

# HAWAII STATE ENERGY OFFICE STATE OF HAWAII

235 South Beretania Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813  
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804

Telephone:  
Web:

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR

SYLVIA LUKE  
LT. GOVERNOR

MARK B. GLICK  
CHIEF ENERGY OFFICER

(808) 451-6648  
energy.hawaii.gov

Testimony of  
**MARK B. GLICK, Chief Energy Officer**

before the  
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS**

Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
10:02 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

In Support of  
**SB 933, SD1**

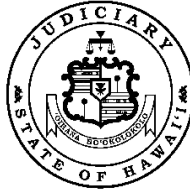
**RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 933, SD1, which appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026.

HSEO employs thirteen federal employees and twenty-one active programs supported by federal funds that we have energetically been working with the Attorney General to safeguard. In that regard we expect to prevail on ensuring all awards granted through Congressionally approved funding that came to HSEO by formula or under a competitive process remain in place.

In the interim period, however, the suggested vehicle to provide grants to departments affected by the freezing of federal funds is sound policy and presents a solid backup for continuing the work currently underway without interruption. We defer to the appropriate departments on the fiscal impacts of this measure.

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



## *The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

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

#### **Senate Committee on Ways and Means**

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair

Wednesday February 26, 2025, 10:02 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 211 and Videoconference

by

Brandon M. Kimura

Policy and Planning Department Director

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 933, SD1, Relating to the State Budget.

**Purpose:** Appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026.

#### **Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary respectfully requests consideration for inclusion in Senate Bill No. 933, SD1, as several programs funded through federal grants to the Judiciary align with the bill's intent to support critical services in our community.

The Judiciary administers various federal grant programs that provide services to court-involved adults, youth, and families through subawards. Services include, but are not limited to, support for substance use assessment and treatment, services for families impacted by domestic violence, and programs that strengthen responses to families involved with Child Welfare Services. These programs directly contribute to public health, safety, and general welfare - the areas of concern identified in Section 3 of this measure. It is vital to ensure the continuous provision of these services.

The total federal grant funding administered by the Judiciary for these critical services as described in Senate Bill No. 933, SD1, amounts to approximately \$615,000.



Senate Bill No. 933, SD1, Relating to the State Budget  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025, 10:03 a.m.  
Page 2

The Judiciary respectfully requests that any appropriation for this measure not supplant Judiciary priorities nor biennium budget requests.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Testimony to the Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025; 10:02 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 211  
Via Videoconference**

**RE: SENATE BILL NO. 0933, SENATE DRAFT 1, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

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

The Hawaii Primary Care Association (HPCA) is a 501(c)(3) organization established to advocate for, expand access to, and sustain high quality care through the statewide network of Community Health Centers throughout the State of Hawaii. The HPCA **SUPPORTS** Senate Bill No. 0933, Senate Draft 1, RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.

By way of background, the HPCA represents Hawaii's Federally Qualified Health Centers (FQHCs). FQHCs provide desperately needed medical services at the frontlines to over 150,000 patients each year who live in rural and underserved communities. Long considered champions for creating a more sustainable, integrated, and wellness-oriented system of health, FQHCs provide a more efficient, more effective and more comprehensive system of healthcare.

This measure, as received by your Committee, would provide one-time, nonrecurring grants to organizations that provide critical services in accordance with Chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

The COVID-19 pandemic placed an unprecedented strain on Hawaii's social safety net. It effectively shut down the economy and forced many businesses to close. For those fortunate to remain open, many needed to lay off workers and fundamentally change the way they conducted business.

Social service nonprofit organizations saw enormous increases in demand for services caused by increased unemployment. They also needed to provide these services at a time when their revenues declined significantly. Private donations, the life blood for many of Hawaii's nonprofits, dried up. The State of Hawaii did not authorize any grant in aid during the Regular Sessions of 2020 and 2021. And while the federal government provided various loans and stimulus payments to ease immediate program demands, most nonprofits have had to set aside capital and development needs to focus solely on getting the most essential services out to the greatest number of clients in the shortest period of time.

Because of the changes made to the State Budget and as the economy slowly recovered, Hawaii's ability to generate revenue began to improve. Visitors returned to the State and construction picked up even more. During the 2022 Regular Session, general fund revenues returned to pre-pandemic levels allowing lawmakers to appropriate \$50 million in grant in aid to address the needs of nonprofits. While this is more than what was provided in 2019, it will take much more to replenish and rejuvenate the social safety net.

Many of our nonprofits continue to operate at deficits or have not replaced the staff that were laid off. The markets for professionals have become much tighter requiring employers to offer more to just retain existing staff let alone recruit replacements. The "new normal" demands that much more will be needed to just keep the status quo.

In light of this, given the huge surpluses the State is currently experiencing and anticipating for the out years, now is the time for the State to commit to rehabilitating Hawaii's social safety net. Furthermore, as the Council on Revenues and economists predict a recession in the near future, it is even more imperative that our nonprofits are strengthened to meet the demands that the next calamity will pose.

To do this, there needs to be sufficient political commitment. Senate Bill No. 0933 is a start, but the Legislature and the Administration must be willing and able to sustain these efforts over time. As an example, perhaps the commitment of \$50 million in general funds for grant in aid annually for a five-year period would infuse \$250 million to nonprofits. Also, approval of even more funding to assist nonprofits expand their footprints so that they will be able to do even more in the future is greatly warranted.

**To that end, the HPCA urges your favorable consideration of this measure.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact Public Affairs and Policy Director Erik K. Abe at 536-8442, or [eabe@hawaiiipca.net](mailto:eabe@hawaiiipca.net).



Statement Before The  
Wednesday, February 26, 2025  
10:02 AM  
Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

in consideration of  
**SB933, SD1**

**RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Chair DELA CRUZ, Vice Chair MORIWAKI, and Members of the Senate Ways and Means Committee

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB933, SD1, which provides one-time nonrecurring grants to organizations that provide critical services, in accordance with chapter 42F, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

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.

TLC supports increased funding for Hawaii's nonprofit community, given the reduced assistance from the current federal administration. Hawaii's nonprofit sector provides critical social safety net services to the community, including the immigrant and migrant population served by TLC. Specifically, TLC provides Know Your Rights community trainings, which are much requested in these current times.

SB933, SD1 is necessary to help nonprofits in these uncertain fiscal times and does not include Judiciary based non-profits. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB933, SD1, and TLC respectfully urges the Committee members to pass SB933, SD1 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



## HAWAI'I YOUTH SERVICES NETWORK

677 Ala Moana Blvd., Suite 904

Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Phone: (808) 489-9549

Web site: <http://www.hysn.org> E-mail: [info@hysn.org](mailto:info@hysn.org)

Vonnell Ramos, President  
Cyd Hoffeld, Vice President  
Sione Ford Naeata, Treasurer  
Greg Tjapkes, Secretary

Judith F. Clark, Executive  
Director

### Network Membership

*Access to Independence*  
*Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawai'i*  
*Bobby Benson Center*  
*Child and Family Service*  
*Coalition for a Drug-Free Hawai'i*  
*Domestic Violence Action Center*  
*EPIC 'Ohana, Inc.*  
*Friends of the Children's Justice*  
*Center of Maui*  
*Get Ready Hawai'i*  
*Hale Kipa, Inc.*  
*Hale 'Opio Kaua'i, Inc.*  
*Hawai'i Children's Action*  
*Network*  
*Hawai'i Health & Harm*  
*Reduction Center*  
*Hawaii Island Community'*  
*Health Center*  
*Ho'ola Na Pua*  
*Ho'okele Coalition of Kaua'i*  
*Ka Hale Pomaika'i*  
*Kokua Kalihi Valley*  
*Kaua'i Planning and Action*  
*Alliance*  
*Lines for Life Youth Line*  
*Maui Youth and Family Services*  
*Na Pu'uwai Molokai Native*  
*Hawaiian Health Care*  
*Systems*  
*P.A.R.E.N.T.S., Inc.*  
*Parents and Children Together*  
*PHOCUSED*  
*Piha Wellness and Healing*  
*Planned Parenthood of the*  
*Great Northwest, Hawaii*  
*Alaska, Kentucky, Indiana*  
*Residential Youth Services*  
*& Empowerment (RYSE)*  
*Salvation Army Family*  
*Intervention Services*  
*Sex Abuse Treatment Center*  
*Susannah Wesley Community*  
*Center*  
*The Catalyst Group*

February 22, 2025

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chari,  
And members of the Committee on Ways and Means

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 933 SD1 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, supports SB 933 SD1 Relating to the State Budget.

As I listened to the testifiers in the grant-in-aid hearing, I learned about the critically important and effective work that Hawaii's non-profits are doing in communities throughout our state. The funds that HYSN and other organizations are requesting strengthen families, preserve and protect the 'aina, promote economic growth, and help our keiki to grow up safe and healthy.

As the federal administration works on cutting funding for essential services, it is critical for our state government to support these evidence-informed, culturally relevant, and trauma-informed programs.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



**Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
February 26, 2025 at 10:02 AM  
Room 211**

**Testimony in SUPPORT for SB933 SD1**

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Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and members of the Committee:

On behalf of the Hawaii'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations, **we offer testimony and a sign-on letter submitted by 76 community-based organizations in strong support of SB933 SD1**, which proposes the "Grant Funding Act of 2025" to increase funding for nonprofit organizations across the state.

The Hawaii'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) is a statewide, sector-wide professional association of nonprofits that works to strengthen and unite the nonprofit sector as a collective force to improve the quality of life in Hawaii'i. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for the nonprofit sector, leveraging resources, educating and advocating for policies and practices that promote the professionalism, sustainability, and effectiveness of nonprofits and the communities they serve.

Hawaii's nonprofit sector plays an indispensable role in delivering essential health and human services to residents across the islands. Nonprofit organizations support programs in federally qualified health centers, early childhood education, domestic violence support, subsidized housing, and homelessness prevention—lifelines for thousands of individuals and families. Although the order to freeze funding is currently revoked, the Trump administration has been clear that it intends to implement the President's broad and far-reaching executive orders, including restructuring federal government grants and contracts programming targeting diversity, equity, and inclusion, immigration, environmental protection, and other subsectors.<sup>1</sup> As a result, a variety of vital community services and programs in Hawaii'i are at risk of losing millions of dollars in federal funding in 2025. Without a state-level investment to bridge this financial gap, Hawaii's safety net for those in need will be severely compromised.

In addition, the nonprofit sector makes up nearly 12% of the state's workforce, providing local employment to thousands of individuals across various fields.<sup>2</sup> According to USAspending.gov estimates, as many as 250 nonprofits in Hawaii'i were recipients of federal grants and contracts in FY23, totaling as much as \$300M-\$400M. The potential loss of millions of dollars in federal funding not only threatens essential services, but also puts these jobs at risk. Without adequate support, the

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<sup>1</sup> National Council of Nonprofits, *Executive Orders Affecting Charitable Nonprofits*. Updated February 10, 2025. <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/files/media/documents/2025/chart-executive-orders.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economics Daily*, Nonprofits accounted for 12.8 million jobs, 9.9 percent of private-sector employment, in 2022 at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2024/nonprofits-accounted-for-12-8-million-jobs-9-9-percent-of-private-sector-employment-in-2022.htm> (visited February 10, 2025).



nonprofit sector could see widespread layoffs, exacerbating economic instability and further straining Hawai'i's communities.

SB933 SD1 is a necessary and urgent response to this federal funding crisis. By increasing grant funding for nonprofits, the State of Hawai'i can help to ensure these organizations remain operational, safeguarding the health, well-being, and stability of our communities. A state investment in nonprofits is an investment in Hawai'i's future, as nonprofits not only provide direct critical services, but also employ thousands of local residents to fulfill their charitable missions.

Mahalo for hearing this important bill.

To: Hawai'i State Legislators

Date: February 25, 2025

Re: Hawai'i Nonprofits Sign-on in Support of SB933: "Grant Funding Act of 2025"

Aloha Hawai'i Senators and Representatives,

We, the 76 undersigned Hawai'i nonprofit organizations, strongly urge your **support for SB933, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025,"** which seeks to provide emergency funding to nonprofit organizations across the state. This critical investment comes at a time when the federal government is potentially freezing grants and contracts to Hawai'i's nonprofits, putting essential community services and local jobs at risk. Without immediate state intervention, Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents will experience service reductions and resource shortages at a time when they need them most.

Supporting SB933 will:

- Ensure uninterrupted access to vital health and human services, including federally qualified health centers, early childhood education, domestic violence support, subsidized housing, and homelessness prevention.
- Stabilize the nonprofit sector amid federal funding cuts in traditionally marginalized and underserved communities.
- Protect Hawai'i's nonprofit workforce, which comprises nearly 12% of the state's total employment, safeguarding thousands of jobs.<sup>3</sup>
- Strengthen Hawai'i's local economy by keeping essential services operational and preventing widespread layoffs in the nonprofit sector.

With the potential loss of millions in federal funding in 2025, the passage and full funding of SB933 is a timely and necessary measure to bridge the financial gap and prevent disruptions in crucial community programs. By increasing state grant funding for nonprofits, Hawai'i can proactively sustain services that support public health, economic stability, and environmental and social well-being. An investment in nonprofits is an investment in Hawai'i's future, ensuring that the organizations serving our communities can continue their vital missions.

Mahalo for your commitment to support Hawai'i's nonprofit organizations during this critical time.

Mahalo,

`A`ALI`I Mentoring

Akaka Foundation for Tropical Forests

Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii

CKO Consulting LLC

Creative Research Solutions

Kalamapi'i PLAY School

Kanehunamoku Voyaging Academy

Kauai Search and Rescue

Keiki Kupuna

Ko'olau Foundation

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<sup>3</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economics Daily*, Nonprofits accounted for 12.8 million jobs, 9.9 percent of private-sector employment, in 2022 at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2024/nonprofits-accounted-for-12-8-million-jobs-9-9-percent-of-private-sector-employment-in-2022.htm> (visited February 10, 2025).

Creative Research Solutions  
Dawn Morais LLC  
East Hawaii Cultural Center  
Family Programs Hawaii  
Friends of the Children's Justice Center of O'ahu  
Goodwill Hawaii  
Gregory House Programs  
Grow Good Hawaii  
Grow Some Good  
Haku Baldwin Center  
HANO  
Hawai'i Public Health Institute  
Hawai'i Children's Action Network  
Hawaii Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA)  
Hawaii Families As Allies  
Hawaii Good Food Alliance  
Hawaii Green Growth  
Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center  
Hawaii VA Foundation (DBA Our Kupuna)  
Hawaii Youth Services Network  
Hawaiian Humane Society  
Hawaiian Mission Houses Historic Site and Archives  
Hawaiian Volcano Education and Resilience Institute  
Ho`oulu Lāhui  
Ho'ohanu  
Ho'omāhua Foundation  
Honolulu Zoological Society  
HUGS for Hawaii's Seriously Ill Children and Their Families  
Kua'āina Ulu Auamo  
'Ōiwi TV  
IBOUNCE UP, INC.  
IT Reuse Hawai'i  
Jewish Community Services of Hawaii

La Sorellanza  
Learning Endeavors  
Limahuli Garden & Preserve, NTBGG  
Maui Cancer Resources  
Maui Humane Society  
Maui Mediation Services  
Maui Pops Orchestra Inc  
Maunaloa Fishpond Heritage Center  
Moloka'i Land Trust  
National Tropical Botanical Garden  
Papahānaumokuākea Marine Debris Project  
Partners in Development Foundation  
Project Dāna  
Project Vision Hawai'i  
Pu'uhonua Society  
Puna Rising Ohana  
Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii  
Sakyadhita Hawai'i  
Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i  
Steadfast Housing Development Corporation  
The Arc of Kona  
The Caregiver Foundation  
The Kohala Center  
The Merwin Conservancy  
The Spirit Horse Ranch Inc  
Trees for Honolulu's Future  
Volcano Arts Center  
Wahine Freelance Alliance  
WAI: Wastewater Alternatives & Innovations  
Wisdom Circles Oceania  
Women4Nonviolence  
YWCA Kauai





## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 933, SD1: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 @ 10:02am CR 211 & videoconference

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

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **Strong Support of SB 933, SD1**, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This critical legislation will provide emergency state grants to stabilize Hawai'i's nonprofit sector in the face of potential federal funding cuts, ensuring continued access to essential services for our most vulnerable residents.

For over 77 years, CCH has been committed to serving Hawai'i's communities, providing social services to children, families, elders, individuals experiencing homelessness, veterans, and immigrants. Through our experience providing services in Hawai'i, we witness firsthand the vital role nonprofits play in delivering health and human services, affordable housing assistance, and crisis intervention programs.

Hawai'i's Community-Based Organizations (CBOs) are at a financial crossroads. With looming federal funding freezes, CBOs that serve traditionally marginalized and underserved communities are at risk of severe disruption. This bill will help to ensure uninterrupted access to critical health and human services and stabilize CBOs in the face of federal funding uncertainties. SB 933, SB1 will safeguard essential programs that provide vital support to underserved communities. Additionally, this measure will protect CBOs positions, which make up nearly 12% of Hawai'i's workforce, helping to prevent widespread layoffs and the economic instability that would follow. Strengthening Hawai'i's local economy by keeping CBOs operational will also reduce the strain on public assistance programs while ensuring continued support for community well-being.

With the potential loss of millions in federal funding in 2025, the passage and full funding of SB 933, SB1 is a necessary investment to prevent service disruptions and ensure that CBOs can continue meeting critical community needs. An investment in CBOs is an investment in Hawai'i's future, reinforcing public health, economic stability, and social resilience.

Catholic Charities Hawai'i urges the Legislature to pass SB 933, SD1, and prioritize the financial stability of Hawai'i's nonprofit sector. If you have any questions, please contact our Shellie Niles at (808) 527-4813. Thank you for your time and consideration.





**Parents And  
Children Together**  
BUILDING THE RELATIONSHIPS  
THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 933 SD1 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

**TO:** Chair Dela Cruz, Vice-Chair Moriwaki, & Members,  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
**FROM:** Trisha Kajimura, Vice-President of Strategy & External Affairs  
**DATE:** February 26, 2025 at 10:02 AM

**Parents And Children Together (PACT) supports SB 933 HD1**, which provides one-time nonrecurring grants to organizations that provide critical services, in accordance with chapter 42F.

Founded by residents of Kuhio Park Terrace in 1968, PACT is a statewide community-based organization providing a wide array of innovative and educational social services to families in need. Assisting more than 15,000 people across the state annually, we help identify, address, and successfully resolve challenges through our 20 programs. Among our services are early education programs, domestic violence prevention and intervention programs, child abuse prevention and intervention programs, childhood sexual abuse supportive group services, child and adolescent behavioral health programs, sex trafficking intervention, poverty prevention and community building programs.

PACT relies on federal funding through direct grants and also distributed through state contracts to provide the above services to the community. For example, PACT is a provider of Head Start and Early Head Start programs on Oahu and Hawaii Island, serving approximately 800 children. PACT also has federal funds in its child welfare, domestic violence, youth drop-in, and family center programs. These programs have been the backbone of communities such as Kuhio Park Terrace, Halawa, Kaneohe, Maui County and Hawaiian Beaches in helping families achieve and maintain safety, economic stability and school engagement. As you may have heard through the True Cost Coalition, these programs are already under funded. The loss of federal funding puts them at serious risk.

Thank you for introducing and hearing this bill. We appreciate the opportunity to testify. Please contact me at (808) 847-3285 or [tkajimura@pacthawaii.org](mailto:tkajimura@pacthawaii.org) if you have any questions.



**LATE**

**TO:** COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS  
The Honorable Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee

**FROM:** Michelle Ka'uhane, Senior Vice President & Chief Impact Officer

**DATE:** February 25, 2025

**RE:** Testimony in Support for SB 933 SD 1, Relating to the State Budget  
Date: Wednesday, February 26, 2025 at 10:02am  
Place: Hearing Room 211

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports** Senate Bill 933 SD 1 (SB 933 SD1) relating to the State Budget. The bill would appropriate funds for grants in fiscal year 2025-2026 to stabilize Hawai'i's nonprofit sector. The "Grant Funding Act of 2025" is crucial to maintaining access to community services and local jobs threatened by potential federal funding freezes.

Our communities rely on nonprofit services funded by federal grants and contracts. Recently, the [Urban Institute](#) analyzed the potential scale of impact on the nation's nonprofit sector. Urban Institute used 990 forms to determine the impact of federal funding and found two out of three nonprofits receive at least one government grant or contract. Hawai'i's nonprofits receive a total of \$1.1 billion in government grants, and the share of at-risk nonprofits in our island home is 70%. Hawai'i County has the largest share of at-risk nonprofits (73%).

Hawai'i Community Foundation collaborates with Hawai'i's nonprofit sector to ensure that our people and places thrive. We believe in our strong, capable nonprofit leadership that has nimbly responded to emergencies such as the Covid-19 pandemic, Maui fires, and needs that arise in specific communities. The nonprofit workforce comprises 12% of the state's total employment representing thousands of local jobs. It is urgent to provide emergency and bridge funding to prevent disruptions in crucial community programs, and empower our nonprofit organizations faced with fiscal uncertainty to deliver excellent services in public health, human services, housing, job training, financial stability, environmental, and social well-being. These services are vital to our communities and enable the government, business, and philanthropic sectors to deliver on our missions and our shared vision for a thriving Hawai'i.

Please advance SB 933 SD1.

# Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

**LATE**

Date: February 26, 2025

Re: **Support** of SB933 SD1, Relating to the State Budget

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

Our coalition of organizations for Hawai'i True Cost Coalition are writing in **support** of SB933 SD1, Relating to the State Budget. The bill SB933 SD1 provides one-time, nonrecurring grants to organizations that offer critical services, such as health care, social services, child care, subsidized housing, and homeless services, in accordance with Chapter 42F of the Hawaii Revised Statutes. This funding is intended to support community-based organizations (CBOs) affected by the federal funding freeze.

The Hawai'i True Cost Coalition is an alliance of over 70 community-based nonprofit organizations serving more than 500,000 residents statewide. Since its establishment in 2020, the coalition has focused on strengthening collaboration between nonprofits and the state to ensure taxpayer funds are allocated equitably and efficiently. By advocating for sustainable funding solutions, the coalition helps safeguard critical services for Hawai'i's most vulnerable populations, including children, kupuna, individuals experiencing homelessness, and survivors of domestic violence. These efforts are essential to ensuring that nonprofit organizations can continue providing the vital care and support on which so many residents rely.

Hawai'i's safety net often goes unnoticed—until it begins to fray. This safety net consists of community-based nonprofit organizations (CBOs) that provide essential services to tens of thousands of residents every day. These organizations offer shelter for at-risk youth, meals for kupuna, aid for survivors of domestic violence, and countless other supports that touch every corner of the state. Without immediate action, many of these programs could disappear entirely, leaving some of Hawai'i's most vulnerable residents without the critical support they need to thrive.

HB933 SD1 aids crises initiated by the federal funding freeze by supporting community-based organizations and their crucial operations. This measure promotes community well-being while strengthening Hawai'i's social safety net for the future. Investing now secures vital support for years to come.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

Adult Friends for Youth | Aloha Harvest | Aloha United Way (AUW) | AlohaCare | Arc of Kona | Big Brothers Big Sisters Hawaii | Blueprint for Change | Catholic Charities Hawaii | Child and Family Service | Community Alliance on Prisons | Domestic Violence Action Center | Easter Seals | Epic `Ohana | Family Promise of Hawai'i | Full Life | Girl Scouts of Hawaii | Going Home Hawaii | Goodwill Hawaii | Hale Kipa | Hale `Opio Kaua'i | Hawai'i International Film Festival | Hawai'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO) | Hawai'i Children's Action Network (HCAN) | Hawai'i Food Bank | Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) | Hawai'i Meals On Wheels | Hawai'i Public Health Institute | Hawai'i Youth Services Network | Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence | Healthy Mothers Healthy Babies | Hope Services Hawai'i | Imua Family Services | Institute for Human Services (IHS) | Kalamapi'i Play School | Kinai `Eha | Kumukahi Health and Wellness | Lanakila Pacific | Maui AIDS Foundation | Maui Economic Opportunity (MEO) | Maui Family Support Services | Mental Health Kokua | Mediation Center of the Pacific | Mindful Living Group | Nurturing Wahine Fund | Parents and Children Together (PACT) | Partners In Care (PIC) | Partners In Development Foundation (PIDF) | PATCH | Residential Youth Services and Empowerment (RYSE) | Responsive Caregivers of Hawai'i | Samaritan Counseling Center Hawai'i | Share Your Mana | The Spirit Horse Ranch | U.S. Vets | Women Helping Women | YMCA of Honolulu



**SB-933-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2025 3:51:07 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I urge you to reject S.B. No. 933, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025,” which claims to support nonprofits amid a federal funding freeze. Below are data-driven reasons this bill perpetuates the State of Hawaii’s historical and ongoing financial exploitation of the People of the Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands:

- Historical Theft Sets the Stage:
  - In 1893, the illegal overthrow of the Hawaiian Kingdom led to the seizure of 1.8 million acres of Crown and Government lands, valued today at over \$200 billion (adjusted for inflation, per University of Hawaii economic estimates).
  - The State has since managed these lands via the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR), generating \$160 million in revenue annually (DLNR FY 2023 report), yet native Hawaiians see less than 20% reinvested into their communities (OHA 2022 audit).
  - S.B. 933’s vague appropriations echo this pattern—diverting funds from the people under the guise of “public interest.”
- Unaccountable Spending Risks Embezzlement:
  - Section 5 of S.B. 933 appropriates unspecified “sums” for fiscal year 2025-2026, with no cap or detailed allocation, mirroring past state budgets where 15% of discretionary funds (\$450 million in FY 2022, per Department of Budget and Finance) went untracked in post-audit reviews.
  - Section 6 lets the governor shuffle funds across projects, a mechanism used in FY 2021 to redirect \$50 million from education to unspecified “emergency” uses (Hawaii Budget Transparency Report 2022). This opacity invites laundering of public money into private hands.
- Nonprofit “Support” Masks Waste:
  - Hawaii’s nonprofit sector, with 7,800 organizations (Hawaii Community Foundation 2023), relies on \$1.2 billion in federal funds annually—S.B. 933’s one-time grants won’t offset a freeze when 30% of past state grants (\$36 million in FY 2020, per DBEDT) were lost to administrative overhead or mismanagement.
  - Example: The 2019 Maui nonprofit grant scandal saw \$2.3 million misallocated to politically connected groups (Hawaii News Now investigation)—S.B. 933’s lack of oversight (e.g., no audit mandates) risks repeating this.

- Native Hawaiians Bear the Burden:
  - Native Hawaiians, 21% of the population (U.S. Census 2020), own just 5% of private land due to State-controlled trusts, while the State's general fund—fueling bills like S.B. 933—grew to \$10 billion in FY 2024 (DBF), partly from taxing native communities already strained by a 50% poverty rate (OHA 2023).
  - This bill's funding (likely from general funds, "A" in MOF terms) further drains resources from a people owed restitution, not exploitation.
- Call to Action:
  - Reject S.B. No. 933—its loose structure enables the State to continue siphoning wealth, as it has since 1893, when \$1.5 million in Kingdom assets (1893 dollars, ~\$45 million today) vanished into U.S. and State hands (Hawaiian Historical Society).
  - Instead, redirect \$500 million—the estimated annual shortfall for native housing and health (OHA 2024)—to the People of the Kingdom of the Hawaiian Islands as a step toward justice.

The data is clear: S.B. No. 933 isn't a solution—it's a symptom of a system that has embezzled from us for over a century. Vote no and prioritize restitution over expansion. Mahalo for your attention—I expect your response and commitment to equity.

Sincerely,

Master Shelby "Pikachu" Billionaire

Kingdom of The Hawaiian Islands H.I.

Ke Aupuni o Ko Hawai'i Pae Aina

**SB-933-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:07:46 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:02:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It has loopholes that allow for money laundering. I urge you to kill this bill.

**SB-933-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 6:05:41 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Azuma	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB933 SD1. With changes to federal funding priorities and accessibility, Hawai'i's nonprofit sector is greatly suffering. This threatened community-trusted organizations who provide essential community services and impacts the local public servants who work these jobs. It is hard to watch my friends, community, and family be affected by lay-offs, federal funding freezes, and threats to the integrity of the work that they are no longer able to carry out. Increasing state grant funding allows nonprofits to diversify their funding sources, and be able to continue fulfilling their important missions to better serve our greater community.

Mahalo nui loa.

**SB-933-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2025 8:53:30 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jan K Baldado	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I SUPPORT SB933.

Mahalo nui.

**SB-933-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 9:25:44 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Maruyama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I wholeheartedly support SB 933 SD1 that creates emergency grants for community based organizations providing critical services to our communities across the state that are affected by the freeze of federal funding.

Mahalo,

Lisa Maruyama, LTM Consulting

**LATE**

**SB-933-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2025 1:04:25 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/26/2025 10:02:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg Misakian	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please ensure that SB933 SD1 does not overstep other laws in place requiring oversight and sign-off to release funds to the private sector. This bill should also limit the Governor from having total or final say on any allocation of funds.

Gregory Misakian