



# 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  
**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Thursday, March 27, 2025  
2:00 P.M.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

In Support of  
**SB 933, SD2**

**RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET.**

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Takenouchi, and Members of the Committee, the Hawai'i State Energy Office (HSEO) supports SB 933, SD2, which appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026.

HSEO employs thirteen federal employees and twenty-one active programs supported by federal funds totaling nearly \$140 million awarded since January of 2023 that we have aggressively worked with the Attorney General's office to safeguard. In that regard, we expect to prevail in ensuring all grant awards to HSEO either approved by Congress by a predetermined 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 prudent, equitable contingency for continuing the work currently underway to fulfill HSEO's statutory obligations pursuant to HRS 196-71 and HRS 196-72 without interruption. We defer to the appropriate departments on the fiscal impacts of this measure.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

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

**House Committee on Finance**

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

Thursday, March 27, 2025, 2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 308 and Videoconference

by

Brandon M. Kimura  
Policy and Planning Department Director

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 933, SD2, Relating to the State Budget.

**Purpose:** Appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026. Subjects recipient organizations to certain requirements. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary strongly supports this measure. 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 Part I, Section 2 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, SD2, amounts to approximately \$615,000.



Senate Bill No. 933, SD2, Relating to the State Budget  
House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, March 27, 2025, 2:00 p.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.



## 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*

March 24, 2025

To: Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chari,  
And members of the Committee on Finance

### **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 933 SD2 RELATING TO** **THE STATE BUDGET**

Hawaii Youth Services Network (HYSN), a statewide coalition of youth-serving organizations, strongly supports SB 933 SD2 Relating to the State Budget.

Federal funding for nonprofit organizations provides critically needed services for vulnerable children, youth and families. Federal funds provide housing, health care, educational services, and protection from child abuse and domestic violence. We need these services so that children and youth can grow up safe, healthy, and ready to Succeed

Hawaii nonprofit organizations currently receive 630 federal grants totaling more than \$1 billion dollars in the current year. Hawaii Youth Services Network has more than \$2 million dollars in federal funds for services to homeless youth that are at risk.

As the federal administration works on cutting funding for essential services, it is essential for our state government to ensure that the most needed services are able to continue.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Judith F. Clark, MPH  
Executive Director



**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 4:20:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeannette Gurung	WOCAN	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

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

My name is Jeannette Gurung, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN) in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Dr. Jeannette Gurung

Executive Director

Women Organizing for Change in Agriculture and Natural Resource Management (WOCAN)



Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii  
91-1241 Saratoga Avenue, Building 1924  
Kapolei, Hawaii 96707

*A private, non-profit organization*

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

My name is Michael Marsh, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

Through Medicaid, Responsive Caregivers of Hawaii serves well over 100 adults with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Oahu. We provide day care, transportation and residential care for this vulnerable population that relies on Medicaid for their survival. Without sufficient funding, the population would be forced into long-term care that costs significantly more money.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Michael P. Marsh, MA, CFRE  
President & CEO



March 24, 2025

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Rep. Kyle Yamashita, Chair

Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair

BILL SB933 SD2

POSITION: **SUPPORT**

Hearing Date: Thursday, March 27 at 2:00 pm

Aloha e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

**Aloha United Way strongly supports SB933 SD2**, to providing grants to community based organizations (CBOs) affected by the federal funding uncertainty, for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Our CBOs provide critical services to Hawaii's most vulnerable populations. Lives and livelihoods are literally on the line as a direct result of the uncertainty created by the recent executive orders. The chaos and confusion has caused CBOs to question whether they can continue to provide services they provide under these reimbursable grants.

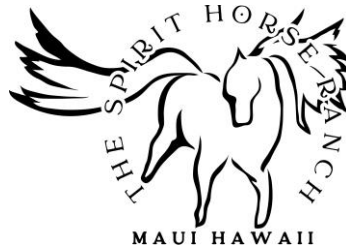
Our CBOs are resourceful and are looking for other funding solutions. However, the gap between philanthropic capacity and federal dollars is simply too great, especially given the abrupt nature of the funding disruption. This bill will go a long way to provide the funding and assurance many of our CBOs need to confidently continue operations and providing the critical services our community needs.

SB933 HD1 will help ensure the health and safety of our entire community, not just those receiving services, so we urge you to advance this important measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Michelle Bartell  
President & CEO  
Aloha United Way



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB933 SD2

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

My name is Paige Deponte, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of *Spirit Horse Ranch, Inc.*, in strong support of **SB933 SD2**, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This measure is urgently needed to safeguard nonprofit organizations like ours that are on the front lines of Hawai‘i’s mental health and trauma recovery efforts, but are now facing significant challenges due to federal funding cuts.

At Spirit Horse Ranch on Maui, we provide trauma-informed equine-assisted services to children, youth, families, and first responders—many of whom have been directly impacted by the August 2023 wildfires and other life-altering crises. Through nature-based, evidence-supported programming, we offer a safe space for healing, resilience building, and emotional regulation. Since opening in early 2023, we have served over 2,200 sessions, collaborating with Hawai‘i CARES, Maui Youth & Family Services, Hale Pono Shelter, Job Corp and local schools, among many others.

Like many small community-based nonprofits, our ability to continue offering services without interruption depends heavily on outside funding. The current freeze in federal support threatens our capacity to maintain staffing, programming, and safe infrastructure—ultimately jeopardizing the emotional and mental health of those we serve, especially vulnerable youth in crisis. A loss of funding would lead not only to reduced sessions but to the dismantling of a sanctuary that so many have come to depend on for healing and hope.

We urge the committee to adopt an amendment expanding eligibility under SB933 SD2 so that all nonprofits—regardless of sector—facing significant program and staffing cuts can access this critical grant funding. Organizations providing services in education, arts, culture, the environment, and youth trauma recovery, like Spirit Horse Ranch, play an essential role in our statewide safety net and must not be excluded from emergency relief.

Mahalo for your leadership and for supporting Hawai‘i’s nonprofit sector. SB933 SD2 is a vital investment in the resilience, well-being, and recovery of our people.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With gratitude,  
Paige Deponte  
Director  
Spirit Horse Ranch, Inc.

P.O. Box 208 Kula Hi 96790 Ph 808-280-7070 ~ [Info@thespirithorseranch.org](mailto:Info@thespirithorseranch.org)

*The Spirit Horse Ranch, Inc. is a HI Nonprofit corporation recognized by the IRS as a tax-exempt public charity under Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code (Federal Tax ID: 86-3879237)*



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB933 SD2

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

My name is Summer Mochida-Meek, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawaii State Rural Health Association (HSRHA) in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

The HSRHA is a nonprofit working to improve health equity for rural and underserved communities across Hawai‘i and the U.S.-affiliated Pacific Islands. We focus on addressing provider shortages, geographic isolation, and systemic barriers through programs like Project ECHO, TOUCH and REACH, which support behavioral health, telehealth access, and workforce development.

We partner with over 2,000 providers and organizations to ensure that essential services reach communities with limited options. The federal funding freeze puts these efforts at risk—jeopardizing programs, staffing, and hard-won trust in rural areas where consistent care is already fragile. Even short-term disruptions could have long-term consequences for the people we serve.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Summer Mochida-Meek  
Executive Director  
Hawaii State Rural Health Association



What Makes You Feel Beautiful

501(c)(3) Nonprofit Organization | EIN:834396154

[Info@wmyfb.org](mailto:Info@wmyfb.org), [WMyFB.org](http://WMyFB.org), 808-442-2627

P.O. BOX 1017 Haiku HI 96708

Date: 3/25/2025

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB933 SD2

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

My name is Monica Marrow, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of What Makes You Feel Beautiful in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

What Makes You Feel Beautiful (WMyFB) is a Maui-based 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to helping women and girls discover their inner strength and build confidence through programs focused on self-love, mental health, and personal development. Our signature program, **MAUI GEMS**, provides young women from **low-income, marginalized families** and **Tier One schools** with mentorship, life skills, and leadership training, guiding them toward emotional resilience and personal growth. Through weekly meetings, summer internships, and community workshops, we empower girls aged 13 to 19 to navigate life’s challenges with confidence and a sense of self-worth.

Our work is rooted in the understanding that mental health and self-love are foundational to personal and community well-being. We have witnessed firsthand how young girls who enter

our program uncertain and insecure blossom into confident leaders who contribute positively to their communities. One of our participants, Shanti, joined MAUI GEMS at a time when she struggled with confidence. Through the support of her mentors and the skills gained in our workshops, she found her voice, completed an internship with a local business, and is now heading to college with a renewed sense of purpose and strength.

Although WMYFB does not currently receive federal funding, we are actively pursuing opportunities to secure federal grants to expand our services and increase our impact. Without access to this funding, we face the risk of limiting the number of girls we serve and scaling back vital components of our program, including stipends for our youth interns, meeting spaces, program materials, and mental health and leadership training. The loss of these opportunities would be devastating for the vulnerable young women and families we serve—leaving gaps in critical support and increasing the pressure on state-funded emergency services as more youth face mental health challenges and social instability without the safety net that WMYFB provides.

WMYFB serves over **75 young women** each year through MAUI GEMS and other community outreach efforts. Our impact extends beyond individual lives—strengthening families, improving mental health outcomes, and cultivating future community leaders. Continued support through SB933 SD2 would ensure that we can sustain and grow this vital work, allowing us to reach more youth and help them unlock their potential during a time when they need it most.

We strongly urge the committee to pass SB933 SD2 with expanded eligibility, ensuring that organizations like ours—focused on mental health, education, and youth development—are not left behind during this financial crisis. Your support will allow us to continue empowering Maui's next generation of confident, resilient young women.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Monica Marrow  
Executive Director  
What Makes You Feel Beautiful

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:16:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Kilgore	Full Life	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Jim Kilgore and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Full Life in strong support of SB933 SD2, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill is needed to protect essential services provided by nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts.

Full Life provides critical home and community-based services for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities on Hawai'i Island. Funding is based on a blend of state general funds and the federal Medicaid match (FMAP).

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and the opportunity to testify.



**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:27:01 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olena Alec	Haleakala Conservancy	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Olena Alec, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Haleakala Conservancy in strong support of SB933 SD2.

Haleakalā Conservancy was established in 2019 as the formal Philanthropic Partner of Haleakala National Park, given the sole mission of supporting projects and programs that the Park does not have the funding to independently accomplish. Like many other non-profit park partners, such as Grand Canyon Conservancy and Yosemite Conservancy, we exist in direct partnership with our Park to fill the gaps.

Haleakala Conservancy exists to support our Park, and as nonprofit, some of our funding is under a freeze and our ability to support our Park will be directly impacted by the federal cuts to funding. All of this is happening as our Park is facing unprecedented challenges, with the ongoing hiring freeze, instability in staffing, and new operational hurdles. These challenges are being felt across the National Park Service, but as the only National Park on Maui, with the most endangered species of ANY National Park, AND serving as a major economic driver for our local businesses, it is up to us to protect it.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that nonprofit organizations like ours facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Olena Alec

**Executive Director**

## **Haleakala Conservancy**

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 9:18:45 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Normann	Neighborhood Place of Puna	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Given the current instability in the Federal government and the ongoing threats to federal programs that support our most vulnerable citizens, Neighborhood Place of Puna encourages you to support SB933. While NPP gets limited Federal dollars, the devastating impact to our community if funding for core programs like SNAP, TANF, SSI, SSDI, Section 8, Homeless Shelters and supports would be quickly apparent in our Island state. Already, we see too many Kupuna, Families, and Foster Youth falling into homelessness. Imagine what it would look like if suddenly there was no funding for Shelters or drastically reduced funding for rental assistance. Homelessness, which is already bad, would become the way of life for many people who are struggling to stay housed out the moment. That is just one example, I am sure the negative impacts will be far reaching.

Please support bill SB933

Paul Normann, Executive Director



March 27, 2025

**RE: Support for SB 933, SD2 Relating to the State Budget**

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

On behalf of Hawai'i Foodbank, I express our support for SB 933, SD2, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026 and subjects recipient organizations to certain requirements. This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide;

For over 40 years, Hawai'i Foodbank has provided daily and emergency assistance to those facing food insecurity in Hawai'i. As the state's leading hunger-relief organization, Hawai'i Foodbank distributes food to families and individuals on O'ahu and in Kaua'i County through direct service programs and through our network of 266 agency partners and pantries. Last quarter, we served an average of 171,000 people per month on the islands of Oahu and Kauai. That's twice the number we supported before the pandemic, and a 13% increase over last year at this same time.

Federal funding plays a critical role in our operations. About 20% of our revenue comes from federal sources, primarily through USDA program contracts administered by the State. We also receive and distribute federal commodities foods through two key programs: the emergency food assistance program (TEFAP) and our senior food box program (CSFP). Last year, the dollar value of those foods was \$6.6m, accounting for about 22% of the value of all the food we distributed.

We are working hard to understand the implications of changes that are happening with federal funding and federal programs for our families and neighbors facing hunger – as well as our network of hunger-relief partners. Looking ahead, if all federal funding were to stop (excluding food), we could face a potential loss of \$3.8 - 5 million in revenue.

TEFAP is also a really important food program for us. Increased bonus shipments through the Commodity Credit Corporation (CCC) program have helped meet growing demand. This year so far, CCC-funded bonus products have made up about 44% of the TEFAP foods we have received. However, CCC funding is likely ending. Seven anticipated CCC-funded shipments, scheduled between now and July, have been marked as "returned" to FNS, which most likely means they will be canceled. That's \$300k worth of food, frozen chicken, pork, eggs, for O'ahu alone—and represents more than \$550,000 statewide. If CCC funding is completely discontinued, we anticipate losing \$2.3m worth of CCC funded food this fiscal year.

Amid this uncertainty, hunger continues to persist at some of the highest levels we've ever seen. Currently, nearly 1 in 3 Hawai'i households continue to struggle with food insecurity; 10% of our households are going for full days without eating, some or most months of the year; and 6% of our KIDS are going full days without eating.



We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Amy Miller".

Amy Miller  
President and CEO, Hawai'i Foodbank

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB933 SD2

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

My name is Chad Hasegawa, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council (HCEOC) in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

As the Big Island’s Community Action Agency HCEOC has served Hawaii County with the mission of alleviating and mitigating the impact of poverty through programs funded by federal, state, and county grants. For the past 60 years HCEOC has provided such federally funded programs as Weatherization Assistance Program, Low Income Energy Assistance Program, and Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, to name a few. The freezing or elimination of funding for such programs will not only impact our community by the reduction of services rendered but also result in a reduction in HCEOC’s staffing that provide those services.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,

Chad Hasegawa  
Executive Director  
Hawaii County Economic Opportunity Council

Nickolas Kacprowski  
**Board President**

Rachel Figueroa  
**Executive Director**



545 Queen Street, Suite 100  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813  
Phone: (808) 528-7050  
Fax: (808) 524-2147  
[www.vlsh.org](http://www.vlsh.org)

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 933, SD2  
RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET  
Committee on Finance – March 27, 2025 2:00 p.m.**

CHAIR YAMASHITA, VICE CHAIR TAKENOUCHI AND MEMBERS OF THE  
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i supports the passage of S.B. 933, SD2.

Volunteer Legal is concerned about the federal actions limiting services to those residents who need it the most. We are more worried than ever about the impact that the limiting of services has on the safety net of legal services.

Volunteer Legal supports the inclusion of grant monies for the Judiciary for agencies affected by the loss of federal funding.

In the last forty-four years, Volunteer Legal has partnered with volunteer attorneys in the provision of civil legal assistance to individuals and families of Hawaii. While Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i's only office is on Oahu, we service residents of Hawai'i statewide. In 2024, with only a staff of 9, Volunteer Legal qualified around 1000 individuals. Volunteer Legal provides legal checkups, educational presentations, clinics, brief services and/or full representations. Twenty-one (21%) of those helped are homeless or at the risk of being homeless, 28% of those helped suffer from domestic violence, 6% of those helped were veterans, 26% of those helped are disabled, and 20% of those helped were aged 60 and over. If not for Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i, these individuals would have otherwise gone without legal help.

Volunteer Legal Services Hawai'i thanks the committee for the past support of legal services in the budget. We respectfully request your passage of S.B. 933, SD2. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
Rachel Figueroa, Executive Director



## CATHOLIC CHARITIES HAWAI'I

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 933, SD2: RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET

TO: House Committee on Finance  
FROM: Tina Andrade, President and CEO, Catholic Charities Hawai'i  
Hearing: Thursday, March 27, 2025 @ 2:00 pm; CR 308 & videoconference

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

Catholic Charities Hawai'i (CCH) appreciates the opportunity to submit testimony in **Strong Support of SB 933, SD2**, 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, SB2 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, SB2 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, SD2, and prioritize the financial stability of Hawai'i's nonprofit sector. If you have any questions, please contact Shellie Niles at (808) 527-4813. Thank you for your time and consideration.



91-1841 Fort Weaver Road  
Ewa Beach, Hawaii 96706  
Phone 808.681.3500  
Fax 808.681.5280  
www.childandfamilyservice.org



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Representative Kyle Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Committee on Finance

Thursday, March 27, 2025; 2:00 p.m.; Agenda #1  
Conference room 308 & Videoconference

**RE: SB 933 SD2 Relating to the State Budget – In Support**

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

I am writing on behalf of Child and Family Service (CFS) to express our strong support of SB 933 SD2, which appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Through the utilization of our core H.O.P.E. values (Humility, Ownership, Perseverance and Engagement), our programs aim to help Hawaii's most vulnerable populations to strengthen families and foster the healthy development of children. We work directly with individuals and families to break cycles of violence and foster environments where children and families can thrive. Children, individuals experiencing homelessness, survivors of domestic violence and many other groups rely on the safety nets provided by CFS and other community-based organizations. However, stagnant funding levels and rising operational costs, especially following crises like the Maui wildfires, have pushed community-based organizations to the brink.

Given the ongoing uncertainty of federal spending on social service programs, SB 933 SD2 will directly address an urgent funding gap that may jeopardize the critical services Hawaii families depend on. This bill is necessary so Hawaii's communities can continue to receive the assistance they need, regardless of federal budget changes.

We respectfully urge you to pass this measure to ensure Hawaii's most vulnerable populations receive the protection and assistance they deserve. Thank you.

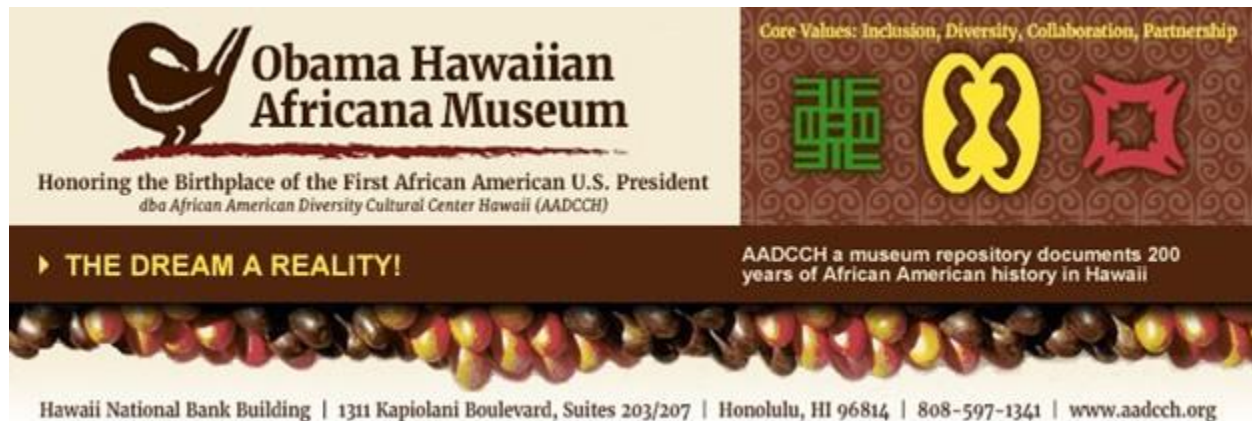
Sincerely,

Amanda Pump  
President & CEO  
Child & Family Service



**“We’re all about FAMILY”**

Mission: Strengthening Families and Fostering the Healthy Development of Children



## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB933 SD2

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

My name is Deloris Guttman, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the African American Diversity Cultural Center Hawaii (AADCCCH) dba Obama Hawaiian Africana Museum] in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

My organization is one of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits that provides critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

AADCCH’s mission: To Preserve. Perpetuate, & promote the early settlers & contemporaries’ contributions in shaping Hawaii cultural history for over 200 years to educate K12 Students, Residents & Visitors. The federal funding freeze will have an impact on the grants submitted for our community outreach program services.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Deloris Guttman  
Director

President/Museum

**To: State of Hawaii, House of Representatives Finance Committee**

**From: Emily Lau, Vice President of Mission Services, Goodwill Hawaii**

**Date: March 25<sup>th</sup>, 2025**

**RE: Testimony in Support of SB933 SD2**

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

My name is Emily Lau, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Goodwill Hawaii in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

Goodwill Hawaii’s mission is to help people with employment barriers reach their full potential and become self-sufficient through the power of work. We serve more than 7,000 people each year statewide—individuals who are often overlooked by traditional systems, including adults with disabilities, at-risk youth, ex-offenders, immigrants, and families receiving public assistance.

A large part of our programs are funded by federal contracts, which allow us to provide vital services such as job training, youth education, and employment placement. One example is our Volunteer Income Tax Assistance (VITA) program, which helps low-income individuals and families file their taxes for free. Last year alone, we helped over 3,000 people maximize their refunds—money that goes directly back into the local economy. A potential loss of this federal grant could eliminate the program altogether, leaving thousands without access to this critical financial service and increasing their risk of falling behind economically.

The impact of a broader federal funding freeze or executive orders could force us to reduce services, lay off staff, and cut support to those who need it most. Programs that help people secure employment, gain financial stability, or access basic needs like food and education would shrink or disappear. Staff positions that deliver direct services to individuals with disabilities, low-income families, and at-risk youth would be at risk—further straining our communities. Without intervention, thousands of residents who rely on these federally funded programs may lose essential lifelines, pushing more people into poverty and increasing reliance on emergency state-funded services.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Emily Lau  
Vice President of Mission Services  
Goodwill Hawaii

**TESTIMONY ON SB933**

## Committee on Finance

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

The Legal Aid Society of Hawaii submits testimony in strong support of SB933-Relating to the State Budget. This legislation, the Grant Funding Act of 2025, seeks to provide funding for one-time nonrecurring grants to organizations that provide critical services. Legal Aid supports the general intent of this bill, and thanks this Committee and the legislature for considering and including funding for the Judiciary for program appropriations and other expenditures.

**IMPACT OF SB933**

With the support of Federal, State, County and private funding, grants and contracts, Legal Aid provides critical civil legal services to our low-income and vulnerable populations across our state. As the state's largest and oldest legal service provider, we deliver legal services in the areas most needed by Hawai'i's residents, including family law, housing, domestic abuse, consumer protection, immigration law, public benefits, child welfare, and elder law. Legal Aid provides these services statewide through its 12 offices located in every county and on every island, as well as through our Maui Disaster Legal Services office and our Hawai'i Immigrant Justice Center. Our over 100 dedicated staff are all committed to our mission of obtaining a fair and just Hawai'i for all.

Each year, Legal Aid impacts the lives of approximately 20,000 Hawai'i residents. In the last fiscal year, we received over 15,000 requests for assistance and were able to provide legal help in a little over 7000 cases in legal areas ranging from family, housing, consumer, foreclosure, public benefits, elder law, homelessness, immigration, language access, and child welfare. Of those served last year, over 2,000 of our clients were homeless or at risk for homelessness, over 1,600 are Native Hawaiian, over 1,200 experienced domestic violence and about 700 spoke a primary language other than English.

**NEED FOR STABLE FUNDING**

We are grateful to the legislature for their past and continuing support of general civil legal services in the Judiciary budget, and to the Judiciary for providing a home for this program and administering these important funds. However, more funding is urgently needed.

In Legal Services Corporation's Justice Gap Report (2022), researchers found that "low-income [individuals] did not receive any or enough legal help for 92% of their civil legal problems[.]"

and that Hawai‘i is unfortunately consistent with this national average. More than one-half of people nationwide have no confidence that they would be able to find a lawyer they could afford if they needed one. In Hawai‘i, at least 72% of households had one or more civil legal problems in the past year. Current resources are not meeting our community’s needs: the National Justice Index determined that nine times as many legal services attorneys and advocates are needed to meet Hawai‘i low-income residents’ legal needs.

We are sensitive to the fact that the State is facing significant fiscal pressures due to potential federal funding cuts. In addition, changes to the federal funding and policy landscape also require additional support for Hawai‘i’s legal services providers. Legal Aid is approximately 45% federally funded. Recently, there have been dramatic reductions in available federal funds for victims of crime and domestic-violence survivors. Legal Aid receives substantial federal funds to provide services related to housing, assisting Hawai‘i’s houseless communities, kūpuna legal services, health insurance navigators, and more. Disaster legal services, which includes over one million in funding for Hawai‘i, was also recently left out of the most recent funding resolution. And, we may see attempts to reduce funding for legal services overall.

We thank this Committee in advance for its consideration and support of the Judiciary's inclusion in this bill. We also thank the Judiciary for their willingness to house any “program appropriations” administered under this bill, their support for legal services and their dedication to access to justice and fairness.

Mahalo for this opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,  
David Kaulia Kopper  
Executive Director, Legal Aid Society of Hawai‘i



March 27, 2025

Members of the House Committee on Finance:

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Vice Chair Jenna Takenouchi

Rep. Tina Nakada Grandinetti

Rep. Daniel Holt

Rep. Ikaika Hussey

Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy

Rep. Lisa Kitagawa

Rep. Matthias Kusch

Rep. Rachele F. Lamosao

Rep. Mike Lee

Rep. Tyson K. Miyake

Rep. Dee Morikawa

Rep. Shirley Ann Templo

Rep. David Alcos III

Rep. Julie Reyes Oda

Rep. Gene Ward

Re: SB933 SD2 Relating to Child Welfare Services

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

The Hawai'i State Coalition Against Domestic Violence (HSCADV) addresses the social, political, and economic impacts of domestic violence on individuals, families, and communities. We are the association of domestic violence programs and shelters statewide. Collectively, our member programs serve thousands of survivors of domestic violence and their children. Annually, they provide more than 30,000 shelter nights and answer more than 4,000 hotline calls – providing advocacy, safety planning, and other resources to survivors.

On behalf of HSCADV and our 25 member programs statewide, I respectfully submit testimony **in strong support of SB933 SD2**, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai'i's nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—to hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state's workforce. Hawai'i's economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff



can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors, such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Sincerely,  
Angelina Mercado, Executive Director



# Hawai'i True Cost Coalition

Date: March 27, 2025

Re: **Support** of SB933 SD2, Relating to the State Budget

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

Our coalition of organizations for Hawai'i True Cost Coalition are writing in **support** of SB933 SD2, Relating to the State Budget. The bill SB933 SD2 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 SD2 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 (HHRC) | 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 Hawaii | Share Your Mana | The Spirit Horse Ranch | U.S. Vets | Women Helping Women | YMCA of Honolulu

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 9:10:07 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
amy agbayani	The Legal Clinic	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports SB933, SD2, which provides funds to the Executive and Judiciary for grants to non-profit organizations. TLC is a Hawai'i nonprofit, nonpartisan organization providing direct legal service to low income immigrants. Hawaii's nonprofit sector provides critical social safety net services to the community, including the immigrant and migrant population. TLC supports increased funding for Hawaii's nonprofit community, given the reduced assistance from the federal administration. SB933, SD 2 is necessary to help nonprofits in these uncertain fiscal times. Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of SB933, SD2, and TLC respectfully urges the Committee members to pass this measure.

Very respectfully yours,  
Amy Agbayani, Advocacy chair The Legal Clinic  
1020 South Beretania St., Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814



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### HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a  
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &  
Evaluation

Community Health  
Worker Initiatives

COVID-19 Response

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Farm to School Network

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &  
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: March 25, 2025

To: Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Members of the House Committee on Finance

RE: Support for SB 933 SD2, Relating to the State Budget

Hrg: Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 2:00 PM, Conference Room 308

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The Hawai'i Public Health Institute,<sup>1</sup> **supports SB 933 SD2**, relating to the state budget. This bill appropriates money for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026.

Nonprofit organizations deliver critical services to our community. Investing in nonprofits provides financial support for organizations that uplift public health, care for our environment, improve learning outcomes for our keiki, and preserve the cultural heritage of our island home.

### Funding Disparities

Local nonprofits "serve over 500,000 residents statewide by providing a diverse range of essential services—from food security and housing assistance to domestic violence support and care for seniors."<sup>2</sup>

Yet, in recent years, increases in funding for nonprofits have not been enough to offset the cost of services. As operational expenses for nonprofits have risen, governments have reduced public support for nonprofits as a percentage of their overall budgets, a trend that has been ongoing since the 1980s.

Federal cuts could reduce funding even more and eliminate these services entirely. Federal funding accounts for over 60% of Hawai'i Public Health Institute's overall budget. The essential programs and services we and other nonprofits provide may require state funding in order to continue supporting our communities.

### Building Community Resilience

A 2022 survey conducted by the True Cost Coalition found that 40% of all organizations surveyed felt they may not be able to continue to operate in Hawai'i if government funding challenges are not addressed.<sup>3</sup> The survey further found

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

<sup>2</sup> "Hawaii's Quiet Crisis: Nonprofits Sound Alarm on Underfunding Peril" - Institute for Human Services. <https://ihshawaii.org/true-cost>

<sup>3</sup> <https://hitruuecost.com/resources/2022-survey-results>



that 86% of nonprofits believe the funding gap between government contracts and the cost of providing services will increase in the coming years and 91% had government contract budgets that fell below the full operating costs required to provide contracted services, forcing 79% of those surveyed to cut administrative costs and 56% to undercut staff salaries.

### Long-Term Return on Investment

Investing in nonprofits that provide social services delivers a strong return on investment—not just for those directly benefiting, but for society as a whole. Research on mental health, housing, food accessibility, and public health consistently shows that these programs yield significant economic gains by improving overall well-being, productivity, and stability. In many cases, the returns exceed 5:1.<sup>4,5,6,7</sup>

These significant benefits present a clear and valuable opportunity to strengthen our society. However, failing to address these needs—or worse, cutting funding for existing services—would not only erase the progress we've made but also lead to far greater costs for our state in the long run.

By providing financial security to nonprofits in our state, the legislature can ensure hungry families have access to nutritious food, survivors of intimate partner violence are afforded legal protection, homeless families are able to obtain stable shelter, low-income kūpuna receive quality medical care, and the public health of our communities is preserved for generations to come. Taking a proactive approach to societal challenges ensures that we are building a foundation for lasting success, both for our people and our communities, now and into the future.

Mahalo,

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

Nate Hix  
Director of Policy and Advocacy

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<sup>4</sup>Stelmach R, Kocher EL, Kataria I, Jackson-Morris AM, Saxena S, Nugent R. The global return on investment from preventing and treating adolescent mental disorders and suicide: a modelling study. *BMJ Glob Health*. 2022 Jun <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC9240828/>

<sup>5</sup>Jacob V, Chattopadhyay SK, Attipoe-Dorcoo S, Peng Y, Hahn RA, Finnie R, Cobb J, Cuellar AE, Emmons KM, Remington PL. Permanent Supportive Housing With Housing First: Findings From a Community Guide Systematic Economic Review. *Am J Prev Med*. 2022 Mar. <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC8863642/>

<sup>6</sup>"True Cost of Food: School Meals Case Study". Rockefeller Foundation. <https://www.rockefellerfoundation.org/reports/true-cost-of-food-school-meals-case-study/>

<sup>7</sup>Masters R, Anwar E, Collins B, et al. Return on investment of public health interventions: a systematic review *J Epidemiol Community Health* 2017; <https://jech.bmj.com/content/71/8/827>



March 26, 2025

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

My name is Ashley Raymond, Executive Director, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of the Donkey Mill Art Center in **strong support of SB933 SD2**, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai'i's nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services.

The Donkey Mill Art Center is a place of convergence for the exploration of arts and culture to inform, inspire, and strengthen individual and collective well-being, located in Holualoa, Hawai'i, on the slopes of Hualalai near Kailua-Kona. We provide hands-on classes, exhibitions, and cultural events on-site in our historic building and in local public schools for over 6,000 people annually. Our community art center is a staple resource in the Kona community for community connection and healing through the arts. It is critical we preserve resources like ours during such turbulent times.

**We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility**, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

With aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ashley Raymond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Ashley" written in a larger, more prominent script than the last name "Raymond".

Ashley Raymond  
Executive Director  
Donkey Mill Art Center, Holualoa, HI  
[donkeymillartcenter.org](http://donkeymillartcenter.org)



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3599 Waiʻālae Ave., Ste. 25 • Honolulu, HI 96816 •Phone (808) 732-5402 •Fax (808) 732 5432 •hihumanities.org

March 26, 2025

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

My name is Aiko Yamashiro, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawai'i Council for the Humanities in strong support of SB933 SD2, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Significant federal cuts would necessitate **pausing or eliminating our grantmaking, loss of jobs** in our small 8-person organization, and **severe reduction in services to the public**, including to teachers and students. **Federal funding cuts would impact not just our organization but libraries, museums, cultural centers, etc.**—our many community partners in this work and their broad constituencies. Hawai'i's economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities was established over fifty years ago as the state nonprofit affiliate of The National Endowment for the Humanities (NEH) and still receives 90% of our funding from this federal operating support grant. NEH is a federal agency created in 1965 through legislation naming the humanities and the arts as critical to the public good. As the NEH grounding phrase states, "Democracy demands wisdom." Good governance and strong communities value critical thinking, reflection, and connection; histories, cultures, stories.

The Hawai'i Council for the Humanities' (HCH) mission is to enrich lives, broaden perspectives, and strengthen communities through public programs centered in the humanities. In 2024, HCH engaged 33,531 people through 209 events and **invested over \$905,000** into our local economy through grants, programs, and partnerships. Some of our major activities include:

- Awarding grants for preservation and public programs that create public access to quality educational resources, and engage important social issues through histories, stories, and deep discussion
- Coordinating Hawai'i History Day, a program that supports the teaching of history and civics by providing curriculum, professional development and training, classroom materials, and interscholastic competition at no cost to the community. We serve grades 4-12, in partnership with 46 public, private, and charter schools on Kaua'i, Maui, Moloka'i, O'ahu, and Hawai'i in 2025 (from 39 schools in 2024).
- Administering the Hawai'i State Poet Laureate program. In partnership with State Foundation on Culture and the Arts and the Hawai'i State Public Library System, we organize literary events across the state, empowering many voices to engage and reflect on who we are and where we

are going, and providing connection and grounding amidst disorienting demographic and economic change.

Rooted in our values of community access and interdependence, nearly all of our programs are free and accessible to the public and are designed as welcoming spaces for many perspectives to connect.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

The diversity of our nonprofit sector is our strength, and we need increased cross-sector collaboration to support us in this crisis. As we navigate the tumult ahead, we hold on to and offer the core beliefs of the humanities. We value many voices and stories, empathy and critical thinking. We connect people to land, history, culture, and each other. The actions of the humanities build a more caring and responsible community.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Aiko Yamashiro

Executive Director

Hawai'i Council for the Humanities

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:11:56 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Louis Putzel	Friends of Amy B. H. Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To: House Committee on Finance****March 26, 2025****Re: Testimony in Support of SB933 SD2, relating to the State Budget****From: Louis Putzel, Exec. Director, Friends of Amy B.H. Greenwell  
Ethnobotanical Garden**

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of SB933 SD2, relating to the State Budget, the Grant Funding Act of 2025. As stewards of Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden (AGEG), the nonprofit Friends of AGE G urges your support of this measure, which provides critical grant funding to organizations that contribute directly to Hawai‘i’s public health, safety, and general welfare—particularly in the wake of on-going and threatened reductions in federal support.

The Friends of AGE G is a nonprofit organization dedicated to the preservation, restoration, and active use of traditional Hawaiian biocultural knowledge. Our mission is to protect and perpetuate the cultural and ecological resources of Kona and greater Hawai‘i Island through hands-on stewardship, conservation, education, and food security initiatives rooted in Native Hawaiian traditions and science. Our work serves not only the land but also the people—especially our keiki and working families who rely on our programs as vital sources of environmental learning, cultural empowerment, and social support.

Located in South Kona, the Garden is a living educational resource: a 15-acre landscape that grows and shares some of the largest and most comprehensive collections of traditional Hawaiian food staples such as kalo (taro), ‘uala (sweet potato), ‘ulu (breadfruit), and mai‘a (banana), all of which are crucial for building long-term, localized food security. In the face of increasing economic precarity and climate instability, the Garden’s stewardship of these crops represents more than heritage—it is a blueprint for future resilience. These food systems, shared throughout the community, actively address health and human service needs by reducing food insecurity and encouraging culturally appropriate nutrition and sustainable land use.



In addition to our agricultural work, AGEg runs dynamic keiki education programs, including school partnerships and after-school enrichment offerings that alleviate pressure on working parents. Our programs provide a safe, enriching environment where children learn about mālama ‘āina (caring for the land), connecting deeply to Hawaiian culture while gaining essential ecological literacy. For many families, particularly in underserved rural areas, such programs can serve as crucial bridges—offering both care and education, thereby supporting parents balancing their livelihoods and caregiving responsibilities.

SB933 SD2 is timely and essential. The proposed one-time, nonrecurring grants offer a critical lifeline to nonprofit organizations like ours that operate on lean budgets and are increasingly burdened by the uncertainty of federal funding. AGEg is precisely the kind of organization envisioned in this bill: we deliver health- and community-centered services rooted in cultural practice, and we are at risk of losing momentum and impact due to rising operational costs and shrinking national support, even when we have a committed 5-year federal contract. We are well-diversified in our funding base, but this federal retraction could critically impact our staffing and work.

The Friends of Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden believes that investment in place-based, community-rooted nonprofits yields dividends across generations. Our programs nurture food sovereignty, environmental awareness, and intergenerational learning—cornerstones of a thriving and resilient Hawai‘i. We respectfully urge this committee to pass SB933 SD2 to ensure organizations that provide critical community services can continue to uplift our communities, steward our natural and cultural resources, and contribute to the health and wellbeing of Hawai‘i’s people.

With deep aloha, mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.



March 26, 2025

Hawaii's House Committee on Finance  
Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
Representative Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair  
Representatives Tina Nakada Grandinetti, Daniel Holt, Ikaika Hussey, Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Lisa Kitagawa, Matthias Kusch, Rachele F. Lamosao, Mike Lee, Tyson K. Miyake, Dee Morikawa, Shirley Ann Templo, David Alcos III, Julie Reyes Oda, and Gene Ward, Committee Members

**RE: SB 933 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET – SUPPORT**

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

I am submitting this letter in support of SB 933 on behalf of Easterseals Hawaii. Easterseals Hawaii served 2,025 Hawaii community members with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) in 2024. Our purpose is to create a more equitable world where people with I/DD can choose their own path.

Community-based nonprofit organizations like Easterseals Hawaii are a lifeline for many individuals with I/DD in Hawaii. CBOs (community-based organizations) have been shown to reduce barriers to care, improve health outcomes, and to decrease costly inefficiencies by providing upstream solutions.<sup>1</sup> Despite mounting evidence in support of, and rising demand for, our services, nonprofits struggle to stay afloat due to insufficient funding. In fact, 40% of nonprofit CBOs report that they may cease operations if funding challenges persist.<sup>2</sup> These struggles are exacerbated by the current federal administration's actions to decrease funding for social services. SB 933 would provide much-needed relief during this time by providing one-time grants to organizations that provide critical health and human services. Please help organizations like Easterseals Hawaii continue to provide essential services for individuals with I/DD in Hawaii by voting in support of SB 933.

Easterseals Hawaii supports SB 933 and respectfully requests your "aye" vote. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this letter.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Rachel Liebert Lewis".

Rachel Liebert Lewis  
Director, Public Policy and Advocacy  
Easterseals Hawaii  
PublicPolicyAndAdvocacy@eshawaii.org

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<sup>1</sup> [copehealthsolutions.com/cblog/role-of-cbos-to-reduce-health-care-access-barriers-and-enhance-clinical-outcomes/](https://copehealthsolutions.com/cblog/role-of-cbos-to-reduce-health-care-access-barriers-and-enhance-clinical-outcomes/)

<sup>2</sup> <https://hittruecost.com/resources/2022-survey-results/>



House Committee on Finance  
March 27, 2025 at 2:00 PM  
Room 308

Testimony in SUPPORT for SB933 SD2

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

On behalf of the Hawaii'i Alliance of Nonprofit Organizations (HANO), **we submit testimony and a sign-on letter from 76 community-based organizations in strong support of SB933**, which proposes the "Grant Funding Act of 2025" to increase financial support for nonprofit organizations statewide.

We greatly appreciate the Legislature's ongoing support for Hawaii'i's nonprofit sector and respectfully **propose amendments to strengthen this bill by broadening eligibility, clarifying program guidelines, and ensuring the grant program meets the sector's urgent and evolving needs.**

HANO is a statewide association of Hawaii'i nonprofits dedicated to strengthening and uniting the nonprofit sector to improve the quality of life in our islands. Since 2006, HANO has been a leading voice for nonprofits, advocating for policies and practices that enhance the sector's sustainability, professionalism, and effectiveness.

Hawaii'i's nonprofit sector plays an indispensable role in delivering essential services that sustain our communities. Nonprofit organizations provide support through federally qualified health centers, early childhood education, domestic violence prevention, subsidized housing, homelessness services, and more. Many of these programs serve as lifelines for thousands of individuals and families across the state.

The nonprofit sector is also a major contributor to Hawaii'i's economy, making up nearly 12% of the state's workforce and providing employment for thousands of local residents. According to USAspending.gov, as many as 250 nonprofits in Hawaii'i received federal grants and contracts in FY23, totaling an estimated \$300 million to \$400 million. 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 nonprofit sector could see widespread layoffs, exacerbating economic instability and further straining Hawaii'i's communities.

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, LGBTQ+, environmental protection, and other subsectors.<sup>1</sup> Without a state-level investment to bridge potential funding gaps, the safety net provided by Hawai'i's nonprofit sector could be compromised.

### **Suggested Amendments to Strengthen SB933 (Part VI - Section 27):**

We propose the following amendments for the legislature's consideration to improve clarity, flexibility, and accessibility of SB933, while ensuring accountability and alignment with existing state laws:

- **Expand eligibility** to include nonprofits providing essential public services such as education, arts and culture, environment, societal benefit, and other community-based programs. This ensures charitable organizations of all sizes and missions that rely on federal funding are not preempted from applying for critical support during fiscal disruption.
- **Explore an expedited grant process or reopen the Grant-in-Aid (GIA)** application for SB933 funds. With federal funding cuts threatening nonprofit services and our workforce, a streamlined grants and contracts process is critical to quickly delivering resources to organizations providing essential community services. Reopening the GIA application for emergency funding would also better reflect the current needs of the sector, while providing access to organizations who did not previously apply under Chapter 42F, HRS.
- **Define key terms** such as “*substantial*” and “*significantly decreased*” to provide clearer guidelines for both nonprofits and administering agencies, for example:
  - “*Substantial*” means federal funding that, if reduced or lost, would materially impair an organization's ability to maintain program services, operations, or staffing.
  - “*Significantly decreased*” refers to reductions that impact program operations, service delivery, or result in staffing reductions, layoffs, or furloughs.
- **Clarify eligibility related to funding risk** by allowing organizations to qualify if they have received formal notice of federal funding suspension, termination, or reduction, or can present credible evidence that such risk exists within the next 12 months.
- **Include audit protections** to ensure oversight without imposing audit costs on grantees, minimizing administrative burdens for smaller nonprofits.

With the potential loss of millions in federal funding in 2025, the passage and full funding of SB933 is a timely and necessary measure. 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 support for SB933 and for considering HANO's proposed amendments to uplift our nonprofit sector.

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<sup>1</sup> National Council of Nonprofits, *Executive Orders Affecting Charitable Nonprofits*. Updated March 26, 2025. See: <https://www.councilofnonprofits.org/files/media/documents/2025/chart-executive-orders.pdf>

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>2</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

Kalamapi'i PLAY School  
Kanehunamoku Voyaging Academy  
Kauai Search and Rescue  
Keiki Kupuna

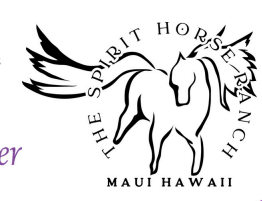
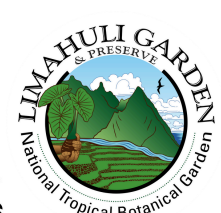
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<sup>2</sup> Bureau of Labor Statistics, U.S. Department of Labor, *The Economics Daily*, Nonprofits accounted for 12.8 million jobs, 9.9 percent of private-sector employment, in 2022 at <https://www.bls.gov/opub/ted/2024/nonprofits-accounted-for-12-8-million-jobs-9-9-percent-of-private-sector-employment-in-20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

Creative Research Solutions  
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

Ko'olau Foundation  
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







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Mauna Kahālāwai,  
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Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

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Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Natalie Urminska  
Kaua'i

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

The Hawai'i Farmers Union is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFU supports SB933.**

Local agriculture is being directly impacted by sweeping federal cuts, particularly within the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). Reductions to USDA programs have already affected support for local producers in Hawai'i, especially smallholder farmers who rely on these funds for technical assistance, infrastructure, food safety, and cost-share programs. The impacts are also being felt by food banks and schools that previously depended on USDA funding to purchase fresh, locally grown food.

These cuts threaten the viability of programs that:

- Distribute local food to underserved communities,
- Sustain regional food hubs and cooperatives,
- Implement farm-to-school procurement and nutrition education,
- Support Indigenous and regenerative agriculture.

Without intervention, Hawai'i risks losing gains made in building a resilient, community-based food system. Nonprofit partners that serve as intermediaries—aggregating, processing, and distributing locally grown food—are facing severe budget shortfalls due to lost federal funds. This not only undermines local food security but also weakens disaster response capacity and climate adaptation efforts.

We recommend that SB933 SD2 be amended to explicitly include nonprofit organizations supporting food security, sustainable agriculture, and local food systems as eligible recipients of emergency grants. These organizations are essential to Hawai'i's future and deserve a seat at the table as the state responds to this funding crisis.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Hunter Heavilin  
Advocacy Director  
Hawai'i Farmers Union





**TO:** COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair  
The Honorable Jenna Takenouchi, Vice Chair, and  
Members of the Committee

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

**DATE:** March 26, 2025

**RE:** Testimony in Support for SB 933 SD2, Relating to the State Budget  
Date: Thursday, March 27, 2025 at 2:00 pm  
Place: Conference Room 308 and via videoconference

The Hawai'i Community Foundation (HCF) **supports** Senate Bill 933 SD2 (SB 933 SD2) 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, legal, housing, 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 SD2.



## Hawaiian Humane Society

People for animals. Animals for people.

Date: March 26, 2025

To: Chair Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita  
Vice Chair Rep. Jenna Takenouchi  
and Members of the Committee on Finance

Submitted By: Anna Neubauer, MPA, CAWA, President & CEO  
Hawaiian Humane Society, 808-356-2217

RE: Testimony in support of SB 933, SD2: Relating to the State Budget  
Thursday, March 27, 2025, 2 p.m., Room 308 & Videoconference

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On behalf of the Hawaiian Humane Society, thank you for considering our strong support for Senate Bill 933, which appropriates moneys for grants for fiscal year 2025-2026 and subjects recipient organizations to certain requirements.

Hawai'i's nonprofits provide critical community services, reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12 percent of the state's workforce. Hawai'i's economy will suffer if our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

As the largest animal welfare nonprofit in the state of Hawai'i, the Hawaiian Humane Society provided services to more than 41,000 animals and 38,000 people in fiscal year 2025 at our two campuses and out in the community. We are the only organization on O'ahu that accepts any pet animal regardless of age, species, breed or condition. We strive to keep pets with the people who love them, but when our families suffer, pets suffer too, potentially increasing the need for services from our already full shelters.

We support SB933, SD2, and urge the committee to pass this measure with an amendment to expand eligibility to all Hawai'i nonprofit organizations and safeguard vital services, jobs, and community stability during this challenging time.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 4:15:22 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angie Knight	The Institute for Human Services	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IHS, The Institute for Humans Services, Inc. stands in support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

We support SB933 SD2 and ask the committee to amend the eligibility for funding so that more nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis. In order to continue providing these critical safety nets for households in our community, we need to work in continued collaboration with our service partners, something made a lot easier if said organizations do not close due to lack of funding or staff (due to funding).

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 6:42:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Tuiolesega Silva	Kumukahi Health + Wellness	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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

**My name is Peter Silva, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Kumukahi Health + Wellness on Hawai'i Island in strong support of SB933 SD2, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.**

**Hawai'i's nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state's workforce. Hawai'i's economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.**

**Kumukahi Health + Wellness provides critical social and medical services to our island's most vulnerable populations, especially the LGBTQ+ and Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander communities. We face many cuts with our HRSA and CDC funding for DEI focused programs and serving those who exist in opposition to gender ideology of the current administration. We also have the statewide contract to provide medicaid assistance to hard to reach populations such as the houseless, those who are justice involved, migrants and those who's primary language is not English.**

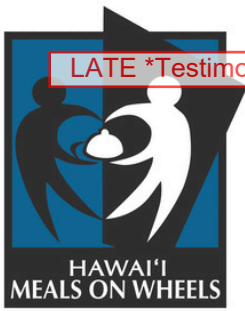
**We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.**

**Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify.**

**Mahalo,**

**Peter T. Silva, CEO, Kumukahi Health + Wellness**



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

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB933 SD2

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

My name Michelle Cordero-Lee and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawai'i Meals on Wheels in strong support of SB933 SD2, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025." This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai'i Meals on Wheels provides nutritious, medically tailored meals to homebound kūpuna and individuals with disabilities across O'ahu. In 2024, we delivered over 202,000 meals, with 56.65%—or 114,904 meals—funded by federal sources; including SNAP, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act. These funds support some of our most vulnerable community members, allowing them to remain safe and independent in their homes while receiving the nutrition they need.

The uncertainty surrounding federal executive orders and potential funding reductions places our ability to serve at risk. Without support, we may be forced to reduce services, impacting hundreds of kūpuna who rely on us for their daily meals. Additionally, disruptions in funding could jeopardize jobs, affecting our dedicated team members and kitchen partners who help prepare and deliver meals every day.

Beyond financial challenges, we have already begun experiencing the indirect effects of federal policy changes. Three long-standing groups of volunteers—federal employees who had been delivering meals weekly with their departments for over a decade—were recently instructed to stop volunteering. These dedicated volunteers were a crucial part of our service model, and their absence puts additional strain on our operations. Their departure illustrates how federal actions, even beyond direct funding cuts have real consequences for our ability to serve kūpuna.

SB933 would provide a vital safety net, allowing us to continue our mission without interruption. Emergency grant-in-aid funding would help stabilize our programs, sustain our workforce, and ensure that no kūpuna goes hungry due to circumstances beyond our control.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai'i's nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Mahalo,

Michelle Cordero-Lee  
CEO  
Hawai'i Meals on Wheels

**Hawai'i Meals on Wheels, Inc.**  
P.O. Box 236099  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96823-3520  
(808) 988-6747  
hmow.org

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THAT MATTER MOST

ParentsAndChildrenTogether.org

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 933 SD2 RELATING TO THE STATE BUDGET**

**TO:** Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Takenouchi, & Members,  
House Committee on Finance  
**FROM:** Trisha Kajimura, Vice-President of Strategy & External Affairs  
**DATE:** March 27, 2025 at 2:00 PM

**Parents And Children Together (PACT) supports SB 933 SD2, 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.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 2:30:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Ruddick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB933 SD2



**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 3:54:30 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Molly Mamaril	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

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

My name is Molly Mamaril and I am writing in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. The nonprofit sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

I support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Molly Mamaril

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 4:46:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Franz Weber	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

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

My name is Franz Weber, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Our sector also represents nearly 12% of the state’s workforce. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as our jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

I am on boards of nine non-profits, several providing services to the underprivileged, homeless, neglected children, elderly, etc.

I support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Franz Weber

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 5:08:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Gonce	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Support

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:43:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

## Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB933 which would appropriate fund for one-time nonrecurring grants to organizations that provide critical services. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits providing critical healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation all face showdown or service cuts. This would destabilize our communities and our state. Hawaii's economy will also suffer. Please pass this measure.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:45:32 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanna Espinas	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure. Thank you!

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 7:25:14 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

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

My name is Dr. Benton Pang, and I am submitting testimony on behalf of Ka‘ala Farm Inc., where I serve as Board President, in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Ka‘ala Farm Inc. is a Native Hawaiian nonprofit dedicated to cultural and ecological restoration in the Wai‘anae Valley. For more than 40 years, we have served the community by reconnecting youth and families to the land, teaching traditional farming practices, and preserving sacred cultural sites. Our programs support food sovereignty, cultural education, environmental stewardship, and community resilience.

Federal funds have supported our restoration efforts, education programs, and staff capacity. However, recent delays and threats to federal funding put our operations at risk—jeopardizing not only our ability to maintain vital cultural and environmental programs but also the livelihoods of our staff and the stability of our community partners and networks.

We support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and community organizations. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Dr. Benton Pang

Board President  
Ka‘ala Farm Inc.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 1:29:37 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathryn Lathrop	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a teaching artist with SFCA using the AITS grant program and a concerned mentor for youth and active community member offering art and Hawaiian cultural experiences on Kauai. As a mother of 5 and teacher/mentor for past 25 years, I have witnessed how imperative art and cultural education is to Kauai youth and young adults especially for their mental health and wellbeing, for creative problem solving and, critical thinking skills. With funding already being minor for culture and arts in general, and now being slashed with our current political climate, it is essential that this bill pass to keep these services alive and well, not only for job security for people like me but for the very clear benefits in the grand picture that youth gain from these programs. We can not all become robots. We need the arts and culture to keep our connections to this `āina, to support growth in individuals and communities, to maintain jobs and stability within families. We need this to prevent the cascading effects and essentially needs for more services that would result from not having the meaningful experiences that arts and culture provide. Mahalo for listening and respecting my viewpoint.



**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 4:11:26 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randall John Francisco	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

I am in Strong Support esp., during this time of unwarranted and untimely Federal decisions that undermines the arts & humanities which are oftentimes deemed "Less Than" in comparison to other programs and budgets. A significant reason Hawaii serves as a critical destination for visitors are the unique culture and arts programs & activities which help to define and showcase our collective and multi-cultural humanity. Our Hawaiian host culture, the continuous evolution of our multi-cultural heritage are significant reasons why Hawaii continues to lead our country and why people love to return to these Hawaiian islands. Please support financially in what you envision helps to showcase our pan-Asian & pan-Pacific cultures as we did a year ago in hosting the Pacific Festival. Mahalo Nui Loa for your consideration, time, Kuleana and, Aloha.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/25/2025 8:43:59 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Kuo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Julie Kuo, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB933 SD2, the “Grant Funding Act of 2025.” This bill is urgently needed to protect nonprofit organizations facing federal funding cuts that continue to threaten essential services and jobs statewide.

Hawai‘i’s nonprofits provide critical community services—healthcare, housing, food security, legal aid, environmental protection, education, and cultural preservation—reaching hundreds of thousands of residents each year. With hundreds of millions of federal funds now at risk, nonprofits face program shutdowns, service cuts, and staff layoffs, destabilizing communities and increasing demand for state-funded emergency services. Hawai‘i’s economy will suffer as these jobs disappear and social service gaps grow.

I support SB933 SD2 and urge the committee to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility, so that all nonprofit organizations facing substantial cuts to their programs and staff can apply for these critical emergency grants. Expanding eligibility beyond health, human services, and legal services to include other sectors such as education, arts, culture, and environment, ensures that nonprofits of varying sizes and missions—many of which rely heavily on federal funding—are not left behind during this fiscal crisis.

Mahalo for your support of Hawai‘i’s nonprofits and for championing strong partnerships between government and nonprofits. This bill is a critical step toward safeguarding vital services, jobs, and community stability during this uncertain and challenging time.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mahalo,  
Julie Kuo

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 10:12:08 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michele Mitsumori	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

## Comments:

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

My name is Michele Mitsumori, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB933 SD2, the "Grant Funding Act of 2025."

In the past few months, we have seen the impact of destabilization from federal changes. As a caretaker for my elderly parents on Hawai'i Island, I rely on our vibrant and skilled network to help me navigate care, financial, physical, and other critical areas. This is especially vital as federal agencies such as the Social Security Administration are cut, and we face the potential risk of our personal data being shared.

We need all the areas that are made possible by nonprofits, including education, arts, culture, and environment. As a caregiver, for example, I have been able to participate in programming such as a poetry workshop for caregivers, which helped me to understand and respond positively to stress and other demands, and in turn be able to take better care of my family over the longer term.

In passing SB933 SD2, I urge you to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility so that ALL nonprofits facing substantial cuts can apply for these emergency grants. As we grow in our understanding of the systems fostering disinformation and division around us, we also vitally need the life-giving presence of beauty and awe in our lives and our communities, to remind us of who we are and of how much more we are together.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of SB933 SD2,

Michele Mitsumori  
Hilo, Hawai'i Island

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 8:28:18 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Berdel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because of the current cuts of funding from the government it is very important that our legislature does its best to provide for these essential services, some of which are lifesaving and/or life changing for some of the people in our community.

We must do our best to see that the lack of funding does not impact our ability to provide what is needed for so many people who are living here.

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/26/2025 11:44:54 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I support SB 933 which would provide emergency grant-in-aid funding to Hawai'i's nonprofits.

This is a difficult time for nonprofits which face deep budget cuts from the federal government. Deserving people of Hawai'i still need the services of these nonprofits which include arts and cultural organizations.

I am a retired educator (teacher and principal). The art community (performing artists, visual artists, and musical artists) have played an integral part in educating my students in the knowledge, skills, and temperament required in being creative, critical, and in making decisions—through art. These skills, needless to say, carry over to other subjects.

This coordination between academic and artistic learning is crucial in developing well-educated persons who are part of our society.

I urge you to please pass SB 933 and to adopt an amendment to expand eligibility to include other nonprofits active in education, arts, culture, and environment.

Thank you, Evelyn Hao

**SB-933-SD-2**

Submitted on: 3/27/2025 12:01:54 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/27/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lasensua Osborne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Music and dance are essential for students' development. Engaging in music and dance fosters creativ

ity, self-expression, and emotional intelligence, while also helping children improve their focus, discipline, and collaboration skills. These art forms can boost academic performance by enhancing cognitive functions, such as memory and critical thinking. Additionally, Hawaii's unique cultural heritage can be preserved and celebrated through these programs, instilling pride and cultural understanding in young learners. Supporting arts education will create well-rounded, empathetic individuals, essential for both personal growth and the enrichment of Hawaii's diverse community.