



**Testimony to the Thirty-Third Legislature, 2025 Regular Session**

**House Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10:00 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 423 & Via Videoconference

By:  
Rodney A. Maile  
Administrative Director of the Courts

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** House Bill No. 438, Relating to Due Process Protection

**Purpose:** Establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program (“Immigration Program”) within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

**Judiciary’s Position:**

The Judiciary offers the following comments on House Bill No. 438:

We support the intent of this measure, which is to establish a program to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, but respectfully suggest the following amendments for clarification and to comport with how the Judiciary administers funds for other legal services.

The current language of the bill states, among other things, “*judiciary shall: (1) Provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court...*” The immigration court does not fall under the purview of the state courts, but rather the federal courts. As such, the Judiciary has no jurisdiction over immigration cases nor the immigration court, and the Judiciary, as an entity, and/or its staff are not qualified to provide legal representation in such matters.



In the alternative, should the legislature intend to appropriate funding for a non-profit organization or legal service provider to provide immigration services, the Judiciary, or other governmental department if deemed more appropriate, may serve as the administrator of the appropriated funds. This can be established similarly to the legislative funding for general civil legal services or mediation services under Act 202 (2024), which the Judiciary currently administers through a Request for Proposal process.

To this end, the Judiciary requests the following language in the bill to be modified, as follows:

### **"PART . DUE PROCESS IN IMMIGRATION PROCEEDINGS PROGRAM**

**§601- Due process in immigration proceedings program; establishment.** (a) There is established the due process in immigration proceedings program ~~within the judiciary. The program shall be administered by the judiciary.~~ The judiciary shall administer funding for the program and contract with nonprofit organizations, legal service providers, and other entities to implement and operate the program and provide program services.

(b) The purpose of the due process in immigration proceedings program shall be to provide legal representation to individuals residing in the State who are facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, regardless of their ability to pay.

(c) The judiciary ~~may~~ shall issue requests for proposals to select and contract with nonprofit organizations, legal service providers, and other entities to implement and operate the due process in immigration proceedings program.

**§601- Powers and duties.** In the administration of the due process in immigration proceedings program, the judiciary shall ensure that the entities contracted to implement and operate the program:

- (1) Provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, including but not limited to deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration relief processes;
- (2) Prioritize services for individuals who are detained, at risk of deportation, or otherwise vulnerable due to their immigration status;
- (3) Partner with community-based organizations and legal service providers to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services;
- (4) Conduct outreach and education to inform impacted communities about the availability of legal representation and related resources; and
- (5) Collect and report data on the program's outcomes, including the number of individuals served, types of cases handled, length of time each



case has been pending, and success rates, while maintaining confidentiality and protecting sensitive information.

**§601- Annual report.** (a) The entities contracted by The the judiciary to implement and operate the program shall submit an annual report to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

(b) The annual report shall include:

- (1) The number of individuals served by the due process in immigration proceedings program;
- (2) The types of cases handled;
- (3) The outcomes of the cases;
- (4) The length of time each case has been pending; and
- (5) Recommendations for improving access to legal representation for individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court."

We respectfully request that any appropriation provided not supplant the Judiciary's existing funding or budget requests. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JON N. IKENAGA**  
STATE PUBLIC DEFENDER

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**HB NO.438 RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Honorable Committee Members,

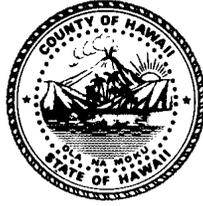
The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **SUPPORTS THIS BILL**

We support the intent of the legislature to expand current legal representation of Hawaii residents, including for non-citizens in which rights enshrined in the state constitution and statute are implicated. We support the statutory expansion of due process rights in alignment with community expectations.

As noted in Section 1 of the bill, immigration proceedings are complex. These proceedings are ordinarily outside the purview of the OPD as they are civil and held in federal court. Public defenders in the federal system are similarly not utilized as these cases are not criminal in nature.

Costs for this immigration proceeding program can be minimized significantly utilizing existing legal service providers and the work of the OPD. The OPD will work with the Judiciary in its implementation and development of the program.

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



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

## HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

DATE: February 27, 2025  
TO: House Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: HB 438

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

I am writing in **support** of HB438. This bill establishes due process in the Immigration Proceedings Program within the judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

It is difficult to forget the stories from the first Trump Administration of [children in court on their own during immigration proceedings](#), expected to mount a defense against their deportation without an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances.

Hawai‘i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O‘ahu. With additional funding more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way. Our overburdened courts and prosecuting attorney’s office would greatly benefit from this additional support.

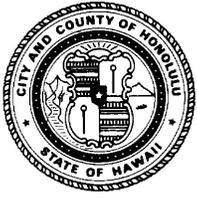
I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you for your support and consideration.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Jenn Kagiwada'.

Jenn Kagiwada



**HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL**  
**KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU**  
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

**MATT WEYER**  
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL  
DISTRICT II  
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5002  
FAX: (808) 768-1222  
EMAIL: mweyer@honolulu.gov

January 29, 2025

**House Committee on Economic Development & Technology**  
Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

**RE: HB438 - Relating To Due Process Protections**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

I write in support of House Bill 438, which would establish a program to provide access to legal representation for individuals in the State facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, assuring due process and promoting family unity, community stability, and economic security.

In the City's Fiscal Year 2025 Budget, the Honolulu City Council created 3 new positions in the Office of Economic Revitalization to support increased engagement between the City and our immigrant communities. These positions were filled in January 2025 and will work across our diverse communities to support our immigrant and mixed-status families. Immigrant residents and those from mixed-status families are business owners, students, healthcare providers, engineers, teachers, and so much more, and as committed members of our community, we have all benefited from their perspective and service.

HB438 is an opportunity to acknowledge that commitment. As a former deputy prosecuting attorney, I saw the State's commitment to a functional and fair judicial system through its investment in the Office of the Public Defender. Ensuring that all have fair and sufficient legal representation in criminal matters is not a luxury but rather a constitutional mandate, and I see HB438 as an extension of the values and principles that underpin that mandate. Having such protections builds trust in our judicial process and ensures that the outcomes, regardless of whether one is the plaintiff or defendant, are a result of a fair evaluation of facts and fair legal process.

Mahalo for your consideration.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Matt Weyer", is written over a horizontal line.

Matt Weyer  
Councilmember, District 2  
Honolulu City Council



# IATSE LOCAL 665

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OF THE UNITED STATES, ITS TERRITORIES AND CANADA, AFL-CIO, CLC

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Regular Session of 2025  
House Committee on Economic Development

Testimony by IATSE 665  
January 29th, 2025

## **HB 438 - Relating to Due Process Protections**

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the House Committee on Economic Development,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, president of IATSE 665 and IATSE International Trustee. Our union represents technicians and artisans in the Live Event, Tradeshow, and Film/TV sectors of Hawai'i's Entertainment industry. **Local 665 strongly supports HB 438 - Relating to Due Process Protections.**

Approximately 18% of Hawai'i's population is foreign-born. Nearly 8% of Hawai'i's population are United States-born residents who live with at least one immigrant parent. These residents are integral parts of the diverse tapestry of our community. And considering that language barriers, financial constraints, lack of access to legal resources compound the issues that these residents face, HB 438 is absolutely necessary for the support of our residents. We thank the introducers and architects of this bill for their courage and foresight. **Local 665 strongly supports HB 438.** We urge your committee to pass this measure. Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan'.

Tuia'ana Scanlan (he/him)

President, IATSE Local 665

IATSE International Trustee



House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

**Testimony in Support of HB22, HB73, HB438 and HB457 for hearings on January 29, 2025**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii.

The United States is founded on the ideas of freedom. Migration is freedom. The ability to move freely to pursue a better life is freedom. The ability to safely leave a place and safely arrive in a new place is freedom of movement. When that freedom is threatened, we must act on our values and protect those people from policies designed to restrict human freedoms.

Hawaii, as a melting pot of immigrants and their descendants, is a beneficiary of that freedom to migrate. Many of our union members are immigrants or children of immigrants, they are the working-class families, friends and neighbors that make up the fabric of our Hawaii communities.

**We support HB22** as it clarifies how Hawaii will treat non-judicial warrants. As noted in the preamble, there are legitimate concerns about the constitutionality of civil immigration detainers, as opposed to criminal warrants issued by a judge with probable cause. HB22 also provides reasonable and thoughtful exceptions in certain scenarios.

**We support HB73** as it protects our already limited state and county public lands from being developed into detention centers. We have far more pressing economic development needs in Hawaii, such as affordable housing.

**We support HB438** as it provides due process and legal representation for individuals facing proceedings in immigration court. Due process is a foundation of our court systems. If an individual has a viable claim for their immigration status, but is denied it for lack of representation, then that is a failure of our democratic system. HB438 provides eligibility requirements ensuring those with insufficient financial means are given fair trial at court.

**We support HB457** as it provides transparency, public access and public participation in immigration matters between federal agencies and Hawaii state law enforcement. HB457 also provides that people in custody of law enforcement are informed of their rights. Public access to information and informing people of their rights are basic democratic principles we support.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:32:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lisa H. Gibson	Indivisible Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Indivisible Hawaii strongly supports HB438.

January 29, 2025

Hawai'i State Legislature  
House Committee on Economic Development & Technology ("ECD")

**RE: Testimony in Support with Comments for HB 438, RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS**

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the House Committee on Economic Development & Technology:

On behalf of myself and my two immigration attorney colleagues at the William S. Richardson School of Law Refugee & Immigration Clinic ("RILC"), we submit testimony in our personal capacities in **support with a suggested amendment for HB 438**, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in Immigration Court.

**About RILC**

RILC offers law students an opportunity to work on immigration law cases under the supervision of a licensed immigration attorney. Immigration law is a dynamic area of law that intersects with many issues in contemporary culture and politics. With a Director, two Law Fellows, and 6-10 law students each semester, we provide specialized and high-quality immigration legal services to income-eligible noncitizens in Hawai'i. We focus our efforts on income-eligible clients seeking asylum, removal defense, and other forms of humanitarian relief because these clients often have the most difficulty finding and paying for legal representation.

**Our Position on HB 438**

**We support HB 438** because from our personal experience as immigration attorneys, we have observed a great need for public interest immigration attorneys to provide free or affordable, high-quality immigration legal services in immigration court. In Hawai'i, foreign-born residents comprise nearly a quarter of its population of 1.4 million and include an estimated 50,000 undocumented residents. Yet, only a dozen lawyers statewide provide free or low-cost immigration legal services to immigrant communities. With this new federal administration and their immigration priorities, we anticipate a dramatic increase in removal proceedings. To address this increase, we believe that this legislation will help build the capacity required to provide free or low-cost legal services to the immigration community in Hawai'i.

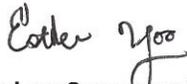
**Suggested Amendment on HB 438**

As the only immigration law clinic in the State of Hawai'i, we are in a unique position to train law students who are interested in practicing immigration law, especially in the areas of asylum and removal defense. HB 438 would build the current capacity for immigration removal defense in Hawai'i by allowing for the hiring of existing immigration lawyers as well as training law

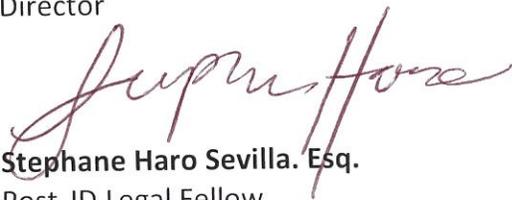
students and pro bono attorneys to do this work. Therefore, we ask this committee to amend HB 438 to require the judiciary to partner with the William S. Richardson School of Law to provide training and education to law students and legal practitioners. We have attached our suggested amendment in this testimony.

We urge this committee to pass HB 438. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,



**Esther Sungeun Yoo, Esq.**  
Director



**Stephane Haro Sevilla, Esq.**  
Post-JD Legal Fellow



**Danicole Ramos, Esq.**  
Equal Justice Works Fellow

## Proposed Suggested Amendment

§601- Powers and duties. In the administration of the due process in immigration proceedings program, judiciary shall:

(1) Provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, including but not limited to deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration relief processes;

(2) Prioritize services for individuals who are detained, at risk of deportation, or otherwise vulnerable due to their immigration status;

(3) Partner with community-based organizations and legal service providers to ensure culturally and linguistically appropriate services;

(4) Partner with the William S. Richardson School of Law in training and educating law students and legal practitioners to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, including but not limited to deportation defense, asylum applications, and other immigration relief processes;

~~[(4)]~~ (5) Conduct outreach and education to inform impacted communities about the availability of legal representation and related resources; and

~~[(5)]~~ (6) Collect and report data on the program's outcomes, including the number of individuals served, types of cases handled, length of time each case has been pending, and success rates, while maintaining confidentiality and protecting sensitive information.



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill**  
**In SUPPORT of HB438**  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: January 29, 2025

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) in **strong support** of HB438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary. This program is critical to ensuring fairness, protecting families, and fostering community stability by providing legal representation to income-qualified individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

As a coalition of over 30 immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations across Hawai‘i, HCIR represents the voices of thousands of families who contribute to the fabric of our state. Hawai‘i is the most diverse state in the nation, and immigrants make up 18% of our population. They are our neighbors, co-workers, and ‘ohana, contributing significantly to Hawai‘i’s economy and vitality, especially in agriculture, tourism, and healthcare.

**Ensuring Due Process and Community Stability**

Immigration proceedings are complex and intimidating, and individuals—many of whom have limited English proficiency—are forced to navigate this system without legal representation unless they can afford costly private counsel. Without representation, the likelihood of achieving a fair and just outcome in immigration court is significantly diminished, leading to devastating consequences for individuals and their families.

HB438 addresses this inequity by ensuring that income-qualified individuals in Hawai‘i are provided legal representation. This not only upholds the principle of due process but also promotes family unity and community stability. When families are torn apart by deportation, it destabilizes households, creates economic hardship, and sends ripple effects throughout our communities.

**Economic and Social Contributions of Immigrants**

Hawai‘i’s immigrants, both documented and undocumented, are vital contributors to our economy. In 2022, undocumented immigrants alone contributed \$157.2 million in state and local taxes. These contributions highlight the importance of policies that support immigrants, protect families, and ensure that individuals can continue to contribute to our collective prosperity.

By preventing unnecessary deportations and ensuring fair proceedings, HB438 helps preserve these contributions and strengthens the economic health of our state. Moreover, this bill aligns



[www.hicir.org](http://www.hicir.org) | Instagram @hicir  
[hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com](mailto:hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com)

with Hawai'i's values of aloha and inclusivity, ensuring that all residents are treated with dignity and respect.

### **A Necessary Step for Justice**

Immigrants appearing in deportation proceedings face life-altering consequences, including permanent separation from their families and communities. The stakes are even higher for individuals fleeing life-threatening conditions in their home countries. HB438 ensures that individuals have access to the legal representation they need to navigate these high-stakes situations and to present their cases fully and fairly.

This measure also reflects the fundamental values enshrined in our state's Constitution: that everyone deserves a fair chance to be heard and to seek justice under the law.

On behalf of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass HB438 and affirm Hawai'i's commitment to equity, justice, and the preservation of our communities.

Mahalo for your support and consideration.

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



Statement Before The  
Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
10:00 AM  
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference

in consideration of  
**HB438**

**RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS.**

Chair ILAGAN, Vice Chair HUSSEY, and Members of the  
House Economic Development & Technology Committee

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports HB438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court and appropriates funds.

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. 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](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. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025). Hawai'i is the only state where undocumented women (55%) outnumber men. See <https://mchb.tvisdata.hrsa.gov/Narratives/Overview/a0ac94c0-8538-417e-85c9-da6ac5c06603> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

Hawai'i's immigrant population primarily work in the agriculture, tourism / hospitality / service, and health industries. See

[https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants\\_in\\_hawaii.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/immigrants_in_hawaii.pdf) (retrieved 1/14/2025).

Immigrants (documented and undocumented alike) contribute to Hawaii's economic health and growth. Hawaii's "undocumented immigrants contributed \$157.2 million in state and local taxes in 2022. Their tax contributions could increase to as much as \$194.4 million if they were given official authorization to work. This is also true for the rest of the United States. If all undocumented immigrants in the U.S. had work permits, their tax contributions would rise by \$40.2 billion each year, reaching a total of \$136.9 billion." See How Hawaii's hardworking undocumented immigrants support our economy and communities — Hawai'i Appleseed (retrieved 1/14/2025).

The immigration court data show that FY2024 saw a spike in Hawai'i cases – total 915 – with a majority of them being deportation cases. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025). With the Trump Administration promising to deport immigrants at unprecedented levels, we are expecting a greater surge in Hawai'i immigration court cases. For example, in FY 2008, during Trump's first term, there was a record high of deportation / removals – 447 – issued by Hawaii's Immigration Court. See <https://www.civilbeat.org/2024/12/data-dive-hawai%CA%BBi-deportation-cases-hit-quarter-century-high/> (retrieved 1/14/2025).

Hawaii's immigrant population is an integral part of Hawaii's community and are our neighbors, co-workers, and 'ohana. Targeting a significant portion of Hawaii's community in terms of both size and positive economic contributions for deportation or other immigration-related proceedings in immigration court severely destabilizes family units and economic security and results in community volatility and vulnerability.

Individuals in deportation proceedings face permanent separation from their families and their communities, and sometimes life-threatening risks in their countries of origin.

Individuals, some with language difficulty, appear before immigration court, including minors, and are not entitled to government-funded legal representation, leaving them to navigate complex legal systems alone, unless they are able to afford costly counsel or other assistance on their own. Those who are able to obtain costly counsel in immigration court are likely to achieve more favorable outcomes in immigration proceedings, such as relief from deportation or successful asylum applications.

Thus, HB438, establishing the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court and appropriating funding, is critical to assuring due process and promoting family unity, community stability, and economic security.

HB438 is about providing services to people in our communities because it will ensure that our communities are kept together and families are not separated, which will result in economic hardship. HB438 will provide legal representation to income qualified individuals residing in Hawai'i who are facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court and is to be administered through the Judiciary.

HB438 is the fair, right, just thing to do to ensure that people are afforded the necessary protections under the law, families and communities are preserved, and our human rights and dignity are respected.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB438, and TLC respectfully urges the Committee members to pass HB438 out of your Committee. If you have questions of me, please contact me at [sma@tlchawaii.org](mailto:sma@tlchawaii.org).

Very respectfully yours,

*Sandy Ma*

Sandy Ma  
Community & Policy Advocate  
The Legal Clinic



Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey

Wednesday, January 29, 2025  
HB438-RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

TESTIMONY

Judith Wong, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports bill number HB438, relating to due process protections.** The League supports due process for all persons, including the right to a fair hearing, right to counsel, right of appeal and the right to humane treatment. The League does not support deporting immigrants who have no history of major and/or violent criminal activity.

Hawaii is home to many immigrant and mixed-status families who live, work and contribute to the welfare of the citizens of the state. Many individuals may be facing deportation or other immigration-related proceedings in the coming years in a complex and costly process. Often, they do not have the resources, the legal training or even the language skills to properly respond in these hearings.

HB438 would establish a due process in immigration proceedings program that would provide legal representation for immigrants who are residents of Hawaii and meet certain financial requirements. This would provide Hawaii immigrants with needed support to navigate the complex legal issues of immigration policy. The resources provided by this bill would assist those individuals to receive due process and continue to be contributing members of society.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 1:54:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter A In	North Hawaii Community Action Network	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Madam Chair Ilagan and members of the committee. This measure provides for the protection and provides financial assistance for immigrants. We urge you to vote YES for this measure.

Respectfully submitted,

Peter A. In, M.D. and Diane E. Hammond



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

**RANDY PERREIRA**, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The House of Representatives  
Committee Economic Development and Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

January 29, 2025

H.B. 438 — RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTION

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO strongly supports the intent of H.B. 438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

We recognize that our union membership stems from a broad array of cultural and ethnic backgrounds. Furthermore, we recognize that immigrants have played a vital role in Hawaii's labor movement, even dating back to our state's plantation era. An individual's right to due process is a core value that labor unions stand for, particularly in the workplace. Given the drastic and extreme shift in our federal government policy on immigration, we appreciate the intent of this measure which aims to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of H.B. 438.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director



*Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks! is a nonpartisan 501c4 nonprofit committed to advocating for children and their families. Our core issues are safety, health, and education.*

To: House Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Re: HB 438 Relating to Due Process Protections  
Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 423 & Via Videoconference  
Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10:00 AM

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members,

**On behalf of HCANSpeaks!, I am writing in support of HB 438, Relating to Due Process Protections.** This bill establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. This is urgently needed, especially given the increasing threats immigrant children and families face.

Children and immigrant families deserve legal representation. Immigrants all too often end up in immigration court alone and in Hawai'i there are only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state. Furthermore, the majority of pro bono immigration attorneys are on O'ahu, which leaves an even greater dearth of legal representation for immigrant families on neighbor islands and rural areas across our state. With additional funding, more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, have the just opportunity they deserve to fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Most people cannot afford the high costs of hiring a private attorney to defend their case. Families should not be torn apart by the immigration court system simply because they cannot afford counsel. I urge you to support this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB 438.**

Sincerely,  
Noreen Kohl, Ph.D.  
Policy Researcher and Advocate

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:48:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Austin Haleyalpiy	COFACAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in support of HB438. It is unconstitutional to not provide due process to anyone in the US regardless of status. That is one of the greatest qualities about this document which is the foundation upon which the US System of Law operates. Perfect or not, the intention is that everyone has a fair and EQUAL opportunity to go through the court process. Appropriating funds, I am assuming, would cover court fees, but most importantly allow those who take on these cases to be rightly compensated hopefully at no cost to the subject.**

**It is not a matter of public opinion. It is a matter of carrying out those laws directly stated within the US Constitution.**

**Thank you for your support and consideration,**

**Austin Haleyalpiy**

**President/Re-Founder, COFACAN**



**OAHU FILIPINO COMMUNITY COUNCIL**  
**Honolulu, Hawaii**

**January 27, 2025**

**Testimony in Support of HB438: Relating to Due Process Protections**

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

My name is Melodie Aduja, and I am testifying on behalf of the Oahu Filipino Community Council in strong support of HB438, which aims to establish the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

**Key Points of Support:**

1. **Access to Legal Representation:** HB438 will ensure that individuals residing in Hawaii who are facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court have access to legal representation, regardless of their ability to pay. This is crucial for ensuring due process and fair treatment for all residents.
2. **Promoting Family Unity:** By providing legal representation, this bill will help keep families together and promote community stability. Individuals with legal representation are significantly more likely to achieve favorable outcomes in immigration proceedings, including relief from deportation.
3. **Economic Security:** Ensuring that individuals have access to legal representation will also promote economic security. Individuals who are able to remain in the state can continue to contribute to the local economy and support their families.
4. **Community Support:** The establishment of the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program will provide much-needed support to vulnerable populations, including unaccompanied minors and Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals (DACA) recipients, who often face immigration proceedings without representation.

In conclusion, the Oahu Filipino Community Council strongly supports HB438 and urges the committee to pass this important legislation. By providing access to legal representation for

individuals facing immigration-related proceedings, we can ensure due process, promote family unity, and support the economic and social well-being of our communities.

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

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja  
Chair, Social Action Committee  
Oahu Filipino Community Council

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:18:34 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy agbayani	Hawaii Friends of Civil Rights	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in support submitted by**

**Amy Agbayani and Patricia McManaman, co-chairs Hawai'i Friends of Civil Rights**

The US percentage of foreign born is 14%. According to U.S. Census figures for 2014-2018, over 18% of Hawai'i's population consists of first- generation immigrants or migrants (260,000 in total). That's one out of five residents in our state. Immigrants reside in all counties/islands: Oahu 75%, Maui 12%, Hawaii 7%, and Kauai 5%. Immigrants from the Philippines represent the largest country of origin group, making up nearly half—or 45.8 percent—of all immigrants in Hawai'i. However, more recent immigrant groups such as Mexicans, Vietnamese, and Micronesians also make up sizeable shares of the foreign-born population.

U.S. citizens are protected by many laws and practices . Without the rights and protections of full citizenship, non-citizens are vulnerable to potential abuse, discrimination, and uncertainty, particularly in the face of recent restrictions added to federal immigration policies and practices. Immigrants who seek legal status—to which they may be entitled—frequently lack the financial means or English language proficiency needed to secure legal status.<sup>[1][2]</sup>

A majority (58%) of Hawai'i's foreign born residents are naturalized citizens. However, an estimated 54,000 are lawful permanent residents (“Green Card” holders) and eligible to apply for naturalized citizenship but may need assistance in doing so. Another estimated 45,000 or more are believed to be undocumented or under-documented. These include residents who are seeking asylum, individuals who have overstayed their visas, and those with so-called DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals) status. Many of these individuals may be entitled to legal protections but are vulnerable and could be reluctant to seek help.

While a high majority of immigrants (77%) in Hawai'i report speaking English “well” or “very well,” there remains a large number for whom English proficiency will present a potential obstacle. According to the Hawai'i Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT), more than 130 different languages are spoken among Hawai'i's immigrants, and one in four residents of the State speak a language other than English at home. A 2016 Hawai'i State report found that speakers of a non-English language typically earn 10% to 34% less than English-only speakers for all proficiency levels (Hawai'i DBEDT, April 2016). Most commonly spoken statewide are Tagalog (>58,000), Japanese (>54,000), Ilocano (>45,000), Spanish (>25,000), and Hawai'i an (>18,000).

The new administrations Executive Orders and call for mass deportation of undocumented persons, terminating refugee and asylum application and other anti-immigrant policies makes legal representation needed more. There is an urgent need in Hawai'i for accessible and affordable legal counsel and related services for low-income immigrant residents seeking assistance on immigration matters. For those whose English proficiency is limited, lack of access to interpreters or translated documents can also be a barrier. Awareness of immigrant rights and protections is limited, and the need for public education is essential. The process of applying for U.S. citizenship or for other changes to one's immigration status is extraordinarily complex, While some immigrants might require only brief service for routine matters, many have difficult, multi-layered cases that require extended advice and counsel. Immigrants need legal representation in deportation and asylum defense, sponsorship of family members to immigrate, naturalized citizenship or legal residency. Some have tried unsuccessfully in the past to secure their change in status but may have not been able to due to lack of expert legal advice and/or the complexity of their matters. Complexities are staggering for those facing both criminal charges and immigration court issues, and some cases require lengthy and demanding involvement. Additionally, there is no presumptive right to defense counsel in immigration matters, meaning that individuals who cannot afford attorney fees may face detention, deportation, or denial of citizenship benefits without legal representation and assistance to tackle complex application procedures. Legal counsel is not only expensive, but also hard to come by, as there are few practicing immigration attorneys in Hawai'i.

Expert legal representation increases the chances of protecting immigrant rights and securing a positive outcome. Nationwide, according to the American Immigration Council, immigrants who are petitioning for U.S. legal status and who have an attorney are five times more likely to obtain relief from deportation than those without counsel. In 2016, 90% of those who were denied asylum had no legal representation, vs. 48% denied with legal counsel (Center for American Progress). In 2017, the Immigration Court in Honolulu completed 241 immigration cases with 83 resulting in removal or voluntary departure. Only 37% of all respondents had legal counsel. Other studies have shown that successful petitions for permanent residency or naturalization lead to immigrants being better able to secure good employment (including an increase in personal earnings of as much as 11%), and to become more civically engaged — significantly boosting economic and social opportunity for them and for our community as a whole.

HFCA strongly supports hb438 which establishes a due process Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration courts.



# FILIPINO CHAMBER OF COMMERCE OF HAWAII

Promoting Hawaii's Business Community since 1954

*70 Years of Endurance, Resilience, Excellence and Success*

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**Atty. Daniel J. Padilla**

Executive Director  
**Jasmine Chung**

Statement of  
**Melody Calisay, Ph.D.**  
**President**

Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii  
before the

## **HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

29 January 2025  
10 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 423

In Consideration of  
**H.B. 438**

### **RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS**

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and members of the Committee, the Filipino Chamber of Commerce of Hawaii (FCCH) supports HB438 which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Re: Urgent Support for HB 438, Relating to Due Process Protections

To: Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair Rep. Daniel Holt Rep. Chris Todd Rep. Adrian K. Tam Rep. Lauren Matsumoto Rep. Shirley Ann Templo

Hrg: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10:00, Conference Room 423

Esteemed Senators Ilagan, Hussey, Holt, Todd, Tam, Matsumoto, and Templo,

As the founding director of Maui Roots Reborn, I've witnessed firsthand the resilience and vulnerability of our migrant and immigrant community. Forged in the fires of the 2023 Maui wildfires, our organization, comprised entirely of bilingual and bicultural migrants and children of immigrants, has become a lifeline for over a thousand individuals. We are trusted, we understand the cultural nuances, and we share the lived experiences of those we serve.

This is why we at Maui Roots Reborn strongly support HB 438. The looming threat of ICE agents arriving in Hawai'i to carry out arrests, detentions, and mass deportations is deeply alarming. Our immigrant families, already traumatized by the 2023 wildfires, now face the terrifying prospect of expedited removal without due process.

We have dedicated ourselves to earning the trust of our community and helping them rebuild their faith in institutions and organizations after the trauma of the wildfires. It has been a long and careful process, requiring sensitivity, understanding, and a genuine commitment to their well-being. Most recently, we have focused on fostering a sense of safety and trust between our immigrant community and the police department, assuring them that they can rely on law enforcement for protection and assistance.

The expanded expedited removal rule announced on January 21st threatens to undermine this progress. This policy denies immigrants basic due process rights. It targets

individuals who cannot prove they have been in the country continuously for two years, denying them a fair hearing and legal representation. This violates the Fifth Amendment, the Immigration and Nationality Act, and the Administrative Procedure Act.

HB 438 offers a crucial solution by establishing due process protections in Immigration Proceedings Programs within the Judiciary. It would provide legal representation to individuals facing deportation and allocate funds to support this vital service.

We cannot stand by and watch as our community is torn apart. Immigrants are vital members of our communities, contributing to our economy, enriching our culture, and strengthening our social fabric. They deserve to be treated with dignity and respect, not fear and persecution.

Roots Reborn urges Hawai'i to lead the way in protecting the rights of our immigrant community. By passing HB 438, we can ensure that everyone, regardless of immigration status, has access to due process and legal representation. We urge you to act swiftly and support this crucial legislation, affirming our collective commitment to a just and equitable Hawai'i for all.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Veronica Mendoza Jachowski". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "V" and "M".

Veronica Mendoza Jachowski  
Executive Director  
Roots Reborn

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:58:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Detwiler	Hawaiian Islands Republican Women	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The State of Hawaii should not provide legal representation to illegal aliens as the cost of our taxpayers. They are here in the state and in our country as an "illegal" immigrant. They do not have the same rights as legal U.S. Citizens.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Jamie Detwiler, President

Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:31:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alika Valdez	Hawai'i Democratic Party	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Telephone: (808) 597-1441  
Fax: (808) 593-2149

The Thirty-Second Legislature  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

January 29, 2025

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB438 - RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 74 affiliate labor organizations representing over 68,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, ensuring safe working conditions, and supporting policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We are in support of HB438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation to immigrants involved in immigration-related proceedings. Federal policies have increased enforcement efforts, leaving many immigrants without legal representation to navigate complex legal processes. Some are stuck in prolonged administrative delays despite being essential contributors to Hawaii's economy. Access to legal assistance helps immigrant workers address their cases fairly and continue supporting industries vital to the state.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Randy Perreira'.

Randy Perreira  
President



## *Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C*

*Alakea Corporate Tower  
1100 Alakea St., Fl. 20, Suite B  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

January 27, 2025

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaiki Hussey, Vice Chair  
House Committee on Economic Development and Technology

**Re: H.B. 438, Due Process Protections, SUPPORT**  
**Hearing: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, 10 a.m. Conf. Rm. 423**

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

### **Background**

#### **It can happen here. And it did.**

A detention camp. An Internment Camp. A concentration camp. **Honouliuli Internment Camp, Sand Island Detention Camp, U.S. Immigration Station, Waiakea Prison Camp, Kilauea Military Camp, Maui County Jail, Haiku Military Camp, Lana‘i City Jail, Kaunakakai County Jail, Kaunakakai County Courthouse, Wailua County Jail, Kalaheo Stockade, Waimea Jail, Lihue Plantation Gymnasium.**

<https://www.hawaiiinternment.org/students/internment-camps-hawai%E2%80%98i>

After the Empire of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, FDR ordered the internment of the Japanese Americans, regardless of their citizenship two months later. Executive Order 9066. The War Relocation Authority (WRA) was established on March 18th to organize their removal. **“These prisoners were never even charged with a crime, let alone convicted. Two-thirds of them were U.S. citizens, born in the U.S.—the remainder could not have become citizens because at that time people of Asian origin were prohibited from naturalization.”** <https://www.hawaiiinternment.org/untold-story/resources> [Emphasis added]. See also Michi Weglyn’s landmark **Years of Infamy, The Untold Story of America’s Concentration Camps**, and the NBC-produced documentary **“Guilty by Reason of Race.”**

- ❖ Fueled by suspicions of disloyalty with military personnel and **local authorities collaborating on arrests**, the U.S. government interned **2,270 people of Japanese ancestry in Hawai‘i**. The “internees” were at first confined to the local internment camps, with most being sent to O‘ahu’s U.S. Immigration station before being transferred to internment camps on the mainland.
- ❖ Thus, **more than 2,000 of the 120,000 or so Americans of Japanese ancestry who were interned during the war came from Hawai‘i**. “Surrounded by barbed wire and armed sentries, they were held for the duration of the war - allegedly to prevent any attack on U.S. strategic installations, although not a single incident of a Japanese American attempting to aid the enemy was ever documented.”

<https://www.hawaiiinternment.org/sites/default/files/Participation%20in%20Democracy.pdf>

### **What was it like?**

- As the round-up proceeded, the [Dorothea Lange] photographs show people ripped from their lives on short notice, forced to sell property at great losses, to give up homes &

furnishings, leave jobs and schools; lined up, registered, tagged like packages; waiting, waiting, often guarded by armed soldiers; allowed to bring only what they could carry.

- The greatest injury was often the humiliation. . . At the **Tanforan** assembly center in San Bruno, a former racetrack, the internees lived in horse stables. They are surrounded by prison regulations: no cameras, no books or magazines in Japanese, meals in large mess halls with food often ladled out from garbage cans, collective toilets, whole families sleeping in one “room” barely partitioned off from adjoining families, singles sleeping in huge wards with long rows of cots.
- The snow-covered Sierras looking down from the east did nothing to cool the 100-degree-plus heat, and there were neither trees nor hills to break the fierce winds, whether icy or hot. Lange was awed by the hostile environment: “meanest dust storms ... and not a blade of grass. And the springs are so cruel; when those people arrived there they couldn’t keep the tarpaper on the shacks.” . . . Unlike the other camps, **Manzanar** needed no high barbed fence or guards—as with Alcatraz, geography formed the prison walls.

<https://www.hawaiiinternment.org>

**“Resistance to the incarceration at Manzanar soon led to a prison uprising that the Army put down by shooting 11 prisoners, killing two. Afterward, internees were forced to complete a questionnaire to identify and segregate those who were disloyal to America.” **A Racist Purge Almost Destroyed My Family. Another One Is Coming.** Timothy Soseki Kudo**

<https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/18/opinion/immigration-trump-ww2-japanese-internment.html>  
↓

### **Now**

America is now poised to allow a new version of the same profound injustice that nearly destroyed the Japanese in America. Donald Trump has vowed that he will move immediately to begin **rounding up as many as 20 million immigrants — including U.S. citizens born here and granted birthright citizenship — and deport them**. “If he achieves his goal, approximately **one in 16 people living in America could be imprisoned and deported** over the next four years. The time between President Roosevelt’s executive order and the first arrival to the Manzanar War Relocation Center was 30 days.” *Id.*

### **Conclusion**

With this history embedded in our minds of the simply horrific violations of law, especially the principles now enunciated in our Hawai’i State Constitution<sup>1</sup>, our law firm<sup>2</sup> **supports H.B. 438, which provides Due Process Protections and urges the committee to adopt any amendments proposed by the Legal Center**. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara

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1 See, e.g., **State of Hawai’i v. Christopher L. Wilson**, 154 Hawai’i 8, 543 P.3d 440 (2024.) Justice Eddison emphasized that State constitutions provide a “double security” for the people’s liberty. The Federalist No. 51, at 321 (James Madison) . . . Per the Constitution’s design, the Hawai’i Constitution supplies an *additional* guarantee of individual rights. See, e.g., **State v. Tanaka**, 67 Haw. 658, 661, 701 P.2d 1274, 1276 (1985) (“We have not hesitated in the past to extend the protections of the Hawai’i **Bill of Rights** beyond those of textually parallel provisions in the Federal **Bill of Rights** when logic and a sound regard for the purposes of those protections have so warranted.”).

2 My law firm has fought for civil rights and specialized in employment law as plaintiffs’ attorneys since 1986.





CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAII

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB438:  
RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS**

**TO:** House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
**FROM:** Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
**Hearing:** **Wednesday, 1/29/25, 10:00 am; Room 423 & Videoconference**

Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey and Members, Committee on Economic Development & Technology:

Catholic Charities Hawai'i **Supports HB 438, Relating to Due Process Protections**, to establish the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court, with funding.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) is a tax exempt, non-profit agency that has been providing social services in Hawai'i for over 75 years. CCH has programs serving elders, children, families, homeless and immigrants. Our mission is to provide services and advocacy to the most vulnerable of the people in Hawai'i. We service over 113,000 people each year throughout the state. We are a Department of Justice (DOJ) Recognized Organization and our General Immigration Service Program provides legal immigration services with staff who are accredited through the DOJ.<sup>1</sup> Our staff are *partially* accredited, allowing them to represent immigrant clients before the U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services (USCIS) but does not allow them to represent immigrant clients in immigration court. There are situations where we must refer our low-income immigrant clients to attorneys who are able to represent them in immigration court and are concerned that the available pro bono resources are limited and are likely to be stretched due to anticipated increase in demand.

Immigrants can end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge, because they are not able to afford costly legal representation. Pro Bono immigration attorneys are limited in Hawai'i and the majority are on the island of Oahu. With this proposed funding, more legal immigration service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals across the islands to ensure that more Hawaii residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, can be represented in a fair and dignified way.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i urges your support for this bill. Please provide significant funding to support family unity and social justice.

If you have any questions, please contact our Legislative Liaison, Betty Lou Larson, at (808) 527-4813.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.justice.gov/eoir/page/file/942306/dl#HAWAII>



## HB 438, RELATING TO RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

JANUARY 29, 2025 · ECD HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance **supports** HB 438, relating to due process protections, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

Imua Alliance is a victim service provider for survivors of sex trafficking, **including numerous migrant survivors**. Over the past 15 years, we have provided comprehensive direct intervention (victim rescue) services to over 200 victims, successfully emancipating them from slavery and assisting in their restoration, while providing a range of targeted services to over 1,000 victims and individuals at risk of sexual exploitation. During the pandemic, demand for services to our organization skyrocketed by 330 percent, driven in part by a fivefold increase in direct crisis calls.

Many of the victims we have assisted have suffered from complex and overlapping trauma, including post-traumatic stress disorder, depression and anxiety, dissociation, parasuicidal behavior, and substance abuse. Trafficking-related trauma and trauma-coerced attachment can even lead to a complete loss of identity and significant memory loss. Our survivor-clients require a tremendous amount of psychological, medical, and occupational support once outside of the commercial sex industry, as they painstakingly progress toward recovery.

**Countless human trafficking survivors are migrants.** Our state's migrant survivor population is difficult to estimate, but exceeds 500-1,000 people annually. These individuals are exploited in

local storefront brothels (such as fake massage parlors and relaxation therapy establishments), on local farms, and in our fishing industry, where they are forced to endure inhumane conditions and are stripped of any documentation and identification materials they may have.

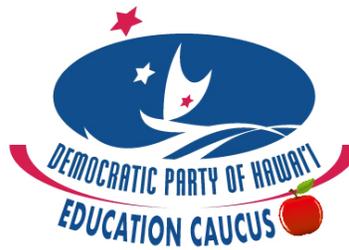
We should provide assistance and a path to citizenship for immigrants, not punishment and fear. According to a report published by the American Immigration Council in 2020, Hawai'i is home to over 266,000 immigrants, including 45,000 thousand undocumented immigrants. As a society, we treasure our immigrant heritage, from which we have developed a legacy of multicultural cooperation and an abiding respect for the limitless value of diversity.

President Donald Trump has signaled his intent to implement a draconian, arbitrary, and cruel system of enforcement when it comes to immigration. Already, immigration raids have been initiated throughout the country, including in our island home. On January 27<sup>th</sup>, Hawai'i News Now reported that the local office of Homeland Security Investigations posted photos on social media of officers from U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Drug Enforcement Administration arresting immigrants on our shores. Trump officials have also begun issuing quotas to ICE officers to ramp up arrests, according to the Washington Post.

Advocates and, of course, immigrants themselves—both documented and undocumented—are justifiably concerned about these mass deportation actions. As the American Immigration Council stated in its “After Day One” factsheet: “The initial wave of executive actions scales up a “mass deportation” operation that everyone without legal status in the United States will be highly vulnerable to on the first day these practices go into effect. Indeed, by invoking the registration provision, the Trump administration is threatening to turn all immigrants into criminals by setting them up for the ‘crime’ of failing to register,” which they have no way to do.

From a historical perspective, we are all immigrants. We urge your committee to act with haste to defend the many immigrants who make our communities proud and call the Aloha State home.

***Contact us at [imuaalliance.org/contact](https://imuaalliance.org/contact).***



## HOUSE BILL 438, RELATING TO DUE PROCESS PROTECTIONS

JANUARY 29, 2025 · ECD HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 438, relating to due process protections, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

Hawai'i understands the value of immigration and cultural diversity. Our island home—like the United States—is defined by immigration and a legacy of migrant labor that has bestowed upon us a rich social tapestry, multifaceted economy, and an everlasting respect for the principles of democracy and pluralism. As Barack Obama once said, “What makes someone American isn’t just blood or birth, but allegiance to our founding principles and faith in the idea that anyone—from anywhere—can write the next chapter of our story.”

Today, however, we are witnessing a cruel campaign of mass deportation being implemented throughout the country—including in our state—which is undermining the roots of communities in which migrants are celebrated members. Recently, the Trump administration has removed restrictions that prevented Immigration and Customs Enforcement from conducting raids at so-called sensitive locations, including schools (as well as houses of worship and hospitals).

We cannot sit idly by while Donald Trump enacts a campaign of fear against our immigrant neighbors. These actions will not prop up the American economy. On the contrary, immigrant labor is essential to the preservation of our society's financial well-being. Immigrants boost overall economic growth by expanding the labor force and increasing consumer spending. The foreign born also start new businesses at higher rates than U.S.-born individuals. Immigrants were involved in the development of 30 percent of patents in strategic industries in recent years and more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants.

Higher-than-expected immigration is driving job growth and productivity and *was* projected to continue doing so in the coming years: The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) estimates that a greater level of immigration expected between 2024 and 2034 *could have* boosted gross domestic product (GDP) by \$8.9 trillion. Yet, these gains will be jeopardized by the Trump Administration's inhumane mass deportation actions, which harken back to the race-based policies of the 19<sup>th</sup> and early 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries and draw frightening parallels to the policies put in place by violent authoritarian governments throughout history, including the Nazi regime.

Immigrants exist in our neighborhoods, our schools, our workplaces, and all other spaces in our state. They empower our society to thrive, despite the social and political violence with which they are forced to endure. As a state, we have a responsibility to protect their well-being. If we fail, history will remember our complicity in the annihilation of human rights and civil liberties, and our unwillingness to do what is right to preserve the most fundamental tenets of our democracy.

**Contact: [educationcaucusdph@gmail.com](mailto:educationcaucusdph@gmail.com)**



Committee: House Economic Development & Technology  
Hearing Date/Time: Wednesday, January 29, 2025, at 10:00am  
Place: Conference Room 423 & Via Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of H.B. 438 Relating to Due Process Protections**

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

The ACLU of Hawai'i strongly supports H.B. 438 that establishes a program to provide access to legal representation for persons facing immigration court.

Due process of law and fair access to justice are essential to a healthy and functioning justice system, and to fostering public trust in legal outcomes. Given the importance of due process in our legal system, people who are facing the possibility of forced separation from their family, community, and homes should have basic resources to navigate the legal system and to ensure that their case is properly heard.

The ripple effects of deportation are often just as consequential for an individual's life as a criminal proceeding, if not more. Even though such safeguards exist for criminal cases, there is currently no guaranteed right to legal counsel in immigration hearings. The passage of H.B. 438 would remedy this and demonstrate Hawai'i's commitment to upholding justice and due process for all residents, especially our most vulnerable and threatened neighbors.

Providing counsel is also important to ensure that people are not wrongfully deported when they have a valid reason to be in the United States. A national study on immigration counsel found that immigrants who had legal representation were four times more likely to be released from detention when they had a custody hearing and were eleven times more likely to apply for relief from deportation (like asylum). Those that did seek immigration relief were also twice as likely to obtain it if they had legal representation.<sup>1</sup>

Without the provision of counsel, immigration hearings will become unjustly skewed against low-income people who may qualify for asylum but might have difficulty arguing this before a judge. Immigration law and individual cases are incredibly daunting to face alone, and an individual's success in the courts should not come down to whether or not they can afford a lawyer.

Sincerely,

Nathan Lee  
Policy Legislative Fellow, ACLU Hawai'i

C: Carrie Ann Shirota, Policy Director

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai'i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization founded in 1965 that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds.*

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1

[https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/access\\_to\\_counsel\\_in\\_immigration\\_court.pdf](https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/sites/default/files/research/access_to_counsel_in_immigration_court.pdf)

## Testimony in Support of H.B. No. 438- Relating to Due Process Protections

January 28, 2025

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of H.B. No. 438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program. This program will ensure individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in Hawai'i have access to legal representation, regardless of their financial ability, promoting fairness, justice, and equity.

Hawaii's immigrant community, which makes up a significant portion of our population, faces numerous barriers in navigating complex legal systems without representation. This lack of support often results in unjust outcomes, including family separations and deportations, which cause deep trauma and destabilize our communities. Providing legal counsel not only protects individual rights but also strengthens family unity and community trust.

By prioritizing culturally appropriate services and partnering with local organizations, this program fosters inclusion and supports the dignity of those most vulnerable. Ensuring due process and equity sends a clear message that Hawai'i values justice for all, creating a positive ripple effect that enhances community stability and resilience.

In closing, we respectfully urge you to pass H.B. No. 438 to ensure due process, protect family unity, and uphold the values of justice and equity. By doing so, we can strengthen our community and mitigate the trauma and instability caused by unjust immigration proceedings.

Mahalo,

A.L.O.H.A. Latinos

Victoria Magaña Ledesma

Marlen Villatoro

Graciela Del Rio

Armando Rodriguez

Karina Rodriguez

Anna Marie Smith

Maria Alejandra Cisneros Zavala

Jazmin Allison

Claudia Hartz

Jennifer Balderas



# HAWAII WORKERS CENTER

**LATE** Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Defending and Respecting the workers of  
Hawaii'i

[hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiiworkerscenter@gmail.com) ✉

Mail: P.O. Box 29969, Honolulu, HI 96820 ✉

[hawaiiworkerscenter.org](http://hawaiiworkerscenter.org) 🌐

January 28, 2025

**Executive Board  
Committee**

Rev. Sam Domingo  
*Board Chair*

Mary Ochs  
*Vice Chair*

Dr. Arcelita Imasa  
*Secretary*

Kami Yamamoto  
*Treasurer*

**Board Members**

Yoko Liriano

Nanea Lo

Innocenta  
Sound-Kikku

Ray Catania

Justin Jansen

Leyton Torda

Kami Yamamoto

CJ Johnson

**Executive Director**

Sergio Alcubilla III, Esq.

Hawaii State House of Representatives  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

**RE: SUPPORT for H.B 438 Relating to Due Process Protections**

Dear Chair Rep. Ilagan, Vice-Chair Rep. Hussey, and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology:

The Hawaii Workers Center (HWC) envisions a Hawaii in which all workers are empowered to exercise their right to organize for their social, economic and political well-being.

It is a resource of information, education, training and organizing for Hawaii's workers.

The HWC stands in **support of H.B. 438** which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration-related proceedings in immigration court.

Our base of workers include immigrant and migrant low-wage workers who often do not have direct access to much needed legal resources. In this current political climate, access to justice for our most vulnerable communities are needed the most. Appropriating funds to ensure access to justice for all is a testament to our pledge enshrined in the words, “. . . with liberty and justice for all.”

Thank you for your consideration in support of H.B. 438.

Sincerely,

Sergio Alcubilla  
Executive Director

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 5:23:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I STRONGLY OPPOSE** any Bill in which the State would attempt to defy the deportation efforts of the federal government to enforce our immigration laws. We need to take care of legal citizens and residents in Hawaii first, not illegal aliens who are criminals by definition. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/24/2025 7:48:48 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Federal Law supercedes State Law. State tax should not be used to pay for the legal services purposed in this bill.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 12:28:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judi Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against this bill.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 1:38:55 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Younghee Overly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB438 because immigrant families and individuals do not have the funds to pay a private attorney to fight their case. We do not need immigrant families to be ripped apart by our immigration court. Please pass this measure and mahalo.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:01:55 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 4:02:15 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nandita Sharma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Bill. There should be no discrimination on the provision of legal services based on the citizenship or lack thereof of the detained.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 5:00:57 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lorna Farnum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The ICE agents of the US government are currently rounding up individuals in other states WITHOUT Due Process or a Warrant & taking them REGARDLESS of their citizen status or their age. In New Jersey, for example, they rounded up individuals at one location that included American Citizens of many ethnicities... including a Veteran whom the ICE agents laughed at when he informed them of his service. They took American Citizens who were Puerto Rican. People born in a territory of the USA ARE proper American Citizens. For example, my grandfather came to the US mainland when the Philipines was a US territory which made him a US Citizen. He wasn't often treated as such in the 1920's but he was an American Citizen nonetheless. Due Process keeps the government working under the US Constitution & the Rule of Law.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 6:18:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Denise L Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii. Immigrants are a vital part of our community here in Hawaii and a rich part of our past. Hawaii would not be Hawai'i without immigrants.

**Testimony in Support of HB438**

Hearing Date: January 29, 2025

Committee: Economic Development and Technology

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Honorable Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation for individuals facing immigration-related proceedings in immigration court. This bill is a critical step in ensuring fairness, justice, and the protection of fundamental rights for Hawaii's immigrant communities.

Many individuals navigating immigration court proceedings face complex legal challenges without the right to government-funded legal representation. Language barriers, financial hardships, and a lack of accessible legal resources further disadvantage immigrants who are at risk of deportation, family separation, and loss of community ties.

HB438 addresses these challenges by ensuring that vulnerable individuals—particularly those who are detained or facing deportation—have access to competent legal counsel.

By passing HB438, Hawaii will take a bold step in ensuring that immigration proceedings are fair and that all residents, regardless of their background or economic status, have the opportunity to defend their rights. I strongly urge the committee to support this bill and stand with Hawaii's immigrant communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, HI

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:13:46 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Caringer, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB438**

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Representative Ikaiki Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: January 29th, 2025

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

I am writing in **support** of HB438. Many remember the stories from the first Trump Administration of little children in court on their own. Expected to mount a defense against their removal without even an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances. It is laughable to consider the outcomes of these cases justice when the process is so unjust.

As a child psychologist, I feel it is essential that our state not participate in terrorizing children by allowing them to face a court system all alone. We should provide them with a minimum of legal support, and would strongly recommend that they also be provided with psychological and social supports as well.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organization can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

Clinical Psychologist & Neuropsychologist

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:15:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lois Langham	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/25/2025 9:32:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Takayuki Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB438**

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Representative Ikaiki Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: January 29th, 2025

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

I am writing in **support** of HB438. Many remember the stories from the first Trump Administration of little children in court on their own. Expected to mount a defense against their removal without even an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances. It is laughable to consider the outcomes of these cases justice when the process is so unjust.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organization can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

Takayuki Harada

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 10:05:48 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Bellamy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect our immigrants in Hawai'i who contribute to our economy and local communities. Every person deserves to have legal representation.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:39:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Judy McCluskey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB438 has my enthusiastic support.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:33:34 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Babcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 10:52:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. News reports of what Felon Donald Trump and his minions are doing are frightening. Immigrants are the backbone of our nation. We are all descendants (as am I) of immigrants or immigrants. Please move this bill forward.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 8:34:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beppie Shapiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In the current moment, with immigrants threatened with federal detention and deportation, and mounting evidence that even immigrants with legal status are being hassled and harmed in the course of federal action, it is super important to provide any legal protection we can to our many resident immigrants. These people live and work with us and among us and enrich our economic and social systems.

Please pass HB438.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:31:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Juvana Soliven	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:05:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
ginger edmunds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a granddaughter of a Mexican immigrant who came to the US for a better life and achieved it by becoming an entrepreneur and providing jobs for Americans, I support any measures to protect hard working immigrants in Hawaii.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:30:48 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Harvey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 12:45:01 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of HB438.

Aloha Chair Ilagan and members of the Committee,

This measure is well worth its cost to avoid potential tragic family separations and to promote our economic stability . Please vote YES on this measure.

Mahalo,

Nancy Moser

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 7:01:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I think it's insane that immigrants aren't already granted court-appointed attorneys and that they have little or no guide for the many language barriers, financial concerns, and general lack of accessibility at all points in the immigration process. Especially in the case of children who, through unique or tragic circumstances, end up in our country alone. I support this bill to rectify this egregious wrong.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 5:11:48 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jane Aquino	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must provide Civil Rights protections FOR ALL IMMIGRANTS. They are an important part of our community. Keep them safe!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 3:54:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
chelsea pang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of HB438,

Aloha Chairperson and members of the Committee, This measure addresses the due process necessary to protect each of us in Hawaii. Please vote YES on this measure.

Thank you

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:11:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DORIEN MCCLELLAN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii. They have become part of the fabric of our islands, supporting commerce, health care and Hawaii's families.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/26/2025 2:43:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB438**

**COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair**

**Representative Ikaiki Hussey, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: January 29th, 2025**

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

**I am writing in support of HB438. Many remember the stories from the first Trump Administration of little children in court on their own. Expected to mount a defense against their removal without even an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances. It is laughable to consider the outcomes of these cases justice when the process is so unjust.**

**Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organization can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.**

**I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.**

**Thank you for your support and consideration, Gail Morrison**

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:06:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

North Hawaii Community Action Network supports HB438.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:42:06 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
dana edmunds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protet immigrants in Hawaii! Please support this!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:43:06 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii. They provide needed services, pay taxes and are members of our ohana. The current administrations policies are cruel and unnecessary.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 12:56:36 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
roberta cestare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB438 which will provide due process protections. Funding is needed for more immigration attorneys and paralegals to that individuals have access to legal counsel.

No one should have to appear in court to present their case without the support of legal counsel. I urge you to support this bill to allow a fair and dignified process.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:30:49 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayla Marie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:29:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Beth McDermott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in strong support of HB 438. Unconscionable that any immigrant faced with deportation would not have the right to legal counsel. During the last Trump administration some of those so tried were minors and immigrant adults with limited fluency in English who barely understood what was happening to them. We have every reason to expect that the team Trump has assembled to go after our immigrant community will be even more vicious than the last time making it imperative that our immigrant friends and neighbors have every protection we can offer them. They are not going after simply "criminals" but ALL immigrants, even those born in the US. Please vote FOR this bill. Thank you.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:23:25 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrea L W Fruggiero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of HB438. Please vote YES to pass.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:56:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i. I am vey concerned about the federal government's abominal, unethical deportation of many friends, acquaintances, students, and business owners in my district, Ka'u. Please pass this bill to protect them.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 3:57:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Iris Mendoza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB438  
COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**

**Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: January 29th, 2025**

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

My name is Iris, and I am writing in strong support of HB438. Many of us vividly recall the heart-wrenching stories during the first Trump Administration of young children standing in court alone, expected to defend themselves in immigration proceedings without even an adult to advocate for them. Unfortunately, this is not just a story from the past—it remains a harsh reality. Immigrants continue to face court proceedings without representation, often unable to understand the language, with no legal expertise, and pitted against trained ICE prosecutors. It is impossible to view these outcomes as just when the process itself is so inequitable.

Hawai‘i remains a legal desert when it comes to immigration services, with only a small number of pro bono immigration attorneys statewide, most of whom are based on O‘ahu. This leaves many individuals and families on other islands without access to critical legal support. With additional funding, legal service organizations can hire more attorneys and paralegals, ensuring that more community members—many of whom have a legitimate pathway to lawful status—can receive the fair representation they deserve.

I urge you to support this bill. No family should be torn apart because someone couldn’t afford the thousands of dollars it takes to hire a private immigration attorney. We must ensure that everyone, regardless of their financial means, has a fair chance to navigate this complex and life-altering process.

Thank you for your consideration and support of this critical measure.

Sincerely,  
Iris Mendoza

Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:19:48 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol Linde	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill. Hawai'i has a long and proud history of welcoming immigrants. This bill aims to continue this tradition by granting immigrants the same dignity as any other resident or any other human.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:25:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
vivienne aronowitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In STRONG SUPPORT of HB22. Aloha Chair Ilagan and members of the Committee, This measure addresses the due process necessary to protect each of us in Hawaii. Please vote YES on this measure

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 4:46:20 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary M. McNamara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:10:55 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong support for HB438 and to emphasize the urgent need for its swift implementation. The current administration's expedited approach to immigration proceedings underscores the critical importance of ensuring access to legal representation for all. As many will recall, stories from the previous administration highlighted the plight of children appearing in court alone, a situation that sadly continues to occur. Immigrants often find themselves in immigration court without legal training, facing an ICE prosecutor and judge, and frequently without even a clear understanding of the language being used. It is difficult to imagine a fair outcome in such circumstances, and the accelerated pace of current immigration proceedings only intensifies this challenge.

Hawai'i faces a significant shortage of immigration attorneys, particularly those offering pro bono services. The majority of these attorneys are located on O'ahu. Increased funding for legal service organizations would allow them to hire additional attorneys and paralegals, enabling more residents – many of whom have viable paths to lawful status – to present their cases fairly and with dignity.

I respectfully urge the committee to support HB438 and to prioritize its immediate enactment. Families should not be separated due to an inability to afford legal counsel. This is a matter of fundamental fairness, and the current administration's focus on expedited immigration cases makes the need for these resources all the more pressing.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lum

‘Ewa Beach, Hawai‘i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:11:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bailey Aughe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 7:12:07 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Malcolm Mearu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:17:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Karissa Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 8:41:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Andrew J Aughe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 9:12:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michelle Ma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:21:09 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruben Juarez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support H.B. 438, which establishes the Due Process in Immigration Proceedings Program to provide legal representation for immigrants facing court proceedings. Immigrants are essential to Hawaii's economy and contribute greatly to industries like tourism, agriculture, and healthcare. By ensuring they have access to legal help, this bill promotes fairness, family unity, and community stability, preventing unnecessary disruptions that harm families and local businesses.

Providing legal representation also strengthens Hawaii's economy by helping immigrants stay in their jobs and continue contributing to the community. It reduces the burden on public resources caused by family separations and economic insecurity. This bill reflects Hawaii's values of inclusivity and justice while supporting its long-term economic and social health.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/27/2025 11:27:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Elyse Scott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i.

Zechariah 7:9: Show kindness and mercy to foreigners, and do not oppress them

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:01:22 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Young	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawai'i.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:15:46 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sharee Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Illegal aliens are illegal. No waste taxpayer money on people who tried to circumnavigate the correct immigration process. Taxpayers pay a lot of taxes that the state likes to use in dumb ways then want to ask for more. No more.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:15:54 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:33:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaiulani Bowers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I deeply oppose this bill

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:51:05 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Back in Kamehameha's day, you had to ask permission to stay. Bills like these are saying you don't need permission and anyone can stay, which puts a huge burden on already overtaxed citizens. The bill is not pono. Legal immigration is the only righteous way to do this. Illegal immigrants do not need taxpayer funded legal representation.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:53:50 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deven English	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, stop trying to make it so easy for non-citizens of the United States to get free representation that citizens of the United States have to pay out of their own pockets for. Our tax money is paying for this no matter what you say.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:00:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do I get any free representation? America 1st!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:02:27 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emerson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not my tax dollars. You guys dont even deserve that 64% raise.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:05:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:06:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

As a citizen concerned with justice, I am writing in **support** of HB438. Many remember the stories from the first Trump Administration of little children in court on their own. Expected to mount a defense against their removal without even an adult by their side. Unfortunately, this happens all too often. Immigrants end up in immigration court alone, unable to understand the language, without any legal training, and facing an ICE prosecutor and judge. It is almost inconceivable that anyone would be successful in arguing their case in these circumstances. It is laughable to consider the outcomes of these cases justice when the process is so unjust.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

Makiki, HI

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:15:44 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

I support this measure to protect immigrants in Hawaii, and by extension all of our Constitutional rights. People, especially children and English language learners, deserve legal representation when brought into court.

Alyce Dodge

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:16:40 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB438 because illegal immigrants do not and should not be given the same legal rights as U.S. citizens.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:16:51 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose!!!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:27:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bradle Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB438, which proposes taxpayer-funded legal representation for individuals who are in the country illegally. While I understand the humanitarian concerns behind this bill, I believe it raises significant issues that could have adverse effects on our state's resources and legal system.

Firstly, providing taxpayer-funded legal representation to individuals who are in the country illegally could place a substantial financial burden on our state. Our resources are already stretched thin, and allocating funds for this purpose could divert money away from other critical areas such as education, healthcare, and infrastructure. It is essential that we prioritize the needs of our citizens and ensure that taxpayer dollars are used effectively.

Moreover, HB438 could create a precedent that encourages illegal immigration. By offering legal representation funded by taxpayers, we may inadvertently send a message that our state is willing to support individuals who have entered the country unlawfully. This could lead to an increase in illegal immigration, further straining our resources and complicating our efforts to manage immigration effectively.

Additionally, the bill could lead to legal and logistical challenges. Providing legal representation to individuals who are in the country illegally could result in a backlog of cases and overwhelm our legal system. This could delay the resolution of other important legal matters and create inefficiencies within our judicial system.

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider HB438 and recognize the potential financial and legal implications of this bill. It is crucial that we prioritize the needs of our citizens and ensure that our resources are used in a manner that benefits our entire community.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Bradley Lindsey

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:34:11 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cheryl Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you to vote no on this bill. Why would we pay for legal representation for a person that is in our country illegally? This is my and your tax dollars. I can't even afford an attorney when I need one and I'm forced to pay for an attorney for someone who is here illegally and doesn't have, and shouldn't have, the rights I have as a citizen?

This doesn't make any sense. This should not even be a bill!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:34:37 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie West	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:40:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noela von Wiegandt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill. Once again, who is going to pay for legal representation of these lawbreakers who are here illegally, the citizens of Hawaii? Deport these illegals, they can apply legally to be a citizen of the United States. The people of Hawaii should not be on the hook to pay for these illegals and help you people create bills to harbor illegals. You took an Oath to Protect the United States, now HONOR YOUR OATH. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:51:32 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marla Carino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why waste tax dollars on legal fees for non citizen people, it is a waste of time and money the way I see it, send them back have them come in the legal way and save our money for our people, illegal persons should not be able to receive any type of funds that they don't deserve or have contributed too.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:53:44 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lori Ann Peralta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As I specifically noted in my opposition to HB73

No detention facility!

I oppose this bill

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:54:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Justyce Torres	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in OPPOSE to HB438, any and all ILEGAL persons had months/years to do legal paper work. Tax payers shouldn't be paying for them at all.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:00:53 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB438. Please vote NO.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:07:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
karen Mountain	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No, I do not want to pay for the representation. Why are they here if they cannot pay their own way. My tax dollars are not collected to support people not paying equally into the system.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:12:14 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Camlyn Pola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:17:44 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hunter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We already have a housing crisis here and keeping and helping people break the law is not the governments job or what our tax dollars are for. Do not get in the way of the federal goverment trying to deport criminals.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:26:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
james pirtle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not consent

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:26:59 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB438

Paul Giles

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:27:15 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Jeremiah	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 438, which provides legal representation to illegal aliens facing proceedings in immigration court, regardless of their ability to pay. While the intent behind this bill may be to ensure fairness and due process, it is a misguided attempt to address a complex issue.

As we've seen time and time again, you can't fix anything until you fix yourself. Hawaii has its own unique challenges and priorities that require our immediate attention. We have residents who are struggling to make ends meet, who are homeless, who are struggling with addiction, and who are in need of mental health services. We have a backlog of cases in our own state courts, and our own public defenders are overworked and underfunded.

Although this testimony may seem like a broken record, I must reiterate that Hawaii needs to be first. We need to prioritize the needs of our own citizens before providing resources to non-citizens. I urge you to consider the needs of our own community before making decisions that may divert resources away from them.

Before we provide free legal representation to illegal aliens, we should ensure that our PEOPLE have access to the resources they need. We should prioritize funding for our own public defender's office or provide more support for local non-profits that serve vulnerable populations. By putting Hawaii first, we can effectively address our own challenges and create a better future for our PEOPLE.

Let's focus on fixing our own house first. Let's address the needs of our PEOPLE, and then we can consider how we can effectively contribute to solving national and global challenges. House Bill 438 is a distraction from our true priorities, and I urge you to oppose it.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:29:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
J S	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed.

We already misuse funds on a horrific basis with no accountability. They who cross into the country illegally are already criminals and deportation is the rule.

Follow the law.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:33:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ryan Willis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stongly oppose

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:34:48 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a legal immigrant who came here legally to the United States, this is a slap in the face. To give illegal aliens the ability to have legal representation to avoid getting deported and not have to pay is unacceptable. When there are many U.S Citizens and legal residents not getting the representation that they need. Stop favoring illegals over your own Citizens!

**Testimony in SUPPORT of HB438**

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaiki Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: January 29th, 2025

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

I am writing in **strong support** of HB438.

Hawai'i continues to be a legal desert, with only a handful of pro bono immigration attorneys in the state, the majority of whom are on O'ahu. With additional funding more legal service organizations can staff additional attorneys and paralegals to ensure that more residents, many of whom have a viable pathway to lawful status, could fight their case in a fair and dignified way.

I urge you to support this bill. Families should not be ripped apart by our immigration court system simply because individuals do not have the thousands of dollars it would take to pay a private attorney to fight their case.

During my time at the Richardson School of Law, I participated firsthand, as part of the Immigration & Refugee Clinic, in representing immigrants in immigration court proceedings. It can make all the difference in the world for a family and this represents a smart invest by the State of Hawai'i.

Sincerely,

Carl Bergquist, William S. Richardson School of Law, Class of 2019  
Advisory Committee Member, The Legal Clinic  
Former resident of Mānoa, Oahu.  
Ottawa Hills, Ohio 43606

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:35:51 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ailie Souriolle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is illegal to be in this country without proper documents and vetting. This is illegal!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:40:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We shouldn't be supporting illegal aliens. Our money should be focused on US citizens and residents of Hawai'i

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:42:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alex Akui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:46:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:49:24 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
G L Hutchinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support protecting immigrants in Hawaii

thank you

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:56:17 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joshua Nelson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our taxes should not be used to fund legal defense of people who have broken our laws and are in this country illegally. They should be promptly deported and no legal proceeding or representation required.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:00:14 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie A Carter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposed

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:02:48 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Langton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Suddenly Hawaii has money to help all these illegal immigrants?

Why have we not spent this money helping Maui, or the homeless or the vets. Americans. Hawaiians, Legal citizens are the only people that the taxes from our state should be helping

This is another example of TDS. Stop it or be remmoved.

Laurie Langton

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:06:31 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose...this is still using tax payers money.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:06:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:30:34 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Yvonne Alvarado Oppose to Bill HB438

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:43:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jayne Kealoha-Dacuycuy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose that there should be any representation. If they are illegal aliens they shouldn't be here to begin with. Stop wasting Hawaii resources & tax payers dollars.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:50:31 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bronson Teixeira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:51:16 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tim Huycke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB438.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 11:53:28 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Stop protecting criminals and wasting our money on them!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 12:21:35 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dan Gardner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ilagan and members of the Economic Development and Technology Committee. My wife and I strongly support passage of HB438. Thank you for your support of this important legislation.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 1:08:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Norma J Sizemore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii can't even resolve their own incompetency and/or resolve the monstrous situations w/the natural disaster (ie. Maui fire), but yet feels we need more "ILLEGALS" overpopulate our state! The tax payer money is to be used for tax payers, NOT people who aren't citizens or contributing to our country.

I don't understand why HI is always throwing itself into policies to get national attention instead of concentrating on FIXING all the policies that impact our local people and economy that haven't been resolved!

Providing legal representation to "ILLEGAL" aliens is not the responsibility of the PAYING TAX PAYERS of HI. How about putting emphasis on the AMERICAN Veterans, our American Homeless, American Mentally ill, OR helping Americans that need to rebuild their community on Maui! Where is the money and representation for these LOCAL issues??

The ole saying, "take care of your own first"! Fix Hawaii's issues first! Our infrastructure could use some of that money that you want to throw at illegals! BTW, there is a cost & it's to HI tax payer!

**HB-438**

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

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Philip	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We want all illegals out. Hawaii does not need anymore problems. Problems that you democrats create

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 2:46:18 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lesha Mathes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is interfering with federal government processes. This needs to stop. We the people do not want to pay for attorneys for people who are here illegally! They broke our law to get here! Hawaii needs to take care of it's own legal citizens. This is putting into place a way for people to continue to break the law and making legal citizens pay for it. Nothing is free! Stop it!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:40:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
kamakani de dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 3:42:04 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mallory De Dely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 4:33:10 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Monohon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Illegal aliens deserve no due process or legal aid. They are criminal because they are not legal citizens. They have no constitutional rights. No Hawai'i money should be spent on illegal sliens, especially delaying their inevitable exit from our country.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 5:17:43 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanani Kai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 6:08:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaori-Lei Hanohano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

‘O Kaori-Lei Ka‘imipono Hanohano ko‘u inoa. No Maui mai ‘au a ka no na‘e noho au ma Ka‘a‘awa O‘ahu. Mahalo ‘au i ku‘u mau kupuna i kūpa‘a no kākou āpau.

My name is Kaori-Lei Ka‘imipono Hanohano. I‘m from the island of Maui but currently live in Ka‘a‘awa O‘ahu. I thank my ancestors who were steadfast!

I support establishing the due process in immigration proceedings program within the Judiciary to provide legal representation to individuals in immigration- related proceedings in immigration court.

Mahalo for listening and for your time.

Na‘u no,

Kaori-Lei Ka‘imipono Hanohano

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 7:53:25 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christine L. Andrews, J.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan and Member of the Committee,

I am writing today in support of HB438. As a member of the Hawai`i State Bar since 1999, I was shocked to recently learn that there is a backlog of over 1.9 million cases before immigration courts in the U.S., and that 47% of unaccompanied minor immigrant children have no legal representation before immigration courts. The current situation is a miscarriage of justice and a violation of the due process. The proposed bill will make some measure of improvement over the current situation and help us as a community uphold our values and our respect for our immigrant communities.

I ask that you please pass HB438.

Thank you for your time.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 8:48:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Monisha Das Gupta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB 438. As a taxpayer, I support the appropriation of funds to meet a long-standing and urgent need of low-income Hawaii state immigrants who have to go through the immigration court process without government-funded legal representation and without culturally and linguistically appropriate support. Such representation is necessary for unaccompanied minors and English learners.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 9:31:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose- More tax dollars going to non citizen services and encourages illegal immigration to continually compound here.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/28/2025 10:26:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Scott Garris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

not with my money

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 6:38:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Chase	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 7:49:06 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yumi Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB438, which would provide legal representation to illegal immigrants at the expense of taxpayers. Our legal system should prioritize law-abiding citizens and legal residents, not those who knowingly violated immigration laws. This bill places an unfair financial burden on hardworking residents while incentivizing more illegal immigration. Public funds should be used to support legal citizens, not individuals facing deportation for unlawful entry. I urge you to vote NO on HB438.

Mahalo,

Yumi Moore

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 8:24:38 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hawai'i is facing critical challenges, and we cannot afford policies that prioritize those who enter the U.S. illegally over our own citizens. These bills are not about fairness they're about straining resources that should be used to support American citizens and those who come to this country the right way, legally.

HB22: Limits law enforcement's ability to collaborate with immigration officials, making it harder to enforce the law.

HB73: Prohibits detention facilities on public land essentially removing a necessary tool for immigration enforcement.

HB438: Provides taxpayer-funded legal representation to individuals here illegally, diverting resources that could be used for American citizens.

HB457: Makes immigration interviews voluntary, undermining accountability and due process.

Hawai'i is already struggling with a housing crisis, rising costs of living, and limited resources. These policies will only make it harder for citizens to access affordable housing, jobs, and social services.

We need to stand up for what is right: **Legal immigration or leave.**

Lets prioritize legal immigration and ensure our resources go to the people who contribute to this country fairly and lawfully.

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:13:21 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Marcella Alohalani Boido	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Thank you.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.

Moili'ili

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:43:12 AM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Troy Maruoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb438!!!

**HB-438**

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 12:41:21 PM

Testimony for ECD on 1/29/2025 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I OPPOSE ANY ATTEMPT TO AID, ABET, OR SUPPORT ANYONE IN THIS COUNTRY ILLEGALLY - NO!**