

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



RYAN I. YAMANE
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

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

TRISTA SPEER
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

February 23, 2025

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Ryan I. Yamane, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 1349 HD1– RELATING TO MEDICAID.**

Hearing: February 24, 2025, 12:00 p.m.
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) appreciates the bill's intent and offers comments. DHS respectfully requests that this program and appropriation not conflict with, reduce, or replace priorities identified in the executive budget. Additionally, DHS prefers that any increase appropriation be included in the executive budget bill as a recurring appropriation so that the coverage could be ongoing.

PURPOSE: Appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

The House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness amended the measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

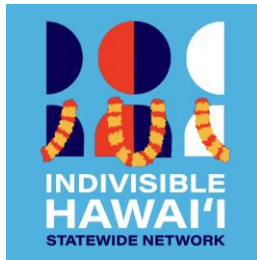
DHS believes there is a clear benefit to the state to ensure all residents, regardless of immigration status, have access to health care. Per [Senate Concurrent Resolution 183 SD1 \(2023\)](#), DHS completed its [report](#) on this matter. The general fund appropriations in the bill are

based on cost estimates in the report to provide coverage for 500 pregnant women and 4,000 children.

The House Committee on Human Services and Homelessness Committee Report cited the DHS legislative report regarding the state funds needed to provide health insurance coverage for children regardless of their immigration status if DHS were able to get permission to use the CHIP State Plan Option or the CHIP Health Services Initiative (HSI) option. The amounts cited are (1) \$744,000 for pregnant persons (CHIP State Plan Option); (2) \$620,000 for pregnant persons, including ten months post-partum care (HSI); and (3) \$2,976,000 for children under the (HSI) option. Given the current federal administration's stance on immigration status and the Medicaid/CHIP program, it may be unlikely that DHS would be allowed to use the HSI option. If only state funds could be used for the populations in (2) and (3), the amounts are (2) \$2,000,000 for pregnant persons' post-partum care (HSI) and (3) \$9,600,000 for children.

DHS notes that any reductions to federal funding levels will impact our ability to execute programs at current levels and may make execution of the changes proposed in this bill difficult or impossible to accomplish.

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



To: Committee on Finance

Hearing Date/Time: February 24, 2025 at 12 pm.

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 308

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1349 HD1

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

Members of Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1349 HD1 which would appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

There is a clear benefit to our whole community to ensure all residents, regardless of immigration status, have access to health care. Planned regular health care is far more kind and respectful to everyone, as well as more cost-effective than emergency interventions, which often become the only option for uninsured families.

Sincerely,

Nancy Moser

For the Indivisible Hawai'i Healthcare Team

We're a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. In Hawai'i, we have ten groups across four islands, representing over a thousand pro-democracy citizens.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:32:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Redfeather	Ka Ohana O Na PUa	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support for this Bill to continue support for our most vulnerable citizens. Mahalo



Statement Before The
Monday, February 24, 2025
12:00 PM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

in consideration of
HB1349

RELATING TO MEDICAID.

Chair YAMASHITA, Vice Chair TAKENOUCHI, and Members of the House Finance Committee

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports HB1349, HD1, which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status. This is a much needed social safety net measure.

TLC is a Hawai'i nonprofit, nonpartisan organization. TLC is a direct legal services provider, representing those in Hawai'i who meet income eligibility guidelines without regard to immigration status, national origin, ethnic background, race, religion, ideology, gender identity, sexual orientation, age, or disability. TLC works alongside immigrants so they can attain authorization to work and live with dignity, reunite with their families after years of separation and escape horrific violence to find refuge in the United States. TLC recognizes that every person needs and deserves to feel a sense of trust, welcome, and belonging.

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Hawai'i is the most diverse state in the nation.¹ In 2023, Hawai'i had about 256,000 immigrants, which is approx. 18% of the State population.² The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (45 percent of immigrants), China (9 percent), Japan (8 percent), Korea (6 percent), and the Pacific Island Nations (4 percent).³

¹ See <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/567625-hawaii-california-and-nevada-are-most-diverse-states-in-the-us-census/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

² See <https://usafacts.org/answers/how-many-immigrants-are-in-the-us/state/hawaii/> and <https://data.census.gov/profile/Hawaii?g=040XX00US15#populations-and-people> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

³ See https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_hawaii.pdf (retrieved 1/14/2025).

There are between 41,000 -50,500 undocumented immigrants in Hawai'i.⁴ Hawaii is the only state where undocumented women (55%) outnumber men.⁵

Approximately 500 pregnant persons and 4,000 income qualified children in Hawaii are denied access to affordable health care through Medicaid, the children's health insurance program, and health insurance exchanges established under Affordable Care Act, solely due to their immigration status.

Low-income immigrants without prenatal care are 7 times more likely to give birth prematurely and 5 times more likely to experience neonatal death, demonstrating that limited access to health care for pregnant persons and their newborn children significantly increases risk of exposure to life-threatening situations. Providing access to health insurance coverage for income-qualified pregnant persons will help lower barriers and increase access to health care for resident immigrant populations in the State. It will also increase health outcomes.

Low-income immigrant children without access to health care services experience a higher rate of preventable hospitalizations during childhood. Without appropriate medical management, chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes may lead to life-threatening medical emergencies. Inadequate access to preventative care such as immunizations and well-being and well-child visits may aggravate various health conditions increasing the occurrence of acute and chronic conditions and can leave developmental health conditions undiagnosed and untreated.

As of June 2024, 24 states and the District of Columbia provide Medicaid coverage to income-eligible children regardless of immigration status. A 2024 report by the Department of Human Services found that the state may “leverage the Unborn Children Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan option. This Medicaid option allows states to cover the unborn child of pregnant persons who are not traditionally eligible for coverage due to their immigration status. This option is supported with a federal matching rate of just over 69%.”⁶

As for children, “[s]tates do have the option to cover immigrant children who do not meet the immigration criteria for Medicaid or CHIP using state-only funds. This option does not require CMS approval or reporting but is a larger financial commitment from the state to fund the benefits. Several states, like Illinois, California, New York, and Oregon, use state-only funds to cover all children regardless of immigration status.”⁷

⁴⁴ See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁵⁵ See <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Narratives/Overview/a0ac94c0-8538-417e-85c9-da6ac5c06603> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

⁶ See https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/DC202_.PDF (retrieved 1/16/2025).

⁷ See https://data.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2024/bills/DC202_.PDF (retrieved 1/16/2025).

TLC understands that it may be more fiscally feasible at this time to only provide coverage to pregnant persons through HB1349, HD1 and will support a clarifying amendment to this bill stating that HB1349, HD1 appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons, omitting children, regardless of immigration status.

This bill will ensure that people are afforded some measure of medical care for health and welfare for themselves, their families and their communities, and for our basic human rights and dignity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1349, HD1 with clarifying language, and I respectfully urge the Committee members to pass HB1349, HD1 out of your Committee. If you have questions of me, please contact me at sma@tlchawaii.org.

Very respectfully yours,

Sandy Ma

Sandy Ma
Community & Policy Advocate
The Legal Clinic

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:19:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Matsunaga	Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii strongly supports HB1349 HD1

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:29:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy agbayani	hawai'i friends of civil rights	Support	In Person

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB 1349

Sybmitted by The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights

Co-Chairs Amy Agbayani and Pat McManaman

The Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights works to achieve equity, justice, inclusion, uphold civil rights, and eliminate discrimination. We stand in **Strong Support of H.B. 1349**

Long-established medical consensus holds that prenatal care is fundamental to reproductive and infant health. The lack of access to prenatal care increases the risk of premature birth and low birth weight and is a factor in a range of poor health outcomes experienced by undocumented pregnant women and their babies, including higher rates of labor and delivery complications and premature births. Many of these negative outcomes pose long-term development risks to newborn U.S. citizen children and could be avoided with full access to prenatal care.

A recently released report, the Hawai'i Department of Health reported that from 2018 to 2021, the maternal death rate in the United States increased from 17.4 to 32.9 per 100,000 live births and that disadvantaged populations including Native Hawaiians and other Pacific Islanders, Black, and American Indian and Alaska Native persons have the highest rates of pregnancy-related deaths. The report further noted that approximately 80% of pregnancy-related deaths are preventable requiring a multilevel approach that includes ensuring quality care for all pregnant and postpartum persons. Additionally, the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF) noted that expanding Medicaid coverage regardless of immigration status resulted in improved outcomes including increases in average gestation and birth weight among newborns. Med-Quest's estimate for providing Medicaid coverage for an estimated cohort of 500 undocumented pregnant persons is \$744,000 in state funds for pregnancy-related services and 2 months of postpartum care. Extending postpartum care an additional 10 months would increase state-funded costs to \$1,364,000.

With one of the lowest national rates of uninsured persons and a leader in healthcare, Hawai'i has the opportunity to reaffirm its commitment to healthcare through this measure and to recognize the substantial federal and state tax contributions made by Hawai'i's undocumented residents.



To: The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

From: Paula Arcena, External Affairs Vice President
Mike Nguyen, Public Policy Manager
Sarielyn Curtis, External Affairs Specialist

Hearing: Friday, February 24, 2025, 12:00 p.m., Conference Room 308

RE: **HB1349 HD1 Relating to Medicaid**

AlohaCare appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony in **strong support of HB1349 HD1**. This measure appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

Founded in 1994 by Hawai'i's community health centers, AlohaCare is a community-rooted, non-profit health plan serving over 70,000 Medicaid and dual-eligible health plan members on all islands. Approximately 37 percent of our members are keiki. We are Hawai'i's only health plan exclusively dedicated to serving Medicaid and Medicaid-Medicare dually-eligible beneficiaries. Our mission is to serve individuals and communities in the true spirit of aloha by ensuring and advocating for access to quality, whole-person care for all.

Consistent with our mission and our values, AlohaCare is committed to promoting access to quality, whole-person healthcare for all of Hawai'i's residents, regardless of immigration status. An estimated 45,000 undocumented immigrants live in Hawai'i, making up 3% of the State's total population. Expanding coverage will contribute to our State's health equity and social determinants of health (SDOH) priorities at large by increasing healthcare access.¹ Under the SDOH framework, a person's social and community context are key factors that affect health outcomes. AlohaCare understands expanding coverage may improve our current member's health and well-being, specifically those that are family of undocumented immigrants, as they are often subject to trauma and various social and environmental stressors.² In 2014, approximately 60,202 people in Hawai'i lived with at least one undocumented family member.

¹ [Hawai'i Medicaid State Plan and Demonstration](#)

² [American Psychiatry Association. Stress & Trauma Toolkit for Treating Undocumented Immigrants in a Changing Political and Social Environment.](#)



Our neighbors, friends, and ‘ohana who are undocumented immigrants are working, contributing to Hawai‘i’s economy, and should not be subject to the risks of living without health insurance. The American Immigration Council estimates that undocumented workers are overrepresented in the State’s labor force at 4.5%, primarily in the leisure/hospitality and agriculture industries.³ In 2024, undocumented immigrants paid an estimated \$157 million in State and local tax contributions, and across the nation undocumented immigrants paid an estimated \$59.4 billion to the federal government.⁴

According to Hawai‘i Friends of Civil Rights testimony on the 2023 bill SB842, many of the 45,000 undocumented persons in Hawai‘i secure health insurance through the Hawai‘i Prepaid Health Care Act, while approximately 11,000 undocumented immigrants are uninsured—with 43% of these households reporting incomes below 200% of the federal poverty level—unable to access the care they need until they have a medical illness or condition that becomes an emergency.⁵

Expanding coverage will allow undocumented immigrants to access primary and preventative care and may decrease emergency room visits. Hawai‘i’s Medicaid program currently provides coverage of emergency medical services to individuals who are ineligible for Medicaid due to immigration status. This emergency coverage is provided to stabilize the emergency medical condition, but Medicaid does not cover any follow-up visits resulting from the emergency visit.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in **strong support** of **HB1349 HD1**.

³ [Pew Research Center, “U.S. unauthorized immigrant population estimates by state, 2016,” February 5, 2019.](#)

⁴ [Tax Payments by Undocumented Immigrants – ITEP](#)

⁵ [capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/Session2023/Testimony/SB842 TESTIMONY HHS 02-13-23 .PDF](#)



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

Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill in SUPPORT of HB1349 HD1
COMMITTEE ON HUMAN SERVICES AND HOMELESSNESS

Representative Lisa Marten, Chair
Representative Ikaika Olds, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 24th, 2025

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) submits this testimony in **strong support of HB1349 HD1**, which seeks to expand Medicaid coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to income-qualified pregnant persons and children, regardless of immigration status.

HCIR is committed to advancing the rights and well-being of immigrants in Hawai‘i by advocating for policies that promote equity, healthcare access, and full participation in society. A key part of our mission is ensuring that all individuals—regardless of where they were born—have the opportunity to live healthy lives and become productive members of our community. However, many immigrant families in Hawai‘i lack access to basic healthcare due to their immigration status, putting them and their children at serious risk.

Hawai‘i is home to a significant immigrant population, many of whom contribute to our economy in essential industries such as agriculture, healthcare, construction, and hospitality. Yet, despite their contributions, many immigrant families are excluded from critical healthcare programs. This is especially harmful to pregnant individuals and children, who require consistent, quality medical care to thrive. Without access to affordable healthcare, many forego necessary prenatal checkups, vaccinations, and routine pediatric care, leading to severe and preventable health complications.

States such as California, Illinois, New York, and Oregon have already recognized this inequity and expanded Medicaid-like coverage to all income-eligible pregnant persons and children, regardless of immigration status. Hawai‘i must follow suit and reaffirm its values of inclusion, equity, and compassion.

The public health and economic benefits of passing HB1349 are undeniable:

- **Reducing premature births and neonatal deaths:** Lack of prenatal care is one of the leading causes of low birth weight, complications during delivery, and long-term health issues for infants. These preventable outcomes place a heavy emotional and financial burden on families and increase costs for the state’s healthcare system.

- **Lowering emergency healthcare costs:** When families cannot access routine care, they are forced to rely on emergency rooms for preventable conditions, which is far more expensive and places additional strain on Hawai‘i’s hospitals and public health resources.
- **Improving economic stability for families:** Ensuring that children and expecting parents have medical coverage allows families to focus on work, education, and their future, rather than living in fear of a medical crisis they cannot afford.

At HCIR, we believe that no child and no expecting parent should be denied healthcare simply because of their immigration status. HB1349 is a common-sense, compassionate, and cost-effective solution that will improve health outcomes, reduce disparities, and strengthen Hawai‘i’s communities.

We strongly urge the committee to pass this bill and ensure that every child and every pregnant person in Hawai‘i has access to the healthcare they need to thrive.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Liza Ryan-Gill
Executive Director
Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights



February 21, 2025

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

Re: H.B. 1349, H.D. 1 Relating to Medicaid

**Hearing: Monday, February 24, 2025, 12:00 PM, Room 308 & Via
Videoconference**

Dear Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and the Members of the Committee on Finance:

Hawaii Women Lawyers is a lawyer's trade organization that aims to improve the lives and careers of women in all aspects of the legal profession, influence the future of the legal profession, and enhance the status of women and promote equal opportunities for all.

Hawaii Women Lawyers submits testimony in **support of H.B. 1349, H.D. 1**, which seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services ("DHS") to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

Access to healthcare during pregnancy and childhood is crucial for healthy development and long-term well-being. Denying coverage based on immigration status not only exacerbates health disparities but also places a strain on emergency healthcare systems when preventable conditions go untreated. Passing H.B. 1349, H.D. 1 would encourage healthier pregnancies, reduce infant mortality rates, and provide children with the medical care they need to thrive – all advantages that should be available to all persons and not dependent on immigration status.

Investing in healthcare for pregnant persons and children is both a moral and fiscally responsible decision. Studies show that providing prenatal and pediatric care reduces long-term healthcare costs by preventing complications and promoting better health outcomes, thereby contributing to a stronger and more robust society overall. Furthermore, as noted in the preamble of the bill, many states have already adopted similar measures and have realized the significant benefits of ensuring comprehensive healthcare access for all families.

For the above reasons, we strongly support H.B. 1349, H.D. 1 and respectfully request that the Committee pass this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 2:56:40 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good health is a basic human right.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/21/2025 11:05:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Harris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am an OBGYN in Hawaii and I have cared for patients who were uninsured because of imigration status. They are unable to access necessary parts of their prenatal care like routine labs and ultrasounds which can adversely affect their health and their pregnancy. Please support this bill!

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:11:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1349.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:12:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1349. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:26:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott R Ziehm	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of this bill, I am aware that approximately 500 pregnant persons and 4,000 income qualified children in Hawaii are denied access to affordable health care through Medicaid, the children's health insurance program, and health insurance exchanges established under Affordable Care Act, solely due to their immigration status.

Low-income immigrants without prenatal care are 7 times more likely to give birth prematurely and 5 times more likely to experience neonatal death, demonstrating that limited access to health care for pregnant persons and their newborn children significantly increases risk of exposure to life-threatening situations.

In Hawaii the current cost of an average neonatal intensive care unit stay is between \$7,000 and \$8,000 a day.

Hawaii DHS estimates the cost of providing income-qualified pregnant persons with health insurance coverage and twelve months of post-partum care at \$1,364,000 annually.

Providing access to health insurance coverage for income-qualified pregnant persons will help lower barriers and increase access to health care for resident immigrant populations in the State. It will also improve health outcomes.

Scott R Ziehm, DNP, RN, NEA-BC

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:27:24 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Montague	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1349

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:27:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Wright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non- citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are all well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:33:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Hirsch, MD, PhD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 7:51:59 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

"Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well."

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:15:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1349/SBSB713/SB714 – Relating to Medicaid

According to the 2020 U.S. Census, Hawai‘i is the most diverse state in the nation. See <https://thehill.com/homenews/state-watch/567625-hawaii-california-and-nevada-are-most-diverse-states-in-the-us-census/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

In 2023, Hawai‘i had about 256,000 immigrants, which is approx. 18% of the State population. See <https://usafacts.org/answers/how-many-immigrants-are-in-the-us/state/hawaii/> and <https://data.census.gov/profile/Hawaii?g=040XX00US15#populations-and-people> (retrieved 1/14/2025). The top countries of origin for immigrants were the Philippines (45 percent of immigrants), China (9 percent), Japan (8 percent), Korea (6 percent), and the Pacific Island Nations (4 percent). See https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_hawaii.pdf (retrieved 1/14/2025). Most ICE arrests were conducted of people from China and the Marshall Islands. XXXX

There are between 41,000 -50,500 undocumented immigrants in Hawai‘i. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025). Hawaii is the only state where undocumented women (55%) outnumber men. See <https://mchb.tvisdta.hrsa.gov/Narratives/Overview/a0ac94c0-8538-417e-85c9-da6ac5c06603> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

The purpose of this bill is to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

Approximately 500 pregnant persons and 4,000 income qualified children in Hawaii are denied access to affordable health care through Medicaid, the children's health insurance program, and health insurance exchanges established under Affordable Care Act, solely due to their immigration status.

Low-income immigrants without prenatal care are 7 times more likely to give birth prematurely and 5 times more likely to experience neonatal death, demonstrating that limited access to health care for pregnant persons and their newborn children significantly increases risk of exposure to life-threatening situations.

In Hawaii the current cost of an average neonatal intensive care unit stay is between \$7,000 and \$8,000 a day.

Hawaii DHS estimates the cost of providing income-qualified pregnant persons with health insurance coverage and twelve months of post-partum care at \$1,364,000 annually.

Providing access to health insurance coverage for income-qualified pregnant persons will help lower barriers and increase access to health care for resident immigrant populations in the State. It will also increase health outcomes.

Low-income immigrant children without access to health care services experience a higher rate of preventable hospitalizations during childhood. Without appropriate medical management, chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes may lead to life-threatening medical emergencies. Inadequate access to preventative care such as immunizations and well-being and well-child visits may aggravate various health conditions increasing the occurrence of acute and chronic conditions and can leave developmental health conditions undiagnosed and untreated.

As of June 2024, 12 states and the District of Columbia provide Medicaid coverage to income-eligible children regardless of immigration status. Hawaii DHS estimates the cost of providing income-qualified children with health insurance coverage under the federal health services

initiative program at \$2,976,000, with a wholly funded state program estimated at \$9,600,000. Increasing access to health insurance coverage for income-qualified children will improve health care outcomes for all keiki, regardless of immigration status.

A 2024 report by the Department of Human Services found that the state may “leverage the Unborn Children Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) State Plan option. This Medicaid option allows states to cover the unborn child of pregnant persons who are not traditionally eligible for coverage due to their immigration status. This option is supported with a federal matching rate of just over 69%.” [DC202 .PDF](#) (retrieved 1/16/2025).

As for children, “States do have the option to cover immigrant children who do not meet the immigration criteria

for Medicaid or CHIP using state-only funds. This option does not require CMS approval or reporting but is a larger financial commitment from the state to fund the benefits. Several states, like Illinois, California, New York, and Oregon, use state-only funds to cover all children regardless of immigration status.” [DC202 .PDF](#) (retrieved 1/16/2025).

This bill will ensure that people are afforded some measure of medical care for health and welfare to benefit themselves, their families and their communities, and for basic our human rights and dignity.

Mahalo for your consideration of my testimony,

Tamara Luthy

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:21:32 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JULIA I DAVIDSON	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:39:25 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:40:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nona morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including Undocumented migrants Pay taxes and contribute To our shared resources And economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost dignity.

We are all well when ALL of us are well!

thank you, Nona Morgan

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:44:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Pono.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:53:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well. I speak from experience as a pediatrician and public health physician.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:57:00 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Please appropriate Department of Human Services funds to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:58:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Suzanne Buirgy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. A healthy civilization depends on this! We are well when ALL of us are well! Mahalo.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:00:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Monk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass HB12349. If we learned any lesson from the years of pandemic, it is that the cost of inadequate medical treatment of a few sick people can result in the illness and death of hundreds of thousands.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:00:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:23:03 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anne Leake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:58:51 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1349

This is social safety net bill. This bill will provide health insurance coverage for income-qualified pregnant persons to help lower barriers and increase access to health care for resident immigrant populations in the State. This bill will also increase health outcomes for people.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:32:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah G. Nehmad	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Please support

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:43:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Colleen Finnegan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mistreatment of people who are non-citizens of the United States is inhumane. It behooves us all to treat people in the United States, born in other countries, who do not have the correct paperwork, with the dignity and care that we treat our families and how we would hope to be treated ourselves. I hope, to the bottom of my heart, that children will be held with our utmost compassion and attention to their plight.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:45:36 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill.

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. They are an important part of our community and should not be discriminated against simply because of a state-imposed status.

It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. I do not wish to live in a society where we abandon people on the basis of their status.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:48:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Babcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:59:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:05:31 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
martha chantiny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because we are well when ALL of us are well. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:15:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong support.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:23:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Marsh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:34:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:49:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda DuFresne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:51:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janian K Thurman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is essential to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:44:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorothy Zipp Malinski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immigrants pay taxes and all humans deserve adequate health care, especially the most vulnerable, ie pregnant people and children.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 12:47:20 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Mahalo,

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:10:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:30:51 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Helen Cox	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Chairs and Members,

Born and raised in Hawaii, I am now a long-term resident of Kalaheo, Kauai. I am writing to support HB1349 HD1. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. We must treat pregnant women and children with care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Low-income immigrants without prenatal care are seven times more likely to give birth prematurely and five times more likely to experience neonatal death, demonstrating that limited access to health care for pregnant persons and their newborn children significantly increases risk of exposure to life-threatening situations.

In Hawaii, the current cost of an average neonatal intensive care unit stay is between \$7,000 and \$8,000 a day.

Providing access to health insurance coverage for income-qualified pregnant persons will help lower barriers and increase access to health care for resident immigrant populations in the State. It will also increase health outcomes.

Low-income immigrant children without access to health care services experience a higher rate of preventable hospitalizations during childhood. Without appropriate medical management, chronic conditions such as asthma and diabetes may lead to life-threatening medical emergencies. Inadequate access to preventative care such as immunizations and well-being and well-child visits may aggravate various health conditions increasing the occurrence of acute and chronic conditions and can leave developmental health conditions undiagnosed and untreated.

Let's continue to be a state that cares about its people! Please pass HB1349 HD 1. Mahalo.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:32:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marsha Hee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Please SUPPORT HB1349

Thank you,

Marsha Hee, resident of Hawaii Island

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:42:28 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert A Marks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and members- please pass this mean sure.

Robert Marks

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:44:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 1:59:12 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Preston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:06:35 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support healthcare for all for of our wellbeing

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:13:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:24:53 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well."

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:39:52 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 2:59:23 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:02:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Summers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 5:37:08 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB1349. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children get the healthcare they need. Please pass this measure.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 8:52:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorna Holmes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill to provide pregnant women and minor children needed health care regardless of immigration status, for basic human rights and dignity. In addition to fulfilling our moral obligation, it also cost-effectively lowers the amount we would spend on their hospitalization due to lack of preventive care. For many reasons, then, I urge you to pass this bill.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:07:10 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cyma B. Wilson, Psy.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a clinical psychologist on O`ahu and, as such, I am intimately familiar with necessity of health care access, especially for vulnerable populations. I am in complete support of this bill. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1349, and I respectfully urge the Committee members to pass HB1349 out of your Committee.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 9:35:38 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haunani Iao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well."

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 10:24:00 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

As a citizen who believes in strong borders, fiscal responsibility, and prioritizing American citizens, I submit this testimony in firm opposition to HB1349. This bill appropriates funds to extend Medicaid coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status, at an estimated cost of \$1,364,000 annually for pregnant women alone. While it claims to aid health equity, it sidesteps fairness and sustainability. I urge you—Republicans and Democrats alike—to **VOTE NO**. Here’s why this bill misses the mark.

It Diverts Resources from American Citizens

This bill prioritizes undocumented immigrants over struggling U.S. citizens, allocating taxpayer dollars—potentially millions over time—to cover 500 pregnant persons and an unspecified number of children who bypassed legal entry. Hawaii’s own citizens face healthcare gaps; the Kaiser Family Foundation reports 6% of our residents remain uninsured. Democrats, you’ve long fought for universal coverage for Americans—why stretch our limited resources to reward illegal immigration instead of fixing that first? Fairness starts at home.

It Burdens Taxpayers with Unsustainable Costs

The \$1,364,000 annual price tag for pregnant persons is just the tip of the iceberg—add children, and costs soar. Neonatal ICU stays at \$7,000-\$8,000 daily prove prevention saves money, but this bill ignores the bigger picture: unchecked immigration drives up demand, straining Medicaid beyond its \$1.3 billion federal-state budget (2023 data). Democrats, you champion fiscal prudence for social programs—why back a bill that risks bankrupting a system meant to serve our most vulnerable citizens? We need solutions, not handouts that break the bank.

It Undermines Legal Immigration and Rule of Law

Extending benefits to those here illegally sends a message: bypass the system, and you’ll be rewarded. This erodes the legal immigration process that millions follow, including many in Hawaii’s diverse communities. The bill cites 24 states doing this, but that’s no justification—policy should reflect principle, not trends. Democrats, you’ve pushed for comprehensive immigration reform—why undermine it with a bill that incentivizes illegal entry instead of fixing the root cause? Equity honors those who play by the rules.

It Ignores Better Alternatives for Health Equity

We all want healthy mothers and babies, but this isn't the way. Trump-era policies showed economic growth—lifting 6.6 million out of poverty from 2016-2019—can fund healthcare through prosperity, not endless spending. Democrats, you've advocated for community clinics and prenatal outreach—why not invest in those for all low-income residents, documented or not, without entangling Medicaid in immigration debates? This bill picks a divisive fix when smarter, unifying options exist.

It Betrays Our Shared Duty to Prioritize Citizens

Committee members, we agree on caring for Hawaii's people—Republicans demand accountability, Democrats seek equity. HB1349 fails both by diverting funds from citizens, risking fiscal collapse, and weakening legal standards. **VOTE NO** to reject this misguided proposal. Let's focus on sustainable healthcare for Americans first, not open-ended benefits that strain our state and divide us. Hawaii deserves a plan that works for everyone here legally—nothing less.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 11:27:50 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lu Kelley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Pass HB1349

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 4:51:53 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
vivienne aronowitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well."

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 5:48:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Fujita	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am sansei and everyone but kanaka are immigrants so we should be especially supportive of the people who were brave enough to leave their country to forge a new and better life. I knew a man who gave up his business and clung to the underside of a moving train to escape China. He worked as a janitor at the hospital. The last time I saw him, he was picking his grandkids up at Punahou. His sacrifice to afford his kids a better life was realized.

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well. Lets take care of one another.

Mahalo for listening,

Ruth Fujita

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 7:49:12 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Gately	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 7:59:18 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:05:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:21:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

What a disrespectful proposition. No we do not want to pay for any health care of someone who is not a citizen and does not contribute to paying taxes. We are in a different season now, get with the program. We are done having you waste our money.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:35:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:59:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruben Ongos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why would you even think about introducing this bill that does not help and benefit our LEGAL AMERICAN CITIZENS, residents and kupuna! I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:27:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meredith Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

People who come to our country do so because they are looking for a better life. Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. Please support this bill that helps take care of ALL members of our community.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:34:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1349.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:40:57 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

This bill will ensure that people are afforded some measure of medical care for health and welfare to benefit themselves, their families and their communities, and for basic our human rights and dignity.

Having access to healthcare will prevent the hospitalizations that are very costly to the State besides the financial benefit - it's just the right thing to do for the humans that reside in Hawaii

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:45:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richelle Concepcion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:52:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyla Stueber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well."

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:53:49 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
L Miles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1349 because it is again trying to make the American citizens and in this case Hawaii State taxpayers pay for health care for persons who are not in this country/state legally. It helps incentivize ignoring immigration law because unlawful immigrants know their medical (and other) needs will be covered by the American taxpayer.

It is also mentioned that affordable health care should be available to all, which sounds good, but "affordable" health care is not even available to all, such as a family I know that pays \$1,500.00 a month for just two people's medical insurance. It is not fair to Hawaii taxpayers to have to foot the bill for persons in the state unlawfully.

I ask that you vote "NO" on this bill.

Thank you.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:54:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, mahalo.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:58:13 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Justin Kaawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a highly taxed citizen of Hawaii id rather my taxes be going to our kids school lunches

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:58:43 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB1349 stroboscopic. Send these illegals back to there countries and take care of American Citizens. I do not want my hard earned tax dollars funding aiding and abetting these criminals. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:06:27 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly Oppose

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:16:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:32:38 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! Medicaid is for citizens. I do not want the money I've paid in going for illegals/noncitizens. We are struggling financially as a country, we can't afford this. There are citizens struggling, the help should go to them! That is what Medicaid is intended for-helping citizens.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:38:50 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yakashima, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the FIN Committee,

As a public health professional and son of refugees, I write in **strong support of HB1349 HD1**, which seeks to expand Medicaid coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to income-qualified pregnant persons and children, regardless of immigration status. This bill is not just about healthcare—it is about equity, public health, and the well-being of our most vulnerable residents.

Hawai‘i has a rich and diverse immigrant community, with many families working hard to contribute to our economy and society. However, due to restrictive federal policies, many immigrants—even those who have lived in our state for years—are excluded from critical healthcare programs. Given Hawai‘i’s already high cost of living, many families are forced to make impossible choices between rent, food, and medical care. This bill ensures that all children and expecting parents have access to essential health services, regardless of where they were born.

The consequences of inadequate prenatal and pediatric care are devastating and costly. Lack of access to affordable healthcare dramatically increases the risk of premature births, low birth weight, and neonatal death, leading to long-term health complications for children and financial burdens on families and the state. Studies show that preventative care is far more cost-effective than emergency interventions, which often become the only option for uninsured families. Expanding coverage will reduce avoidable hospitalizations, improve maternal and child health outcomes, and lower overall healthcare costs for the state.

As someone who grew up in an immigrant family and continues work with these communities, I have witnessed firsthand how gaps in coverage put lives at risk. Every child deserves the chance to grow up healthy, and every parent should have the medical support they need during pregnancy, regardless of their immigration status.

Passing HB1349 HD1 is a moral and economic imperative. It is an investment in the health, safety, and future of our communities. I urge the committee to support this bill and ensure that no child or pregnant person in Hawai‘i is left without the care they need.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Makiki, HI

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:49:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gilbert Mendelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please fund health care to mother and babies. All income qualified pregnant women and their babies, regardless of their status should receive care. Fund Medicaid coverage to provide this.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:00:30 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:23:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Oya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1349

I don't want MY tax dollars going to ILLEGAL imigrants. That money should be for our LOCAL residents. ALL ILLEGALS should be deported so their government can take care of their own people

House Committee on Finance Hearing
Monday, Feb. 24, 2025 at Noon
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Conference Room 308
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

RE: HB 1349, HD1 - RELATING TO MEDICAID.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

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

My name is Christine Andrews, and I submit this testimony today in SUPPORT of HB 1349, HD1 - Relating to Medicaid.

Every year, approximately five hundred pregnant persons in Hawai'i are denied access to affordable health care through Medicaid, the Children's Health Insurance Program, and health insurance exchanges established under the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act, P.L. 111—148, because of their immigration status. Evidence-based studies show that low-income immigrants without access to prenatal care are seven times more likely to give birth prematurely and five times more likely to experience neonatal death. Improving maternal and neonatal outcomes is not only a highly-desirable public health goal, it is also a cost-saving measure, as providing health coverage to improve outcomes avoids the costs of avoidable intensive medical interventions.

While providing health coverage to low-income pregnant persons regardless of immigrant status provides public health benefits and save costs, as of May 2024, Hawai'i was not among the community of twenty-four states plus the District of Columbia to provide medicaid coverage to all income-qualified pregnant residents regardless of their immigrant status. The Department of Human Services estimates the cost of providing income-qualified pregnant persons with health insurance coverage and twelve months of postpartum care at \$1,364,000 annually.

Increasing access to health insurance coverage to include income-qualified pregnant persons will reduce barriers and increase access to health care for resident immigrant populations in the State. To estimate the potential cost savings of the proposal, I will discuss the financial benefits of avoiding costs associated with preterm births. According to the CDC's National Center for Health Statistics, in 2022, Hawai'i ranked 18th nationwide for preterm births, with a preterm birth rate of 9.82%. For the approximate five hundred pregnant persons in Hawai'i currently denied access to affordable health care, that comes to approximately 49 preterm births. According to "Preterm birth lifetime costs in the United States in 2016: An update", the annual societal economic cost (medical, educational, and lost productivity) associated with preterm birth in Hawaii was an estimated \$73,000, or over \$97,200 in today's dollars. So, while the cost of the proposed bill, which is the cost of providing income-qualified pregnant persons with health

insurance coverage and twelve months of postpartum care, is cost-effective when considering potential avoided preterm birth costs alone, which could be as much as 49 preterm births times \$97,200, or \$4,762,800. Health care provided to income-qualified pregnant persons ultimately avoids greater public health care costs.

I SUPPORT HB 1349, HD1 as both a financially prudent public health care investment as well as a moral imperative to support our community members regardless of immigrant status.

Mahalo for considering my testimony. I humbly request that you PASS HB 1349, HD1.

Aloha,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.
Wailuku, Maui

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:38:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Nineth Ovando	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The billionaire class, which both Democrats and Republicans have been bought and paid for by, do not pay taxes and yet reap all the benefit of our systems. Non-citizens pay more in taxes than the billionaire class, they come here because our country, specifically CIA completely dismantles their countries economies and create the situations that forces them to flee their once beautiful homelands. At a minimum we should be taking care of them after all the imperialist things the US has done to other countries.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 12:47:49 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I urge the committee to consider alternative approaches, such as working with federal partners to expand existing programs or targeting resources to citizens and legal residents first.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:13:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beth Anderson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support HB1349. People should never be denied healthcare, particularly the most vulnerable in our society. I support appropriation of funds to the Department of Health and Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Mahalo for supporting HB1349

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:22:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorinda Ohelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!!! We should not be payibg for illegal aliena. They should be deported. Spend our taxpayers' dollars on LEGAL citizens only.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 1:31:27 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stanley Mendes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1349

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 9:13:43 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1349. We should not be using taxpayer money to pay for anything for illegal immigrants. Our own citizens can't get the medical services they need because they can't afford it and Medicaid doesn't cover certain procedures. We certainly don't need to be paying for Medicaid for people who aren't even here legally.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:07:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

****Testimony in Opposition to HB1349 – Relating to Medicaid****

Aloha Honorable Members of the House of Representatives,

I am writing to express my opposition to HB1349, a bill that seeks to appropriate funds to the Department of Human Services to provide Medicaid coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to income-qualified pregnant persons and children, regardless of their immigration status. While I share the Legislature’s commitment to public health and compassion for vulnerable populations, I believe this proposal raises significant fiscal, legal, and policy concerns that outweigh its intended benefits. Below, I outline my objections to this legislation.

First, extending Medicaid and CHIP benefits to individuals regardless of immigration status places an unsustainable financial burden on Hawaii’s taxpayers. The bill estimates an annual cost of \$1,364,000 to cover approximately 500 pregnant persons and an unspecified number of children, yet it does not account for potential increases in demand or administrative costs as awareness of the program spreads. Hawaii’s budget is already strained by high living costs, housing shortages, and the need to support existing residents. Allocating scarce general revenue funds to expand coverage for non-citizens risks diverting resources from citizens and legal residents who rely on these programs, potentially leading to reduced services or increased taxes for all.

Second, this legislation undermines federal immigration policy and creates a precedent that could incentivize illegal immigration to Hawaii. Federal law currently restricts Medicaid eligibility to citizens and certain qualified immigrants, reflecting a balanced approach to resource allocation and national sovereignty. By bypassing these restrictions, HB1349 could signal that Hawaii offers generous benefits without regard to legal status, potentially attracting more undocumented individuals to the state. This could strain not only healthcare systems but also housing, education, and social services, further compounding the challenges faced by our communities.

Third, the bill’s reliance on state funding rather than federal matching funds exacerbates its fiscal impact. Unlike standard Medicaid expenditures, which benefit from significant federal contributions, the costs of covering undocumented individuals fall entirely on the state. The cited daily cost of neonatal intensive care unit stays (\$7,000–\$8,000) highlights the expense of untreated conditions, but proactive prenatal care for this population does not guarantee cost

savings if complications persist or if utilization exceeds projections. Without a clear cost-benefit analysis or federal support, this proposal risks becoming an inefficient use of state resources.

Finally, while the effective date of July 1, 3000, suggests this bill is a long-term proposal, its introduction now reflects a policy direction that merits scrutiny. Hawaii should prioritize healthcare access for its legal residents and work within federal frameworks to address gaps in coverage, rather than creating a state-specific entitlement that duplicates existing efforts like community health centers, which already serve underserved populations regardless of status. Alternative solutions—such as partnerships with nonprofits or federal advocacy for broader reforms—could achieve similar outcomes without the risks posed by HB1349.

In conclusion, HB1349's expansion of Medicaid and CHIP coverage to undocumented pregnant persons and children, while well-intentioned, threatens Hawaii's fiscal stability, legal consistency, and resource equity. I respectfully urge you to vote against this bill and focus on sustainable, federally aligned strategies to improve healthcare access for all legal residents of our state. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Tiare Smith

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 10:20:03 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Armstrong	Indivisible Kea'au	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill because our utmost responsibility is to the unborn babies. These children deserve to come into this world as strong and healthy as possible. That requires that their mothers receive adequate healthcare, regardless of their immigration status. Currently, and if common decency will prevail against the new administration, the child will be born a US citizen. We therefore have a duty to them. YOU have a duty to them and those of us who support this bill. Additionally, having adequate health care also relieves stress from the mother which will support the child in utero and as they grow up. We've got to give the next generations a fighting chance! Please Vote in support of this bill to ensure the health and well being of the children who do not yet have a voice. Thank you.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 11:14:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Evelyn Aczon Hao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Strong Support for **HB1349**

February 23, 2025

Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, House Committee on Health and Human Services;
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, V-Chair, House committee on Health and Human Services

RE: **HB1349** DHS; Medicaid Coverage; Children's Health Insurance Program; Pregnant Persons;
Children; Immigration Status; Appropriation (\$)

Dear Chair Yamashita, V-Chair Takenouchi and Members of the Committee:

My name is Gail Breakey, with Indivisible, testifying in strong support of HB1349, which appropriates funds to the Department of Human Services to authorize Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program to income-qualified pregnant persons and children regardless of immigration status.

"Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well".

Thank you for your consideration of this bill and for the opportunity to testify in support.

Sincerely,



Gail Breakey, RN, MPH

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:21:33 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi and Committee Members,

I oppose HB1349 HD1.

Kind regards,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae resident

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 4:51:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:29:16 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carl Bergquist	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Carl Bergquist, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1349 HD1, which seeks to expand Medicaid coverage through the Children’s Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to income-qualified pregnant persons and children, regardless of immigration status. This bill is not just about healthcare—it is about equity, public health, and the well-being of our most vulnerable residents.

As a former resident of Hawai'i, a proud 2019 graduate of the William S. Richardson School of Law who practices immigration law, and father of two daughters including one born at Queen Kapiolani Medical Center (KMC), I write with personal knowledge and conviction that the expansion of Medicaid to these populations is a wise and justified investment in the future of Hawai'i and its population.

The care that my partner and our second daughter received at KMC those days in 2016 and prior to that at Kaiser Permanente Moanalua will live with us forever. There should be no doubt in the minds of any community member that such care is available to them regardless of their own immigration status as they prepare to give birth to, and raise, U.S. citizens.

My older daughter, who spent five wonderful, enriching years in Hawai'i with us, was born in Austin, Texas. Her birth was extremely complicated, and she required two weeks in the type of neonatal intensive care unit explicitly referenced in this bill's text. I cannot imagine another parent being denied the life-affirming care she received when the option to expand Medicaid exists as presented here.

It is time that Hawai'i join the other 24 states and the District of Columbia and take this action.

Mahalo nui,

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 6:49:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Robertson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:23:09 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 8:56:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raphael Moller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non citizens, including undocumented immigrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared economy and resources. It is of great importancer to treat allpregnan womebn, and children, with the outmost care and dignity. We ought to strand togetther for each other, because we are well when all of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:02:36 AM

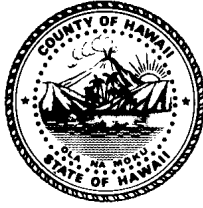
Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill. I don't work to fund illegal immigrants, I work to help American citizens. Stop wasting tax payor money.

Jennifer Kagiwada
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiiicounty.gov

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 24, 2025

TO: House Committee on Finance

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member
Council District 2

SUBJECT: HB 1349 HD1

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and members of the Committee,

I am writing to you in strong support of HB 1349 HD1, which seeks to expand Medicaid coverage through the Children's Health Insurance Program (CHIP) to income-qualified pregnant persons and children, regardless of immigration status.

Hawai'i has a rich and diverse immigrant community, with many families working hard to contribute to our economy and society. This bill ensures that all children and expecting parents have access to essential health services, regardless of where they were born. Lack of access to affordable healthcare dramatically increases the risk of premature births, low birth weight, and neonatal death, leading to long-term health complications for children and financial burdens on families and the state. Studies show that preventative care is far more cost-effective than emergency interventions, which often become the only option for uninsured families. Expanding coverage will reduce avoidable hospitalizations, improve maternal and child health outcomes, and lower overall healthcare costs for the state.

Passing HB1349 HD1 is not just about healthcare, it is about equity, public health, and the well-being of our most vulnerable residents. It is an investment in the health, safety, and future of our communities. I urge the committee to support this bill and ensure that no child or pregnant person in Hawai'i is left without essential care.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada", is written over a light blue horizontal line.

Jenn Kagiwada

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:05:46 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabelle Renfield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. Engendering hatred that will last generations will cause us to just have more enemies in the long run and it also coincides with just being the right and humane thing to do.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:49:19 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyle HIromoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Taxpayer money should go to taxpayers. I oppose.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 9:51:22 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Laririt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:17:11 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joy Dillon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Chair, Vice Chair and members of the Finance Committee.

I strongly oppose this bill and urge you to vote NO on it. We should not be spending money for illegal immigrants' health when there is so much need among our own residents.

Please vote NO and extend your efforts to Hawaii legal residents in need.

Thank you for your consideration,

Joy Dillon, Hilo Resident

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:42:04 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I support this bill, as I believe concerns about immigration status could delay lifesaving care for individuals and that this bill will help medical practitioners focus on their job, to provide medical care as they have pledged to do. Mahalo.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 10:59:52 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol D. Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Please strongly OPPOSE HB1349. We should not be funding anyone or anything that is ILLEGAL.

Keep all Medicaid funding for American citizens. This state fails at a lot, especially in accounting and budgeting. Use our taxpaying dollars wisely by voting no to HB1349.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:49:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose!

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 12:50:39 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose

First take care of the local community members.

its cheaper to send illegals home to their countries and help them there do well, then allow them to be in expensive Hawaii. This doesn't make sense at all.

I oppose

Marlies Lee

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:13:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann V Saffery	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha All,

Non-citizens, including undocumented migrants, pay taxes and contribute to our shared resources and economy. It is especially important to treat pregnant persons and children with the utmost care and dignity. We are well when ALL of us are well.

Mahalo for all you do,

Ann V Saffery

Honolulu, HI

HB-1349-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2025 1:52:45 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/24/2025 12:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

You can't pay for the healthcare of illegals when Hawaiian people are struggling to survive you crooks