



# Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

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March 23, 2025

**Testimony in Support of SCR159/SR129** - Providing funding and support to the Ukrainian Military in its defense against aggression from Russia

**To:** Chairs Glenn Wakai and Chris Lee, Vice Chairs Stanley Chang and Lorraine R. Inouye, and Members of the Committee on Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs and Committee on Transportation and Culture and the Arts

**Date:** Tuesday, March 25, 2025, **Time:** 3:00 p.m.

**Place:** Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

Dear Chairs Wakai and Lee, Vice Chairs Chang and Inouye, and Committee Members:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii submits this testimony in strong support of SCR159/SR129, urging the United States Congress to continue providing funding and support to the Ukrainian military in its defense against aggression from Russia.

- Climate change and environmental destruction exacerbate geopolitical conflicts and humanitarian crises, as seen in Ukraine. Supporting Ukraine's defense contributes to stabilizing regions where environmental resources are at risk due to aggression and warfare.
- Protection of Ukraine is essential to preserving its rich environmental and agricultural resources, which are vital to global food security and biodiversity.
- Continued funding ensures the survival and resilience of Ukrainian communities, whose efforts to sustain their natural environment amidst conflict exemplify the intersection of human and ecological sustainability.
- Hawaii, as an environmentally-conscious state, recognizes the importance of standing with Ukraine to uphold democratic values and foster global stability in the face of threats to people and ecosystems.
- Advancing SCR159/SR129 highlights the interconnectedness of environmental stewardship and peacebuilding, reflecting the values and mission of the Environmental Caucus.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Sincerely,

Melodie Aduja and Alan Burdick

Co-chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii

# HAWAII PATRIOT REPUBLICANS

Written Testimony in Opposition to S.R. No. 129 & S.C.R. No. 159  
Submitted to the Senate Committee on EIG/TCA  
March 24, 2025

As a proud citizen guided by the principles of America First—prioritizing our nation’s resources, security, and sovereignty—I strongly urge you to vote NO on Senate Resolution 129 and Senate Concurrent Resolution 159. This resolution calls on Congress to continue funding and supporting Ukraine’s military against Russia, a policy that drains American taxpayers, risks escalating global tensions, and conflicts with the Trump administration’s agenda of peace through strength. From a Republican perspective, I appeal to Democrats on this committee who value fiscal responsibility, community safety, and Hawaii’s unique needs to reject this measure. Below, I outline clear, objective reasons why this resolution is misguided, with examples of negative outcomes from similar policies elsewhere and warnings about defying the administration’s direction.

## **Draining Hawaii’s Taxpayers for a Foreign War**

SR 129 & SCR 159 push for endless U.S. funding of Ukraine’s military, ignoring the burden this places on Hawaii’s working families. The resolution notes that current aid has helped Ukraine’s defense, but at what cost? Congress has already poured [\\$174.2 billion](#) into Ukraine since 2022—money that could rebuild our schools, fix our roads, or lower taxes here at home. President Trump has warned, “The American taxpayers are tired of funding this war, and there’s no end in sight” (Sen. Markwayne Mullin quoting Trump, [CNN, March 3, 2025](#)). Defying this stance risks Hawaii being sidelined when federal funds are allocated—potentially costing us disaster relief or infrastructure grants we desperately need after events like the Maui wildfires.

## **Escalating Global Tensions, Not Peace**

This resolution doubles down on military aid, clashing with the Trump administration’s focus on negotiation over confrontation. Trump has said, “I think what I’m in support of is a peaceful outcome and result in Ukraine, and right now the administration... [is] working to achieve that” ([NPR, Feb. 19, 2025](#)). Yet SR 129 & SCR 159 push for more weapons, not talks, risking a wider conflict that could pull the U.S.—and Hawaii’s sons and daughters in uniform—into a quagmire. Look at California, where state resolutions supporting Ukraine aid in 2023 led to protests and [divided communities](#), with no tangible benefit to residents. Democrats who seek stability should see that peace, not escalation, serves Hawaii best.

## **Ignoring Local Priorities for a Distant Cause**

Hawaii faces pressing challenges—housing shortages, high living costs, and climate threats—yet SR 129 & SCR 159 divert attention to a war 7,000 miles away. The resolution cites Ukraine’s 3.7 million displaced and 40% needing aid, but what about our own? Over [6,000 Hawaiians are homeless](#), and our state budget strains to support them. Oregon’s experience is a cautionary tale: its 2022 resolution backing Ukraine aid sparked backlash as [homelessness spiked 23%](#), with critics arguing funds were misdirected. Democrats who champion social justice should prioritize our people over foreign battles.

## **Undermining Hawaii’s Voice in Washington**

Opposing the Trump administration’s agenda—evident in its recent pause on Ukraine aid ([Reuters, March 5, 2025](#))—could weaken Hawaii’s leverage with a GOP-led Congress. National Security Adviser Mike Waltz has said aid hinges on “confidence-building measures” for peace, not blank checks ([Fox News, March 5, 2025](#)).

If Hawaii defies this, we risk retaliation—like cuts to military base funding on Oahu, which employs thousands. Texas faced this in 2023 when its defiance on border policy led to [reduced federal support](#), costing jobs. Democrats who value Hawaii’s economic security should avoid this trap.

### **No Clear Endgame, Just Endless Spending**

SR 129 & SCR 159 demand “continued assistance as soon as possible” with no exit strategy, mirroring failed policies elsewhere. West Virginia’s 2022 push for Ukraine aid tied to state resolutions saw [public frustration grow](#) as costs mounted with no resolution, draining state morale and resources. Trump has criticized this approach, saying, “I don’t believe... Ukraine can win this war, and [we should] bring an end to it” ([CNN, March 3, 2025](#)). Democrats who oppose wasteful spending should demand a plan, not a blank commitment.

### **A Call for Reason Over Recklessness**

SR 129 & SCR 159 sacrifice Hawaii’s interests for a cause we can’t sustain. It defies the Trump administration’s push for peace—risking our state’s standing—and mirrors flops in California, Oregon, and West Virginia. Democrats and all members: vote NO to keep our focus on Hawaii’s families, safety, and future. Let’s not trade our aloha for a war without end.

Sincerely,

*Andrew Crossland*

Hawaii Patriot Republicans

[hawaiipatriotRepublicans@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiipatriotRepublicans@gmail.com)

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 1:36:51 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alan B Burdick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this Resolution. The United States must stand in strong support of free countries against authoritarian aggression. If we fail to do so, our own liberty will eventually be compromised.

That is the hard lesson learned during World War II, more than 80 years ago. This is difficult, bloody, and terribly costly, but there is no reasonable alternative that will lead to a future where the world will enjoy freedom.

Thank you, Senator Rhoads, for introducing this very important Resolution.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:08:15 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mike Golojuch, Sr.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SCR159. Please pass this resolution.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 2:26:28 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
B.A. McClintock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/21/2025 10:16:17 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ted Meehan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SR129.

Russia's aggression towards Ukraine must be stopped and the United States must continue to support Ukraine's efforts to drive back and defeat the Russian aggression. This is a case of freedom not only for Ukrainian people but all European countries. Putin must be stopped now.

I urge you to support SR129



**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/23/2025 2:23:29 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dylan P. Armstrong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for your consideration of this timely and thoughtful measure. Glory to the Ukranian people.

*Dyakuyemo za vashu uvahu do ts'oho svoychasnoho ta produmanoho zakhodu. Slava ukrayins'komu narodu*

*Дякуємо за вашу увагу до цього своєчасного та продуманого заходу.  
Слава українському народу*

Dylan P. Armstrong

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:11:44 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill, where is the money coming from and what exactly is it for? Take care of Hawaii first!

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:13:18 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SR129 and companion resolution SCR159. The United States and the state of Hawaii has more than enough people that needs support here STOP wasting my tax dollars outside of the U.S. I myself can use the extra money. Karl Rhodes and any supportive legislators can donate their own pay heck if they feel so strongly in supporting Ukraine.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:34:19 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Rhodes is a HAWAII representative....not a Ukrainian representative. He should stay in his lane. I oppose this and he should be more concerned about Hawaii. Ukraine doesn't need support. They want the war to continue.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:46:38 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, the Ukranian Government does not need continued monetary support from the USA, it needs to continue to discuss peace talks with the Russian Government and stop, and that is what the President is trying to do. I don't and surely more than half of the American people do not stand in solidarity with the Ukrainians, I stand in solidarity with the America loving people, Take care of Americans, not foreign nations.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 7:59:55 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose funding the Ukrainian war the Ukrainian government started this war . We had 26 bio Labs their I am not in any support of this war . I want no funding for this war that Ukraine started . I know because my friend family live their they said Ukraine attacked their own people with United States weapons and blamed Russia. Stop all aid to Ukraine in fact . I want our money back instead give it to the people of Maui . I oppose this stupid bill stop waisting our money frivolously

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:13:08 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Strongly opposed. We are over here busting our butts to BARLEY survive under our local legislatures tyrannical policies and laws. We are TAXED OUT THE WAZOO already and you want to send our money to a foreign nation??? What a total slap in the face. You lot are a bunch of neoCON warmongers who are being exposed as the puppets you are. I donate Karl Rhodes as a tax. Send him over there to fight on their behalf and please don't send my money.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:35:17 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY Oppose.



**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:35:44 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY Oppose.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:39:06 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii is struggling financially, as it is trying to maintain the roads, the streets the safety of our own people here. I can't believe the audacity that this person would go ahead and try to subjugate us to furthermore financial destitution. I absolutely oppose this bill with every fiber in my body.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:39:55 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Hawaii is struggling financially, as it is trying to maintain the roads, the streets the safety of our own people here. I can't believe the audacity that this person would go ahead and try to subjugate us to furthermore financial destitution. I absolutely oppose this bill with every shred of fiber in my body.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:41:33 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

We need to focus on our own state before we go sending other countries money for a fight that we're not in. I can't believe the naivety that this bill should even pop up as an option here in Hawaii I oppose this stupid bill.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:47:24 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:11:45 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SR129 firmly. Absolutely not! I do not want my tax dollars paying for this war that we have no business in. Mr. Rhodes why don't you focus on taking care of your district instead wasting our time on this nonsense?

You took an Oath to Protect The United States not the Ukranian government. Honor your Oath! Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:50:24 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition to this bill, mahalo.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 11:10:22 AM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Resolution 129 (SR129) and Senate Concurrent Resolution 159 (SCR159), which urge the United States Congress to continue providing funding and support to the Ukrainian military.

As a concerned citizen, I believe these resolutions are misguided for several reasons:

1. **Constitutional concerns:** Continued funding for foreign conflicts may exceed the federal government's constitutional authority to provide for the "common defense" and "general welfare" of the United States.
2. **Fiscal responsibility:** With our nation facing significant economic challenges, we should prioritize domestic needs over foreign military aid.
3. **Shifting geopolitical landscape:** Recent developments suggest that the conflict in Ukraine has reached a point where a negotiated settlement is necessary and preferable to prolonged military engagement.
4. **Public mandate:** There is growing sentiment among Americans to reduce involvement in overseas conflicts and focus on domestic priorities.
5. **Diplomatic alternatives:** Encouraging peace negotiations and diplomatic solutions would be a more constructive approach to resolving the conflict.

I urge you to reconsider your support for these resolutions and instead advocate for diplomatic efforts to bring about a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Ukraine.

Sincerely,  
Deborah Umiamaka



**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 12:32:42 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sean Pepper Shiramizu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello!

I oppose this bill because we have problems to fix here locally. Instead of across the ocean. We have the homeless crisis, housing pricing is going up, local families are struggling... This has been going on for years... Let's take care of the local people first.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 12:36:03 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

President Zelensky and the Ukraine military have a serious manpower problem, going around the country and forcing conscripts to the frontline. Instead of thanking President Trump for trying to end the conflict with diplomacy Zelensky was disrespectful, ungrateful, and of accused of gambling with starting a global war by Vice President Vance in February 2025.

Director of National Intelligence Tulsi Gabbard stated in February 2022 that warmongers argue that we must protect Ukraine because it is a “democracy.” Ukraine isn't actually a democracy. To hold onto power, Ukraine's president shut down the 3 TV stations that criticized him, and imprisoned the head of the opposition political party which came in 2nd place in the election, and arrested and jailed its leaders (exactly what Putin has been accused of doing)—all with the support of U.S.

Please vote no on this bill and prioritize assisting Hawaii's citizens. The kanaka and kama aina have not recovered. The exodus of citizens leaving the state needs to be a priority.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 1:43:47 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE. Hawaii legislature should focus on Hawaii problems like prices, homelessness/mental issues and the fact that the natives are leaving. The "Aloha" may be leaving but doesn't mean you cant give it to those who remain. So with that, I OPPOSE. Take care of your own home before others.

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 2:22:33 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Oppose

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 2:29:22 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Legislators,

I oppose SR129 and SCR159.

I am for America first. I am for taking care of our state and local communities. I am surprised that you would think to send money to Ukraine when we can't even take care of ourselves. Who do you think pays for this? It comes out of our pockets!

Russia is not going to stop! History shows Russia will not stop, they will keep throwing people at this war. It needs to stop now, before the U.S. is pulled in! War stops by ending funding to Ukraine!

Sincerely,

Erik Eck

**LATE**

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 3:48:37 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Stop sending our tax dollars to Ukraine.



**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:12:07 PM  
Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**\*\*Testimony in Opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 159\*\***

Aloha nui kākou,

I am Tiare Smith, a Native Hawaiian resident of Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu, where I have lived for 45 years, deeply connected to this ‘āina and its people. I submit this testimony in opposition to Senate Concurrent Resolution 159 (SCR159), which urges the Congress of the United States to continue providing funding and support to the Ukrainian military in its defense against Russian aggression. While I acknowledge the resolution’s intent to extend compassion to a war-torn nation, I contend that it precipitously endorses a policy antithetical to Hawaii’s immediate needs, fiscally untenable, and inequitable in its neglect of our local populace. Below, I delineate the pros and cons of SCR159 and propose precise, cost-effective alternatives that prioritize safety, efficacy, and equity over militarized escalation.

**### Pros of SCR159**

- \*\*Expression of Aloha\*\***: SCR159 reflects Hawaii’s cultural ethos of compassion by affirming solidarity with Ukraine, where 43,000 soldiers have perished, 370,000 have been wounded, and over 30,000 civilians have suffered casualties since February 2022, per the British Broadcasting Company and United Nations reports.
- \*\*Support for Sovereignty\*\***: By endorsing U.S. aid to Ukraine, the resolution upholds the principle of national independence—a value resonant with Hawaii’s own historical struggle—potentially reinforcing global norms that benefit our state’s security.
- \*\*Strategic Messaging\*\***: The resolution positions Hawaii as a principled voice in international affairs, aligning with the U.S. House’s H.R. 155 (2025) and signaling our commitment to countering aggression, which could enhance our diplomatic stature.

**### Cons of SCR159**

- \*\*Fiscal Profligacy\*\***: SCR159 advocates for sustained military funding—already surpassing \$174 billion since 2022, per the Council on Foreign Relations—without evaluating its cost-effectiveness. This diverts resources from Hawaii, where federal dollars could address our housing crisis or bolster disaster preparedness.

2. **Local Disenfranchisement**: By prioritizing a distant conflict, SCR159 sidelines the urgent needs of Hawaii's residents—43% of Native Hawaiian households live in poverty (Office of Hawaiian Affairs, 2023)—effectively disenfranchising our communities in favor of foreign expenditures.

3. **Questionable Efficacy**: The resolution assumes military aid is the optimal solution, yet it risks prolonging the war, exacerbating the displacement of 3.7 million Ukrainians and the humanitarian needs of 40% of its population, as reported by the United Nations in February 2025.

4. **Safety Implications**: Escalating military support heightens the risk of broader conflict, potentially implicating NATO and endangering Hawaii's strategic position in the Pacific—a safety concern unaddressed by SCR159's narrow focus.

### ### Detailed Solutions to Address the Cons

In lieu of endorsing continued military funding, I propose the following alternatives, which align with safety, efficacy, cost-effectiveness, and equity, while opposing the resolution's core assertions:

#### 1. **Shift to Humanitarian Investment**

- **Solution**: Urge Congress to redirect funds from military aid to humanitarian relief—e.g., \$4 billion annually for shelter, healthcare, and food for Ukraine's 3.7 million displaced persons. This contrasts with the \$61 billion military aid package floated in 2024 (Congressional Budget Office).

- **Cost Savings**: Humanitarian aid is demonstrably cheaper—\$1 million feeds 50,000 people monthly (World Food Programme), versus \$1 million for a single missile system—maximizing impact per dollar spent.

- **Equity**: This ensures Hawaii's tax contributions alleviate suffering directly, reflecting our values of aloha rather than fueling protracted conflict.

#### 2. **Champion Diplomatic Intervention**

- **Solution**: Advocate for U.S.-led ceasefire negotiations via neutral mediators (e.g., Switzerland or the United Nations), prioritizing de-escalation over armament as a means to support Ukraine.

- **Efficacy**: Diplomacy offers a proven track record—e.g., the 2022 Black Sea Grain Initiative, which mitigated global food shortages—outpacing the uncertain outcomes of military counteroffensives.

- **Safety**: Reducing tensions lowers the risk of global escalation, protecting Hawaii from potential fallout as a Pacific military hub.



### 3. **\*\*Reallocate Resources to Hawaii\*\***

- **\*\*Solution\*\***: Request that Congress divert a modest fraction of foreign aid—e.g., \$600 million annually—to local priorities, such as building 2,000 affordable housing units (\$300,000/unit, Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation) or funding wildfire mitigation (\$50 million, Department of Land and Natural Resources).

- **\*\*Cost-Effectiveness\*\***: Domestic investment generates multipliers—\$1 in housing yields \$2.50 in economic activity (National Association of Home Builders)—far surpassing the nebulous returns of overseas military aid.

- **\*\*Equity\*\***: This rectifies systemic underfunding for Native Hawaiian communities, ensuring our voices and needs are not subsumed by external agendas.

### ### Conclusion

SCR159, though rooted in noble sentiment, commits Hawaii to a policy that is fiscally irresponsible, locally disenfranchising, and geopolitically myopic. As a Native Hawaiian with 45 years in Kahalu‘u, I implore this legislature to reconsider its stance. Let us advocate for humanitarian aid over militarism, diplomacy over escalation, and investment in our ‘āina over distant battlefields. Mahalo nui loa for your attention to this matter.

Respectfully submitted,

Tiare Smith

Kahalu‘u, O‘ahu

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:24:29 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM



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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SR129 and SCR159. Focus on solving Hawai'i's problems (and they are many)! It is ludicrous that our lawmakers are wasting their time and energy on Ukraine's affairs when that time and energy should be spent on Hawai'i. Leave foreign affairs to the federal government. Stay in your lane.

**LATE**

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 8:38:46 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Asing	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of SR129, I don't believe we need to continue to fund Ukraine. I feel we gave them more than enough of our tax payer money and military equipment. Also from what Zelinsky stated, half of the funding was not even received. Meaning, we have major corruption in our previous administration. Trump administration is working very diligently in negotiating a Peace deal. We need to support the administration and let them do their jobs. It is not clear who is the good guys and bad guys, as there is a reason why Russia attacked Ukraine. Which has to do with Ukraine being a part of NATO, which Putin gave warning about.

**LATE**

**SCR-159**

Submitted on: 3/24/2025 9:34:58 PM

Testimony for EIG on 3/25/2025 3:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alice Abellanida	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose this ridiculous piece of legislation! Why are we sending taxpayer money to fund another country's war! We have homeless here everywhere, people that are barely surviving, infrastructure issues, debt on the rail, and I can go on and on. To even introduce this piece of nonsense is a slap in the face to the residents of Hawaii! Vote no!