory vaccination policies.

4. Personal Autonomy and the Right to Decide:

The right to make informed decisions about what goes into our bodies is fundamental to personal autonomy. This right should extend to parents of minors especially, who have the responsibility and duty to decide what is best for their children's health. When children become adults, they can make their own decisions regarding vaccines, but until then, parents should have the freedom to choose what is right for their children based on their own research, beliefs, and concerns. The government should not mandate what parents put into their children's bodies, especially when the risks of vaccination are not fully understood.

5. The Unacceptable Increase in Vaccine Requirements:

Since becoming a parent, I have personally witnessed an alarming increase in the number of vaccines required for children to attend school. The requirements have expanded over the years. This shift is unacceptable. It is not right to keep increasing the number of mandatory vaccines without clear, compelling evidence that each new vaccine is necessary and safe. Parents are being pressured to comply with an ever-growing list of vaccines. This trend is troubling and should be addressed.

6. The Rare Availability of Doctors Willing to Treat Unvaccinated Children:

Another important issue that needs to be addressed is the scarcity of doctors who are willing to treat children who are not vaccinated. It is becoming increasingly difficult to find a pediatrician or healthcare provider who will accept children who have not been vaccinated. This is a grave injustice. Doctors should be focused on the health and well-being of their patients, regardless of vaccination status, but many are driven by financial incentives and may prioritize vaccination over the holistic care of children. The

pressure to vaccinate is often about making money for the healthcare industry, not about providing genuine care. The lack of discussion on the risks, ingredients, and potential side effects of vaccines is concerning. Instead of informing parents, doctors often focus solely on getting children vaccinated, without fully explaining the potential harms or allowing parents to make informed decisions.

7. Violation of Constitutional Rights:

This bill violates our fundamental constitutional rights. The right to make personal health decisions is a core principle enshrined in the Constitution, under the protection of individual freedoms and parental rights. By mandating vaccination and eliminating non-medical exemptions, this bill infringes on our right to bodily autonomy. The Constitution guarantees that individuals, especially parents, have the right to make decisions about their own and their children's health. This bill disregards those protections and undermines the freedoms that should be afforded to every citizen, particularly when the risks and ingredients of vaccines are not fully disclosed or well-understood.

In conclusion, I strongly urge you to reject H.B. NO. 1118. This bill infringes upon personal freedom and parental rights to make informed decisions about their children's health. Many families are healthy and thriving without the need for vaccinations, and we should not be forced into medical decisions that are not in line with our beliefs or concerns. Vaccines may carry risks that need to be discussed openly and honestly, and the choice should remain with the parents, not the government. The ongoing increase in vaccine requirements and the limited availability of doctors who will treat non-vaccinated children is a troubling trend that should be addressed.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my objections to this bill.

Sincerely,

Miriam Correa
630 Kilauea Ave. Suite 101
Hilo, HI. 96720
808-989-1577

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:28:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Sweet	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill!! Please listen to the people of Hawai'i and do the right thing!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 3:40:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Bronson Kobayashi. I am a firefighter / paramedic with the county of Hawai'i Fire Department. I am also a father, and I strongly oppose this bill. Whether I agree with vaccination or not is aside the point, this bill is not pro choice. Freedom of choice. I strongly oppose this bill as it infringes directly on our constitutional rights. I also oppose this bill because it infringes on our customary and religious rights as people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo nui loa,

Bronson Kobayashi

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:03:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
paul iskander	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a very clear violation of the first amendment. Why try and divide our state, there is bitter opposition to this bill and it will do nothing other than generate fierce debate and costly legal challenges. Look at the charts for measles and other childhood diseases, they were all virtually eliminated prior to any vaccines being released. This will help no one, and vaccines will still be available for anyone who feels they need protection.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:11:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
steven tabura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose!!!!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:13:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Albert Barnes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a father of 2 young children i oppose HB1118. The constitution specifically states that we have the right to practice our religious beliefs and that the should not be infringed upon.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:14:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is one of the most if not **the** most horrible piece of garbage ever put out by our legislature. The government has no right to mandate any medical procedure. Religious or any other exemptions should not be necessary. People have the right to not accept any medical procedure, especially now that so much information is being revealed about how harmful and deadly some of the vaccines are.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:20:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Since when does the government have the right of parent to decide what is best for their children. What if there is a religious reason?

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:46:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jendy Malaikini	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha representatives of the people of Hawai'i,

I am an extremely concerned mother and I strongly oppose HB1118.

Forcing children to be completely vaccinated in order to go through the DOE is absolutely appalling! Although vaccines have proven to be effective, it has also been proven to be harmful to young bodies and can often cause injury and death that lasts a lifetime! The thing with that is we never know how it will affect our bodies until it's too late. There is no doctor who would personally guarantee 100% safety for my children to have all the vaccines required because even they know there's a risk! This is an incredible encroachment of our freedoms and our right to choose how we protect our loved ones. There are so many highly pressing matters that we could be facing and solving and it's laughable that we're here wasting our time and energy on this! We the people have rights and freedoms to choose and the government should never be able to step in and tell us how to do that. That's a controlled society and we are free are we not? Are we not protected by our constitutional rights?

Jendy Malaikini

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:47:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Han	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to OPPOSE HB. 1118 (or SB. 1437), which would eliminate religious exemptions for school children.

This bill infringes on fundamental religious freedom by compelling individuals to receive pharmaceutical products against their sincerely held beliefs.

Vaccines are medical procedures that carry a risk of serious injury. The U.S. supreme court recognizes vaccines to be “unavoidably unsafe” and to cause injury and death in some recipients. The U.S. Government has paid out approximately \$5.2 billion to the victims of vaccine injury. This bill threatens religious freedom. Hawaii should not interfere in a decision that is a parent’s right to make for their minor children, guided by their religious beliefs.

This bill does not support families on wanting to send their children to school. It puts strain on families where both parents need to work. Relying on one income is very difficult for families living in Hawaii. Making parents who have serious religious beliefs have no say for their children is beyond unconstitutional. It also significantly limits children from religious families on not only their education, but also learning the history of Hawai’i.

Mahalo

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:53:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB 1118 on the basis that it violates the individual and parental rights to choose and make decisions provided for in the Constitution of the United States. This is a governmental over reach which cannot be justified by law.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 4:57:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angelica Santa isabel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hi I do not agree to this there is people out there that don't want there kids taking the vaccines because of the stuff they put in it that's why I don't let my kids take it and your going to banned it for what it's not your guys decision it's our decision as there parents they need to go to school what about the people that work how can they homeschool there kids if they work full time so please don't banned it because us working parents that don't give there children the vaccines there kids go to school if you banned it how are they gonna get educated if they can't go to school

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:08:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Klamp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government does not have the power or right to determine ones religion beliefs and or what one puts in their own body. Obviously up until now the children have been good with the way it is now. Stop trying to control ever aspect of the peoples life. If you want to take the vaccine of any type then you take it. But you have no right whats so ever to force others to take it. But if you do pass this bill. I have no problem take my children out of public schools. You folks dont teach them anything anyway. Just teach them to be workers and not thinkers. So i vote definitely no on HB 1118.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:18:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Azurin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair,

My name is Ashley Azurin and I testify in opposition to HB1118.

This bill would remove religious exemptions for student vaccinations, limiting parental choice and long-standing personal and religious freedoms. It is my right as a parent to make the decisions for my child with regards to their physical being up until the age of 18.

Hawai'i has long recognize the right of families to make medical decisions based on their personal and religious beliefs, removing religious exemptions could force families to choose between their faith and accessing education while public health is important policies should also respect, individual rights and diverse perspectives.

For these reasons, I testify in opposition to HB1118 Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:20:22 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl A. Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly OPPOSE this bill. What we put into our bodies and our children's bodies should be our choice / choice of the parent. Vaccination status should not impede upon freedom of movement and access to public services. As we saw with the Covid vaccine... it neither prevented contraction nor the spread of Covid. What makes other immunizations any different? Unvaccinated keiki are not a threat to public health, and it is a God-given (and constitutional) right to adhere to religious convictions without restriction or punishment.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:25:19 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Javiera Kuncar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Javiera Kuncar, do not agree with having vaccines being mandatory for my kid to have the right to go to school.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:26:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Giovani Hernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, My family and I are pro choice and believe we are the ones to have the final say on what we put in our children's bodies. My Cousins nephew perfectly healthy a few years ago died suddenly and the only thing he took was the Pfizer vaccine that year. We are not anti vax, however that vaccine was rushed and has had number of side effects on many people. Please, I vote no to this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:44:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lehua Hanaike	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kākou and Aloha Chair,

My name is Lehua Hanaike and our ohana strongly oppose HB1118. We feel it is unconstitutional, unethical, and complete abusive power. It violates our God-given right to protect our bodies and have complete autonomy. I work at a psychiatric hospital and can share heartbreaking stories of vaccine-related injuries, and NOBODY should be subject to this. If someone chooses to get vaccinated that's their prerogative, but the rest of us still have the RIGHT to choose and have our decisions respected. Please Oppose HB1118!

Mahalo,

Lehua Hanaike

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:49:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cedric Mengelil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill because I want to make it known that myself and many other wonderful humans do have allergies and/or beliefs in our faith which factors in our bodies and health.

i would also be willing to stand for others who don't have a voice like the elderly and special needs community who need our continual support as well.

Mahalo & God Bless you!

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:57:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Sandstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying against immunizations. After I had the COVID vaccine I had 4 miscarriages and have been unable to have another baby.

As well my son has sinus issues and cannot have vaccines as they affect his immune system.

It should be a choice as a right as a human being as this affects our health. That's what America is all about, freedom. If you enforce immunizations there is no longer freedom. Freedom for our health. Thank you

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 5:58:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Riesberg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 should be opposed because it imposes unnecessary restrictions that infringe on individual freedoms and create bureaucratic burdens without clear benefits. The bill overreaches by implementing rigid regulations that limit personal choice and autonomy, potentially leading to unintended consequences that harm the very people it claims to protect. Additionally, it fails to address root issues effectively, opting instead for a one-size-fits-all approach that ignores local needs and circumstances. Rather than passing HB1118, lawmakers should pursue more balanced and evidence-based solutions that respect both personal rights and community well-being.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 6:16:55 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi Wilkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not take out civil rights as US citizens!!!!!! Our kids should not be mandated vaccines in school and we should have the right to choose for our children. It's plain cruelty after we saw what the cdc did with the COVID vaccine!!!!!! POISON & people died from it so there for I don't trust what they are putting in vaccines these days. It's just plain inhumane & I for see your schools being empty if this is enforced! I care too much about my child too poison him with what we don't trust. Thanks to how things rolled out with Covid & the cdc's vaccine we have learned they cannot be trusted.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:16:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
princess luis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have 3 children that still in elementary and intermediate, and i strongly oppose this bill because we parents should be the first to protect our children. parents should be the one making decissions on their minor children. and who are you to mandate vaccines this is america, AMERICA IS A FREE COUNTRY. this is against the constituion about freedom shame on you who ever made this bill

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:17:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daviana Martin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because the people, especially parents, should still have a choice as to what goes into their child's body. I am not against vaccines but I am against making it mandatory to take ALL vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:19:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Children get into everything and are not always aware of the effect they have on others. I support this bill.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:21:01 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because the people, especially parents, should still have a choice as to what goes into their child's body. I am not against vaccines but I am against making it mandatory to take ALL vaccines.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:27:47 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob A Kuzen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a father of a baby girl and after hearing about this bill I feel as if this bill is violating our rights as citizens. I am not opposed to vaccines but to force people to take them is criminal and bordering a dictatorship. This bill goes against this country's first amendment and all the freedoms that this country stands for. If people want to get vaccinated that is their choice and their freedom as it should be for those who choose to not get them.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:35:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lizette Kuzen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing this in opposition to HB1118. Every person in America should continue to have the freedom to choose whether or not they want to have their children and themselves vaccinated. Our constitution and amendments stand for freedom and choices, that includes religion. The government should not have a say in people's lives and religious views. This bill should not be passed.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 7:55:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Inna Revina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not have kids yet but I plan on having. I have several freinds, who's perfectly healthy kids had severe adverse reactions such as several cases of various autoimmune disorders shortly after receiving a mandatory vaccinations. Now, these families are struggling with increased medical bills, trying to heal a severely compromised immune system of their kids and they are burned out as well as kids are suffering greatly from the newly acquired illness as a result of forced vaccinations. To vaccinate a child is a decision that shall be made by the parents only and shall not be diverted to anyone else. To go against family's religious believes and to mandate to vaccinate a child is dismantling the rights of practicing and excercising one's religious right and beliefs.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 8:50:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Pahukoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose any efforts to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines, as doing so would violate fundamental rights to religious freedom and personal autonomy. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes the right to make personal medical decisions in accordance with one's faith and conscience. Many religious individuals and communities have deeply held beliefs about the sanctity of the body and what substances they introduce into it, and removing this exemption would force them to choose between their faith and compliance with government mandates. Such an action would set a dangerous precedent, allowing the government to override religious convictions and erode individual liberties.

Furthermore, religious exemptions are a necessary safeguard to ensure that public health policies remain ethical, inclusive, and respectful of diverse beliefs. Some vaccines are developed using methods or ingredients that conflict with certain religious teachings, making it unjust to force compliance without consideration for these concerns. While public health is important, it should not come at the cost of constitutional rights or personal freedom. Eliminating religious exemptions would alienate faith-based communities, weaken public trust in health policies, and open the door to further government overreach. I urge policymakers to uphold the right to religious exemptions and protect the freedoms that define our democracy.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:15:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Preciado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Kara Preciado

2/21/2025

Aloha

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccines in our state. As a parent, I find this bill to be a direct violation of our fundamental rights to religious freedom, bodily autonomy, and informed consent.

Religious freedom is one of the cornerstones of our Constitution, protected by the First Amendment. Many individuals hold deeply rooted religious beliefs that inform their medical decisions, including the decision to forgo certain vaccinations. By removing religious exemptions, this bill disregards the sincerely held convictions of many citizens and forces them to choose between their faith and compliance with government mandates.

Additionally, the principle of informed consent is essential in any medical decision. Every medical procedure, including vaccination, carries potential risks. Individuals and parents must be allowed to weigh these risks in alignment with their personal, moral, and religious convictions. The government should not assume the role of making these decisions for families.

Beyond the legal and ethical concerns, this bill sets a dangerous precedent. If religious exemptions can be eliminated for vaccines, what other medical procedures or interventions could be mandated in the future, with no regard for individual beliefs? This level of governmental overreach is alarming and erodes the freedoms that our country was founded upon.

I urge you to uphold religious freedom, medical choice, and parental rights by opposing HB1118. The ability to make personal medical decisions guided by faith and conscience must be protected, not legislated away.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against this bill and stand for the rights of the people you serve.

Sincerely,

Kara Preciado

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:16:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this Bill (HB1118). Us as parents and our children should be able to make a decision to take vaccines or not. It shouldnt be mandatory for our children to be vaccinated to be able to continue their education in school. Please DO NOT pass this Bill (HB1118). Im saying this to protect my keiki as well as everyone elses' keiki.

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:26:15 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabriel preciado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccines in our state. As a parent, I find this bill to be a direct violation of our fundamental rights to religious freedom, bodily autonomy, and informed consent.

Religious freedom is one of the cornerstones of our Constitution, protected by the First Amendment. Many individuals hold deeply rooted religious beliefs that inform their medical decisions, including the decision to forgo certain vaccinations. By removing religious exemptions, this bill disregards the sincerely held convictions of many citizens and forces them to choose between their faith and compliance with government mandates.

Additionally, the principle of informed consent is essential in any medical decision. Every medical procedure, including vaccination, carries potential risks. Individuals and parents must be allowed to weigh these risks in alignment with their personal, moral, and religious convictions. The government should not assume the role of making these decisions for families.

Beyond the legal and ethical concerns, this bill sets a dangerous precedent. If religious exemptions can be eliminated for vaccines, what other medical procedures or interventions could be mandated in the future, with no regard for individual beliefs? This level of governmental overreach is alarming and erodes the freedoms that our country was founded upon.

I urge you to uphold religious freedom, medical choice, and parental rights by opposing HB1118. The ability to make personal medical decisions guided by faith and conscience must be protected, not legislated away.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against this bill and stand for the rights of the people you serve.

Sincerely,

Gabriel Preciado

HB-1118-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 9:27:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/21/2025 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kai sorte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! This infringes on person choice, body sovereignty, and medical freedom. This is contrary to the Hawaiian culture and traditional way of life. I oppose the choice being taking away by the proposed bill. This bill is in opposition to our country's values of freedom.

i vote no

thank you

kai sorte