



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1118, RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

DATE: Friday, February 7, 2025

TIME: 8:45 a.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Kaena N. Keao, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) has the following comments on this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to repeal certain non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school entrance.

For purposes of clarity and administrability, we recommend replacing the wording "that the requirements are not in accordance with the religious tenets of an established church of which the person is a member or adherent" (page 11, lines 13-15) with "that immunization conflicts with the person's bona fide religious tenets and practices."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/07/2025

Time: 08:45 AM

Location: 329 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: House Health

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: HB 1118 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Purpose of Bill: Repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) respectfully provides comments on HB 1118, which proposes to repeal non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements in Hawaii.

The Department defers to the Department of Health on matters of public health and safety. However, eliminating religious exemptions may inadvertently limit some students' ability to attend school, creating disparities in educational opportunities and hindering the Department's mission to provide inclusive and comprehensive education for all students. Families who object to vaccinations for religious reasons may be unable or unwilling to comply with the new mandate, resulting in their children not accessing public education. This could disproportionately affect certain communities with deeply held religious beliefs, cultural practices, or historical mistrust of the medical community, further exacerbating barriers to education.

The provision on page 4, lines 3-7, which ensures that students qualifying for an Individualized Education Program under federal and state law are not prohibited from accessing special education services, is appreciated. While students with disabilities are entitled to accommodations under the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, any exemptions must be applied equitably to avoid disparity between students with and without disabilities who receive education at school. Striving for fairness in this context supports the Department's commitment to providing equal educational opportunities for all students.

The Department remains committed to promoting inclusive policies that ensure all students have access to quality education. We appreciate the opportunity to provide comments and look forward to

continued collaboration to support the diverse needs of students in Hawaii.

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



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
KA 'OIHANA OLAKINO
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of H.B. 1118
RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

REPRESENTATIVE GREGG TAKAYAMA, CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

Friday, February 7, 2025, 8:45AM, Room Number: 329

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Elimination of non-medical exemptions to school entry and attendance
- 2 requirements would serve to improve immunization rates; thereby increasing community-wide
- 3 protection from vaccine-preventable diseases and ultimately reducing costs related to medical
- 4 care and treatment, potential hospitalization, reduced work days or loss of employment due to
- 5 illness or child-care needs, and Departmental outbreak investigation and response activities.
- 6 **Department Position:** The Department strongly supports this measure and offers comments.
- 7 During the 2023-24 school year, Hawaii's overall non-medical exemption rate grew to 5.3% with
- 8 55 of 382 schools reporting non-medical exemption rates exceeding 10% of their student
- 9 populations. Decreasing immunization coverage due to rising rates of exemptions which have
- 10 no medical basis increases the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be
- 11 potentially fatal to children who attend school. This is especially concerning for students with
- 12 medical conditions who are unable to be immunized and who must rely on their vaccinated
- 13 peers to prevent the introduction of vaccine preventable diseases in their schools. Maintaining
- 14 the highest level of safety for Hawaii's keiki is crucial. Elimination of non-medical exemptions
- 15 would provide a significant level of protection for all keiki attending schools in Hawaii.
- 16 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
STATE COUNCIL ON DEVELOPMENTAL DISABILITIES
'A'UNIKE MOKU'ĀPUNI NO KA NĀ KĀWAI KULA
PRINCESS VICTORIA KAMĀMALU BUILDING
1010 RICHARDS STREET, Room 122
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 586-8100 FAX: (808) 586-7543

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
House Committee on Health
The Thirty-Third Legislature
State Capitol
State of Hawai'i
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Representative Takayama and Committee Members:

SUBJECT: HB1118 Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

The Hawai'i State Council on Developmental Disabilities **SUPPORTS HB1118** which repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

This legislation is critical for maintaining high immunization rates and ensuring herd immunity, a vital protective measure for individuals with developmental disabilities who may be medically unable to receive vaccines. Herd immunity is essential for safeguarding those who cannot be vaccinated due to medical conditions such as immunodeficiency disorders, complex health needs, or treatments that weaken the immune system. For individuals with developmental disabilities, many of whom rely on specialized healthcare and support services, exposure to vaccine-preventable diseases can lead to severe, even fatal, health complications. Maintaining a high community vaccination rate is the most effective way to prevent outbreaks and protect our most vulnerable residents.

The increasing trend of non-medical exemptions, as cited in the bill, is eroding this critical layer of protection. In the 2023-2024 school year, non-medical exemptions more than doubled compared to previous years, weakening the herd immunity that individuals with developmental disabilities depend on to safely participate in schools, workplaces, and community settings. Without strong immunization coverage, we risk outbreaks that disproportionately harm those least able to fight infections.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **support of HB1118**.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Daintry Bartoldus".

Daintry Bartoldus
Executive Administrator

COUNTY COUNCIL

Mel Rapozo, Chair
KipuKai Kualii, Vice Chair
Addison Bulosan
Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Felicia Cowden
Fern Holland
Arryl Kaneshiro



OFFICE OF THE COUNTY CLERK

Jade K. Fountain-Tanigawa, County Clerk
Lyndon M. Yoshioka, Deputy County Clerk

Telephone: (808) 241-4188
Facsimile: (808) 241-6349
Email: cokcouncil@kauai.gov

Council Services Division
4396 Rice Street, Suite 209
Lihu'e, Kauai, Hawaii 96766

February 6, 2025

**TESTIMONY OF FELICIA COWDEN
COUNCILMEMBER, KAUAI COUNTY COUNCIL
ON**

**HB 1118, RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION
REQUIREMENTS**

House Committee on Health

Friday, February 7, 2025

8:45 a.m.

Conference Room 329

Via Videoconference

Dear Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in OPPOSITION of HB 1118, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements. My testimony is submitted in my individual capacity as a member of the Kauai County Council and the Public Safety & Human Services Committee Chair of the Kauai County Council.

HB 1118 is of broad concern to a number of parents in Kauai County as it infringes on personal freedoms, parental rights, and religious liberties. Medical decisions, including vaccination, should remain a matter of personal choice, guided by informed consent. Eliminating non-medical exemptions would force individuals to undergo medical procedures against their deeply held religious beliefs or personal convictions. This is a concerning overreach of government authority.

In my personal experience, I had a child admittedly injured by the diphtheria, tetanus, and pertussis (DTaP) shot, as was evident in the doctor's office. Another child showed symptoms of attention-deficit/hyperactivity disorder (ADHD) and Dyslexia in early childhood, without necessarily a clear tie-in to his vaccinations obtained up to kindergarten. I chose to homeschool my sons for middle school and sent them to private high school to avoid the vaccine risk. No parent should have to choose between their child's safety and education. My older son fortunately grew out of his ADHD, and my children have been healthy as only having half of their vaccine schedule. Everyone should have this freedom.

Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee
Re: HB 1118, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements
February 6, 2025
Page 2

Thank you again for this opportunity to provide testimony in opposition of HB 1118. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Council Services Staff at (808) 241-4188 or via email to cokcouncil@kauai.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Felicia Cowden". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

FELICIA COWDEN
Councilmember, Kaua'i County Council

AAO:dmc



TESTIMONY
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH
HB1118 RELATED TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS
Friday, February 7, 2025, at 8:45 AM
State Capitol Conference Room 329 and Videoconference

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members

Submitted in STRONG OPPOSITION by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

HB1118 is a direct violation of our rights found in the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

U.S. Constitution

Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well-informed conscience. As a retired health care professional and a consumer of health care, we are entitled to Informed Consent and have the right to refuse any medical intervention including immunizations in any circumstances.

Hawaii State Constitution

Article I. FREEDOM OF RELIGION, SPEECH, PRESS, ASSEMBLY AND PETITION

Section 4. **No** law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances

HB1118 proposes:

1. to ELIMINATE this section from current HRS Law, SECTION 2. Section 302A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes: "If any parent, custodian, guardian, or any other person in loco parentis of a child objects to immunization in writing on the grounds that the immunization conflicts with that person's bona fide religious tenets and practices. Upon showing the appropriate school, official satisfactory evidence of the exemption, no certificate or other evidence of immunization shall be required for entry into school.
2. to ADD: The department of health pursuant to chapter 91 may adopt rules that it deems necessary for public health and safety. (This gives the Department of Health authority over parent's medical decisions for their children)
3. to ADD: no objection (from parent/guardian) shall be recognized when, in the opinion of the director of health, there is danger of an epidemic from any communicable disease." (This gives all power to the Director of Health)

Please preserve our constitutional right of freedom of religious liberty and our God-given inalienable rights.

May I respectfully remind you that our actions today will impact future generations to come. Please vote NO on HB1118. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully submitted,
Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:36:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Dieperink	Hawaii For Informed Consent	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong opposition to HB 1118**, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii as a condition for enrollment in school, daycare, or higher education.

No product that has DEATH as a possible side-effect should be indirectly being mandated.

Where there is risk there should be choice!

Passing this bill will not encourage families who don't vaccinate to comply. Instead they will homeschool or leave the state.

This bill aims to achieve "herd immunity" and protect immunocompromised students, but fails to acknowledge that most vaccines do NOT prevent infection or transmission (just like the Covid jabs, does anyone remember?). And in case you *believe* it does protect, why are you afraid of the unvaccinated? How are they a threat?

There are numerous pertussis outbreaks in schools with 100% vaccinated populations. The vaccinated can be asymptomatic carriers and make them MORE dangerous to the immunocompromised than those that are not vaccinated who would show symptoms. And live-virus vaccines can shed, and thus spread the vaccine-derived version of the disease.

Our current exemptions laws already have provisions for the unvaccinated to stay home during an outbreak.

Furthermore, what about all the adults, like teacher, staff, and (grand)parents who have NOT received all those shots students are required to get? I actually had all of the typical childhood diseases and *still* have immunity. But those who received for example an MMR shot as a child, need another one as an adult, because their efficacy wanes. Most adults don't know this and they are then unprotected.

Selected quotes from Physicians for Informed Consent about the immunocompromised:

“The vaccination status of other schoolchildren does not pose a significant risk to immunocompromised schoolchildren for the following reasons:

- Some vaccines cannot prevent the spread of the bacteria or viruses they target.
- Immune globulin (plasma containing antibodies) is available for immunocompromised children exposed to certain infectious diseases.
- Some infectious diseases rarely cause complications in immunocompromised schoolchildren.
- Not all infectious diseases are contagious.
- Some infectious diseases are not spread in schools

Immunocompromised schoolchildren have the option to receive all the vaccines licensed for children in the United States, except for the live virus vaccines (such as vaccines targeting measles, mumps, rubella, or varicella infections).

Although vaccination often results in protective levels of antibodies in immunocompromised children, clinical vaccine safety trials typically exclude immunocompromised subjects.

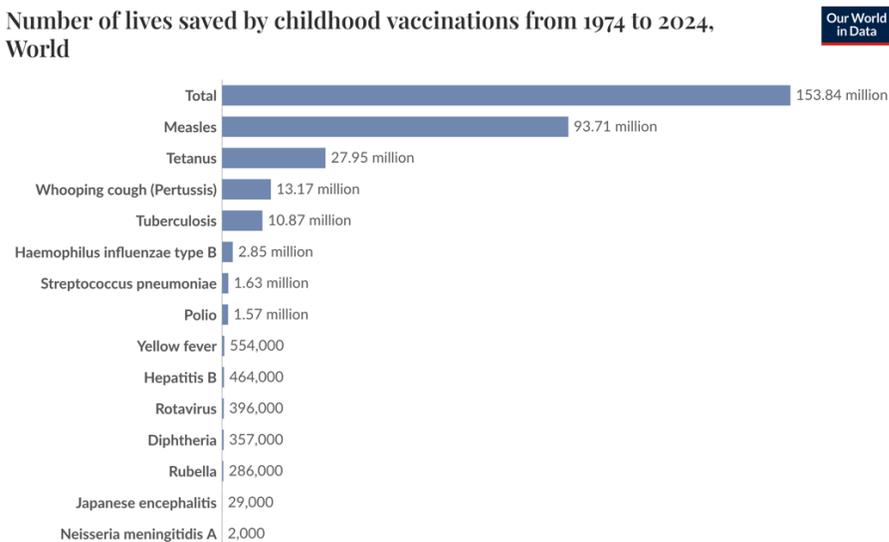
In addition, vaccines have not been evaluated for their potential to cause cancer, genetic mutations or impaired fertility in the general or immunocompromised population. Due to these limitations, it is not known whether the benefit of vaccinating an immunocompromised child outweighs the risk of vaccine injury to that child.”

(Source: [*Physicians for Informed Consent*](#))

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

The American Academy of Pediatrics, Hawai'i Chapter, which represents over 200 pediatricians in Hawai'i, thanks you for allowing us to share why we believe HB 1118 would benefit the children and families of Hawai'i.

Despite a great deal of disinformation circulating on the internet about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, advances in vaccine science and distribution of vaccines around the world have saved millions of lives, including many right here in Hawai'i. Numerous well-designed and peer-reviewed studies have shown that vaccines are safe and effective and that there is no connection between vaccines and autism. As the graphic below shows, vaccines are a public health triumph responsible for saving over 150 million children's lives across the globe in the past 50 years.



Data source: Shattock et al. (2024). Contribution of vaccination to improved survival and health: modelling 50 years of the Expanded Programme on Immunization
OurWorldinData.org/vaccination | CC BY

Every pediatrician in our organization has witnessed the devastating shock and grief experienced by parents who truly believed they were doing the best thing for their child by declining vaccines when their child is hospitalized with – or dies from – a vaccine preventable disease. One of us will never forget the previously healthy teenager, the only child of a single mother, who died of the flu despite receiving excellent care in the Pediatric ICU. Others will remember the infant with whooping cough gasping for breath and turning blue, the toddler with complications from measles, or the teenager who suffered preventable lifelong disability from H. flu meningitis that he contracted when he was in preschool.

There are legitimate medical reasons that certain children cannot receive some or all of their immunizations according to schedule. These include certain cancers, having received immune globulin as therapy for Kawasaki Disease, and many others. These children have a right to be

protected, as much as possible, by herd immunity when they themselves cannot be vaccinated or do not have an immune system able to respond properly to the vaccine. However, with the alarming rise in non-medical exemptions that we have observed recently in Hawai'i, vaccine coverage no longer meets the threshold to provide herd immunity across the entire population. Furthermore, there are certain areas in Hawai'i where vaccination coverage is critically low for crucial vaccines like MMR (measles, mumps, and rubella). Measles, in particular, is exceptionally contagious and transmitted by the airborne route. Up to 90% of unvaccinated people exposed to measles will contract the disease, and 1 out of every 300 children hospitalized with measles will not survive. It is essential to repeal the non-medical exemption to vaccination requirements for school entry in order to regain herd immunity against diseases that many of today's parents have never – precisely because vaccines are so effective – seen with their own eyes.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important bill. We strongly urge you to support this legislation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:58:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Wong	The Yeshua Nation of Amnesty Coalition	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are against this and oppose this bill to the highest order! It clearly violates our constitutional rights and we are prepared to fight this lawfully if passed. No to Bill 1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:32:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aya Kwong	Straub Benioff Medical Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an Registered Nurse working as as Infection Preventionist with a background in Pediatric Critical Care, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:45:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Misako Hudson	Hawaii Federation of Republican Women	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I most strongly oppose HB1118.

Parental rights, the welfare of students and faculty, and the Hawaii Department of Education's (HIDOE) ability to retain qualified teachers are all negatively impacted by this bill.

Parents are reconsidering vaccination for themselves and for their child or children as they become more aware of the risks and adverse consequences of vaccines. We must honor the parent's decision to get vaccinated or not. If this bill is enacted, who will take the responsibility when students are physically or mentally harmed by forced immunization? HIDOE administrators will probably find it more difficult to replace highly skilled instructors who have returned to work under the religious exemption as a result of this vaccination requirement.

As a retired government employee of 31 years, I am aware that adults are ultimately in charge of their family's health and care. Furthermore, the disclosure of health information is protected under the HIPA Act. The Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act of 1996(HIPAA) protects individuals from disclosing their health history. It “ ... aimed to alter the transfer of healthcare information, stipulated the guidelines by which personally identifiable information maintained by the healthcare and healthcare insurance industries should be protected from fraud and theft, and addressed some limitations on health insurance coverage generally prohibits healthcare providers and businesses called covered entities from disclosing protected information to anyone other than a patient and the patient's authorized representatives without their consent. The bill does not restrict patients from receiving information about themselves (with limited exceptions). Furthermore, it does not prohibit patients from voluntarily sharing their health information however they choose, nor does it require confidentiality where a patient discloses medical information to family members, friends or other individuals not employees of a covered entity.”

Parents' rights to safeguard their children must be respected, regardless of whether they decide to vaccinate themselves and their family.

Pushing HB1118 will affect not only the students but also faculty. Today, many schools are still experiencing difficulty to find qualified teachers and staff to fill vacancies. If the religious exemption to return to work is no longer honored, this decision will further impact many schools who are already struggling to keep the most competent faculty.

The physical and mental health of our children of this generation and the next generation depend on your decision to do the right thing.

Vote no on HB1118 and any other similar bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:48:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Shivers	The First Church of Christ, Scientist	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Testimony of Christian Science Committee on Publication for Hawaii

Concerning HB 1118 (RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS)

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and members of the House Committee on Health:

As designated representatives of Christian Science, please accept this written testimony concerning HB 1118 relating to the religious exception from vaccination requirements. I first want to express appreciation on behalf of our church’s members for the thoughtful and ongoing consideration you have given to Hawaii’s vaccination policy, including the acknowledgment of students’ religious accommodation from vaccination for the 2024-25 school year. Our members are following this issue with interest in the continuation of a religious accommodation in law, while also deeply caring about public health. We acknowledge that it can be challenging when the religious beliefs and practices of a minority may not be understood or embraced by the majority, or when these beliefs and practices must be balanced with other valued interests of society. Yet, we believe religious freedom in our society is highly important and can be accommodated without endangering public health.

Some religions, like Christian Science, have religious beliefs and practices that do not align with compulsory vaccination laws. While our church itself may not take a formal “for” or “against” policy stance on the vaccination issue because not every individual Christian Scientist approaches the issue in exactly the same way, we can speak to why a Christian Scientist generally appreciates the availability of religious accommodation from

vaccination requirements and offer the following explanation for the House Committee on Health's consideration.

A Christian Scientist's use of the religious exemption

Christian Science is a religious practice, a way of life, and a system of healing that draws upon an understanding of spiritual truths illustrated throughout the Bible and the teachings of Christ Jesus. Its teachings include how one can reliably look to God and spiritual means alone to meet life's needs, including health care needs, as well as the importance of being moral and law-abiding. It is important to note that health care decisions for Christian Scientists, including those relating to contagion and vaccination, are not dictated by the Christian Science church or its theology. Rather, such decisions are motivated by each individual's experience with their practice of Christian Science, and with a deep care for public health, obedience to health laws and regard for the safety of others. When it comes to contagion, this religious practice is both preventative and curative. And while we don't claim to be perfect in our practice, many Christian Scientists have found it to be a very practical and reliable method of addressing contagious disease.

Protection and healing from contagion

To understand why a Christian Scientist would want to claim a religious exemption, one need look no further than periodicals published by the Christian Science church dating back to its inception in the late 1800s through the present day, which include accounts of protection and healing through the practice of Christian Science, many of which involve issues of contagion and have been medically verified. A common thread through these healings is the willingness to work with health authorities and take precautions to ensure they are not endangering others through their practice. The healing experiences of Hawaii citizens are well-represented in these publications, and provide just a representative glimpse of the many more unpublished accounts of prevention and healing that members have experienced in their lives.

For example, a mother testified how the overnight healing of her child from a severe case of measles through prayer alone convinced her husband, who was not a Christian Scientist, of the reliability of this method of care.

Another woman testified about a quick healing from a debilitating sore throat, fatigue, and weakness, which her school infirmary diagnosed as mononucleosis and strep throat. When the school infirmary cleared her to return to school after only a few days, rather than the weeks and possibly months that were predicted, the dean of students called her to the office and asked "How did you do that?"

A man who was diagnosed as having minimal natural bodily resistance to certain types of harmful bacteria and resultant infections, testified of his progressive deterioration of health from youth. Upon contracting meningitis, he was placed under medical care and increasing doses of antibiotic treatment. But he soon developed allergic reactions to the drug treatment and his doctors, running out of medical answers, advised his parents to "prepare for the worst." It was at that lowest moment that a friend shared how they had been healed of a severe condition of asthma through prayer in Christian Science. Willing to try anything, the man turned to Christian Science himself and was soon permanently free from all symptoms of illness and weakness.

For those relying on Christian Science for healing and prevention, the protection, healing and regeneration that comes through the practice of Christian Science has been deeply meaningful and effective. It involves a whole-hearted communion with a loving God, reaching beyond faith, positive thinking, or mind over matter.

Are there ways to prevent misuse of the religious exemption?

Yes! While many who claim a religious exemption based on sincere religious beliefs are doing so legitimately, we recognize that there are those who use the religious exemption to avoid vaccination requirements for non-religious reasons. But we've seen narrowly-tailored ways to address those concerns without completely eliminating the religious exemption, including implementation of consistent and effective procedures to verify the sincerity of one's religious belief, and even restricting availability of the exemption when a particular health threat is declared. It may take more than is currently being done to address the concerns, but there are ways to do so without unnecessarily curtailing the exercise of religious beliefs.

In sum, we hope tailored solutions will be given serious consideration in lieu of simply terminating the religious exemption as proposed in HB 1118. We would be happy to talk

with you further to serve as a resource or answer any questions as the Committee considers the above-referenced legislation.

Sincerely,

Daniel Spencer

Christian Science Committee on Publication for Hawaii

Scott Shivers

Manager, Christian Science Committees on Publication worldwide

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:07:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmeline Macanas	AFC/Hawaii For Informed Consent/UNJECTED	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118!!!! This is government overreach and tyrannical!! Josh Green and the Politicians clearly have not done their research of the negative outcomes of those that have been injured for life and those that have died because of such vaccines. Leave the KEIKI of Hawaii alone and start focusing on Maui fire victims, plant more fruit trees throughout the islands, stop the purchase of foreign entities buying up the land/property, stop or minimize LOCAL FAMILIES from leaving the island because of the high cost of living, stop continuing to use the tax dollars on the longest rail project, fix the horrible roads, etc. Focus on prospering the state of Hawaii and its PEOPLE instead of attacking the youth via clinical trials of these vaccines which are NOT NECESSARY and NOT EFFECTIVE.



National Vaccine Information Center

Statement of OPPOSITION for HB 1118

Removing Religious Exemption for School Vaccine Mandates

Presented to the House Health Committee for Public Hearing on 2/7/2025 at 8:45 am

By Dawn Richardson, Director of Advocacy
The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC.org)

The National Vaccine Information Center (NVIC) is a nonprofit charity founded in 1982 to prevent vaccine injuries and deaths through public education. NVIC advocates for protection of the human right to informed consent to medical risk taking and inclusion of flexible medical, religious and conscientious belief vaccine exemptions in U.S. public health policies and laws. **We strongly oppose HB 1118 and urge your opposition as well.**

HB 1118 removes the religious exemption for school vaccine mandates by phasing it out.

A religious exemption is needed for many reasons, but one of the most pressing reasons is because the state [Department of Health amended HAR 11-157](#) to drastically expand vaccine mandates for children entering childcare or school beginning July 1, 2020. This action added additional mandates for Hepatitis A Vaccine (2 doses), Pneumococcal Conjugate Vaccine (PCV) (4 doses), Rotavirus Vaccine (3 doses), Human Papillomavirus Vaccine (HPV) (2 doses), Meningococcal Conjugate Vaccine (MCV) (2 doses) and Tdap Vaccine (Tetanus, Diphtheria and Pertussis) (1 dose). This was a mandated expansion of 14 doses of 6 vaccines!

Hawaii should not mandate one-size-fits-all federal recommendations. The Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) makes [recommendations](#) only. It is only a federal advisory committee, not a lawmaking body.

[HB 1118](#) discriminates against children and families who refuse one or more vaccines based on religious beliefs by prohibiting them from attending school and removing protections in law that prevent them from being forced to take a vaccine that conflicts with their religious beliefs. This bill authorizes state-mandated vaccine status discrimination and is no different from any other form of discrimination that denies access to education or other accommodations based on race or sex. The individual's right to religious liberty is protected by the [First Amendment to the United States Constitution](#) and the [Constitution of the State of Hawaii, Article I, Section 4](#)., "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof, or abridging the freedom of speech or of the press or the right of the people peaceably to assemble and to petition the government for a redress of grievances."

This bill violates the individual's right to freedom of religion and discriminate against individuals based solely on their religious beliefs. Additionally, the bill's exception to grandfather in children with existing religious exemptions would put families who choose not to vaccinate based on religious beliefs in a difficult situation where one or more of their children have the right to attend school while another child may not. The right to a religious exemption should not be dependent on a child's birthdate.

Parents should have the final say in what vaccines their children receive because all vaccines are pharmaceutical products that carry a risk of injury and even death. All individuals deserve the right to informed consent, which includes the right to refuse a vaccine without coercion, harassment, or penalty. As of December 27, 2024, there were [2,652,032 adverse events](#) and [48,856 deaths](#) reported to the federal Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS). As of January 1, 2025, the United States Government has paid out approximately [5.3 billion dollars](#) to vaccine victims through the [National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program \(VICP\)](#).

The law passed by Congress in 1986 establishing the VICP along with the 2011 Supreme Court Decision [BRUESEWITZ ET AL. v. WYETH LLC, FKA WYETH, INC., ET AL](#) shield vaccines manufacturers and the doctors who administer vaccines from liability for vaccine injuries and deaths.

The trend in the United States is to respect informed consent and religious liberty, not force medical treatment like vaccines or remove religious freedom rights. [HB 1118](#) is dangerous and anti-American. We urge your no vote on [HB 1118](#).

Friday, February 7, 2025 at 8:45 AM
Via Video Conference; Conference Room 329

House Committee on Health

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

**Re: Testimony In Support Of HB 1118
Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

HPH writes in SUPPORT of HB 1118 which repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Immunization is an important tool to protect children against many common as well as serious illnesses. High immunization rates at schools are especially important for medically fragile children. Some children have conditions that affect their immunity, such as illnesses that require chemotherapy. These children cannot be safely immunized, and, at the same time, they are less able to fight off illness when they are infected. They depend on herd immunity for their health and their lives. In Hawaii for the 2023-2024 school year, 296 students had a medical exemption from immunization; they were unable to get immunized due to a medical condition and relied on herd immunity to attend school safely.

Decreasing immunization coverage due to non-medical exemptions increases the risk for vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be fatal to some children. Minimizing exemptions from school immunization requirements would improve the health and safety of school-aged keiki.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
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Justin Puckett, CPA, MBA
Humana

Kathleen Roche, MS, RN, CENP
Kaiser Permanente

Dina Shek, JD
Medical-Legal Partnership
For Children in Hawai'i

Garret Sugai
HMSA

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
John A. Burns School of Medicine, Native
Hawaiian Research Office

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: February 6, 2025

To: Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
Members of the House Committee on Health

RE: Support for HB 1118, Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to
Immunization Requirements

Hrg: Friday, February 7, 2025, at 8:45 AM, Conference Room 329

Hawai'i Public Health Institute (HIPHI)¹ **supports HB 1118**, which repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Immunization is critical to public safety. Vaccines can prevent common diseases that seriously harm or cause the death of infants, children, and adults. The direct benefits of vaccination in reducing disease morbidity and mortality in a cost-effective manner have been well-established by medical research.

Benefits of Immunization

According to a landmark study published by The Lancet in 2024, vaccination has likely averted 154 million deaths since 1974, including 146 million among children younger than 5 years old and 101 million infants.²

The World Health Organization (WHO) has called immunization “one of modern medicine’s greatest success stories.” The WHO notes that immunization not only protects public health, but also advances broader gains in education and economic development worldwide.³

An analysis conducted by researchers from Johns Hopkins University and the Center for Disease Dynamics found that preventing vaccine-preventable infectious diseases helps avert associated out-of-pocket medical expenses, healthcare provider costs, and losses in wages of patients and caregivers, while improving cognition, school attainment, and long-term economic productivity.⁴

¹ 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.

² [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736\(24\)00850-X/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/lancet/article/PIIS0140-6736(24)00850-X/fulltext)

³ <https://www.who.int/news-room/facts-in-pictures/detail/immunization>

⁴ <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC7482790/#:~:text=Childhood%20vaccines%20save%20an%20estimated,1990%20to%2029%20in%202018.>



Immunization Is Safe

Vaccines are safe for public use, including for our keiki. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), new vaccines are extensively lab-tested to ensure that they are medically secure. Once clinical trials involving people begin, it can often take years of additional testing before a vaccine is licensed. After a vaccine is licensed, the Food and Drug Administration, CDC, National Institutes of Health, and other federal agencies rigorously monitor potential safety concerns.⁵

Unfortunately, our state is currently experiencing an increase in respiratory viruses, which health officials believe may be attributable to declining vaccination rates across the islands, especially among students. According to the Department of Health, of 382 schools reporting for the 2023-2024 school year, 282 schools, or nearly 75%, have more than 5% of their students not up to date on vaccines, of which 36 schools reported that over half of their students are missing required immunizations.⁶

DOH officials have also stated that Hawai'i's 2022-2023 kindergarten MMR vaccine coverage rate is about 86%, which is nearly 10% lower than the 95% coverage recommended for community protection by the CDC. Hawai'i had the largest increase in exemptions in the U.S. for non-medical kindergarten vaccines from the 2021-2022 school year to the 2022-2023 school year.⁷ Currently, California, Mississippi, and West Virginia do not allow non-medical vaccine exemptions, as this bill proposes.⁸

An uptick in unvaccinated students could lead to outbreaks of infectious diseases, including illnesses like measles. To keep our state safe from preventable illness, we urge your committee to pass this bill.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nate Hix'.

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy

⁵ <https://www.cdc.gov/vaccines-children/reasons/index.html>

⁶ <https://www.khon2.com/local-news/rising-illnesses-dropping-vaccines-hawaii-faces-a-winter-health-crisis>

⁷ <https://spectrumlocalnews.com/hi/hawaii/news/2024/03/06/doh-warns-hawaii-measles>

⁸ <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements#:~:text=Cali fornia%20removed%20its%20personal%20and%20religious%20exemption%20option%20in%202015.>



AMERICAN ATHEISTS

February 7, 2025

The Honorable Rep. Gregg Takayama
Chair, House Committee on Health
415 S. Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Re: SUPPORT HB 1118, Protecting Young People Through Vaccination

Dear Chairperson Takayama and Members of the House Committee on Health:

American Atheists, on behalf of its constituents in Hawaii, writes to thank you for considering HB 1118, an important bill that would protect children in Hawaii from preventable diseases by repealing loopholes which prevent some from receiving vaccines. Vaccination is a vital public health issue, and we support vaccination requirements based on public health and medical best practices for the benefit of all children. We strongly urge you to support this essential bill.

American Atheists is a national civil rights organization that works to achieve religious equality for all Americans by protecting what Thomas Jefferson called the “wall of separation” between government and religion created by the First Amendment. We strive to create an environment where atheists are accepted as members of our nation’s communities and where bigotry against our community is seen as abhorrent and unacceptable. We promote understanding of atheists through education, outreach, and community-building, and work to end the stigma associated with being an atheist in America. American Atheists objects to efforts that prioritize religious beliefs over medical best practices and to the detriment of the health, safety, and well-being of all Americans.

Current Hawaii law allows a parent or guardian to opt their child out of vaccine requirements if “immunization conflicts with that person’s bona fide religious tenets and practices.”¹ HB 1118 would remove this loophole, preventing parents from summarily waiving vaccination requirements while still allowing an exemption in cases where vaccinations would be medically inadvisable.

Public health experts believe no exception should be made to neutral immunization requirements intended to protect public health. Non-essential exemptions to immunization

¹ § 302A-1156(2).

requirements endanger all children in order to accommodate the religious or philosophical beliefs of a few. This is unacceptable from both a medical and moral perspective. Successful population immunity to disease depends upon a significant level of vaccination, with some diseases requiring at least a ninety-five percent vaccination level to prevent mass outbreaks.² Because there are people with legitimate medical reasons which prevent them from receiving life-saving vaccinations, it is imperative that everyone who is physically capable of receiving a vaccine stay up-to-date.

Non-medical exemptions place vulnerable individuals and entire communities at significant risk for contracting debilitating and deadly disease. For example, children exempt from immunization requirements are thirty-five times more likely to contract measles³ and nearly six times more likely to contract pertussis⁴ compared to immunized children. History demonstrates that outbreaks are more common in communities that are unsupportive of vaccinations. Measles is one vaccine-preventable disease that has plagued multiple religious communities known to be either hesitant to vaccinate or completely opposed to vaccination.⁵

In addition to protecting public health, HB 1118 eliminates a special privilege for residents of Hawaii who practice religion. At a time when nearly one in three Americans are religiously unaffiliated,⁶ this proposal will remove a broad loophole that only applies to adherents of a specific religious belief system. As a result, nonreligious residents of Hawaii and those whose religious beliefs do not prevent them from following medical best practices will no longer bear the burden of the consequences that come from even a small percentage of the population failing to vaccinate. No child should be subject to harm or illness based on the religious beliefs of a classmate.

The spread of infectious diseases threatens every aspect of American life, as was shown during the COVID-19 pandemic. The best and most reliable tool available to combat the utter chaos that occurs during such an outbreak and protect human life is mandatory vaccination, with no non-medical exemptions. HB 1118 will ensure no Hawaiian is needlessly

² Center for Disease Control. (Nov. 23, 2022). *Nearly 40 Million Children are Dangerously Susceptible to Growing Measles Threat*. Available at: <https://www.cdc.gov/media/releases/2022/p1123-measles-threat.html>

³ Salmon DA, Haber M, Gangarosa EJ, Phillips L, Smith NJ, Chen RT. *Health consequences of religious and philosophical exemptions from immunization laws: individual and societal risk of measles*. JAMA.1999;282:47-53.

⁴ Feikin DR, Lezotte DC, Hamman RF, Salmon DA, Chen RT, and Hoffman RE. *Individual and Community Risks of Measles and Pertussis Associated With Personal Exemptions to Immunization*. JAMA 2007;284:3145-3150.

⁵ Feikin DR, Lezotte DC, Hamman RF, Salmon DA, Chen RT, and Hoffman RE. *Individual and Community Risks of Measles and Pertussis Associated With Personal Exemptions to Immunization*. JAMA 2007;284:3145-3150.

⁶ Smith, G. A. (2021, December 14). About three-in-ten U.S. adults are now religiously unaffiliated. Pew Research Center. Available at <https://www.pewforum.org/2021/12/14/about-three-in-ten-u-s-adults-are-now-religiously-unaffiliated/>.

endangered by preventing the necessary population immunity levels from declining and therefore avoiding the resurgence of dangerous and deadly diseases. We urge you to support this legislation and protect Hawaii's most vulnerable citizens.

Should you have any questions about American Atheists' support for HB 1118, please contact me at vanderson@atheists.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Victoria Anderson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Victoria" and the last name "Anderson" clearly legible.

Victoria Anderson
State Policy Counsel
American Atheists

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:21:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dorothy Silva	Say His Name Foundation	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Church, Say His Name Foundation strongly OPPOSES HB1118.

As an individual and American citizen, I would like to remind you all that there is freedom of religion, granted to us by our Constitution. Additionally, you are violating our God-given inalienable rights by mandating vaccines, which is neither safe or effective. In fact, the COVID-19 "vaccines" were so "safe and effective" that you are more likely to have COVID if you were vaccinated versus the unvaccinated. The side effects of the mRNA Covid "vaccines" include death and turbo cancers, etc. The very definition of a vaccine was changed so that mRNA gene modification therapy like the Covid-19 "vaccine" could be included in the childhood vaccine schedule to give the pharmaceutical and medical industries immunity from the public outcry of side effects and any legal measures taken against them. Your impunity is noted, your vote is noted.

WE the PEOPLE know who you are and what are you doing, and so does the Trump Administration. Just know that you do not have impunity anymore, and we have political leadership at the highest levels that will hold you all accountable all the way down to the county levels, as will God. If I were you, I would fear God more than the Trump administration, even though Trump's administration will be the one to pass the swiftest judgments on you. God will judge you eventually, as He does all.

May God have mercy on your souls if you all choose to pass this bill, and for all your other corrupt and unjust actions.

May DOGE & President Trump's administration pass swift judgment on you all and successfully clear out the corruption from the land of Hawa'i. In God we Trust. God Bless America.

Sincerely,

Dorothy Silva

in OPPOSITION to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:28:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Yano	Pono Records	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children’s health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens’ ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:02:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Wheeler	Fathers and Mothers for Children Kauai Chapter	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Sirs:

I stand before you today as a deeply concerned citizen, parent, and advocate for the sacred bond between parents and their children—a bond that [HB 1118](#) threatens to sever with alarming disregard for our constitutional freedoms.

I urge you to read these words not just with your eyes but with your hearts, pausing to reflect deeply on the gravity of this moment, as this bill is not merely a policy proposal; it is an assault on the very foundation of personal liberty, parental rights, and the religious beliefs that guide our lives.

Imagine, for a moment, the weight of a parent's responsibility—the love, the care, the countless nights spent ensuring their child's safety and well-being.

Now imagine that responsibility being stripped away, replaced by the cold hand of government overreach, dictating what must be injected into your child's body, regardless of your deeply sincerely held religious beliefs.

HB 1118 seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawai'i, a move that not only disregards the fundamental right to medical autonomy but also undermines the sacred duty of parents to make informed decisions for their children in alignment with their faith.

Parental rights and religious freedom are not privileges granted by the state—they are cornerstones of our society, rooted in the understanding that no one knows a child better than their parents and that no one can dictate the sacred relationship between a person and their deeply sincerely held religious beliefs.

I ask you to respect the family unity and the parental right of those who care for the children the most, their parents. Please respect this sacred duty.

Sincerely,

Joanna Wheeler

Registered Hawai'i Voter

Fathers and Mothers for Children Kauia Chapter

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:05:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margaret Mejia	Hawai'i Christian Coalition	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To: Chair Representative Greg Takayama, Vice Chair Representative Sue Keohokupu-Lee, and All Members of the Health Committee

From: Margaret Mejia, *Hawai'i Christian Coalition*

February 7, 2025

***Hawai'i Christian Coalition* STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1118, relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.**

This bill seeks to remove religious exemptions for school children who want to attend public schools.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. There is also a clause in the Hawai'i State Constitution that guarantees the free exercise of religion. First of all, this bill is in direct violation to the United States Constitution, and the Hawai'i State Constitution. HB1118 discriminates against Parents who due to their religious beliefs do NOT choose to vaccinate their child(ren).

At the heart of the First Amendment lies the principle that each person should decide for himself or herself the ideas and beliefs deserving of expression, consideration, and adherence.

***Hawai'i Christian Coalition* also STRONGLY OPPOSES HB1118, because of the following:**

This bill undermines Informed Consent. Parents should be thoroughly informed about the consequences of vaccines, the ingredients in the vaccines, etc. and should be allowed to consent or not consent on vaccinating their child upon being informed. HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of parents to make personal medical decisions regarding their children. The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. Every parent should be informed that the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This is on the CDC website under VAERS, the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System.

By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice.

This bill undermines Parental Rights. Parents and not government should decide on what medication, including vaccines go into their child's body. It's ultimately the choice of the parent. HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of parents to make personal medical decisions regarding their children.

This bill undermines Medical Freedom. You have heard the saying, "My body, my choice." Parents have medical freedom as it pertains to themselves and their children. People can accept or reject what the doctor recommends they take. It's ultimately their body and their choice. Parents choose for their children. HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of parents to make personal medical decisions regarding their children. Each person's health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for personal healthcare choices.

This bill undermines Religious Beliefs. As stated earlier, this bill is in direct violation to both the US and the Hawai'i State Constitution. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would force individuals into accepting medical interventions that do NOT align with their religious beliefs. Every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. Parents should NOT have to decide between public education for their child and their religious beliefs.

Please vote NO on HB1118 and maintain our rights in the US Constitution and the Hawai'i State Constitution. Please remember that the people have a right to Informed Consent, Parental Rights, Medical Freedom, and they have a right to follow their Religious Beliefs without any interference from the government.

Mahalo!

Margaret Mejia, Vice President

Hawai'i Christian Coalition

Ka Ohana O Na Pua – Nancy Redfeather Director

PO.Box 906 - Kealahou, Hawaii, 96750

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Aloha Members of the Committee,

I stand in Strong Opposition to HB1118 for the following reasons.

The Department of Education is NOT in support. I agree with the Department.

The Department defers to the Department on matters of public health and safety. However, eliminating religious exemptions may inadvertently limit some students' ability to attend school, creating disparities in educational opportunities and hindering the Department's mission to provide inclusive and comprehensive education for all students. Families who object to vaccinations for religious reasons may be unable or unwilling to comply with the new mandate, resulting in their children not accessing public education. This could disproportionately affect certain communities with deeply held religious beliefs, cultural practices, or historical mistrust of the medical community, further exacerbating barriers to education.

I agree with Felicia Cowden Kauai County Council was NOT in support of HB1118 because: HB 1118 is of broad concern to a number of parents in Kaua'i County as it infringes on personal freedoms, parental rights, and religious liberties. Medical decisions, including vaccination, should remain a matter of personal choice, guided by informed consent. Eliminating non-medical exemptions would force individuals to undergo medical procedures against their deeply held religious beliefs or personal convictions. This is a concerning overreach of government authority.

I agree with the Hawaiian Islands Republican Women who are in **STRONG OPPOSITION** by Jamie Detwiler, Hawaiian Islands Republican Women
HB1118 is a direct violation of our rights found in the U.S. Constitution and the Hawaii State Constitution.

U.S. Constitution

Our first amendment protection of religious liberty cannot be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, or procedure that violates their religious beliefs as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well-informed conscience. As a retired health care professional and a consumer of health care, we are entitled to Informed Consent and have the right to refuse any medical intervention including immunizations in any circumstances.

These are a few of my objections to HB1118. Mahalo for your consideration of this matter.

Ka Ohana O Na Pua – Nancy Redfeather Director



The Libertarian Party of Hawaii staunchly opposes any bill that seeks to remove religious rights. It is paramount that parents have the right to make decisions concerning the health and well-being of their children. Upholding the principle of individual choice is a cornerstone of a free society, and infringing upon this fundamental right sets a dangerous precedent.

It is crucial to recognize that parents have a fundamental right to make informed decisions about medical choices for their children, especially on their deeply held religious beliefs. Respecting the autonomy of individuals in matters of personal health is essential to fostering a society built on principles of liberty and self-determination.

We boldly advocate for individual responsibility and the freedom to make decisions in accordance with one's beliefs. We uphold the values of self-determination and personal accountability that are the bedrock of a free society.

Representatives should be ashamed to even suggest this sort of measure. These families are among those who voted to place you into office. It is unwise to test these inherent values. It is authoritarian, anti-faith, anti-family, and outright anti-freedom. We firmly stand against any legislation that seeks to strip individuals of their right to freely make religious decisions. We urge lawmakers to oppose this measure and to uphold the principles of freedom, individual choice, and personal responsibility that are essential to a flourishing community.

In Freedom,
The Libertarian Party of Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:30:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Medical reasons for refusing vaccines are exceedingly rare. Other reasons: personal belief or religion, have left a huge number of Hawaii's children unprotected - often due to 'scientific' misinformation. A look at any graveyard of old, pre-vaccines, will show the astonishing number of children who didn't survive until adulthood: this tragedy changed when routine vaccines against deadly (childhood) diseases became widespread.

Out own history, here in Hawaii, with a large number of native Hawaiians succumbing to measles as they didn't have any immunity, just emphasizes the importance of vaccinating children so as to achieve eradication of these diseases.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:40:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexa Helge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:20:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kim Cordery	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly APPOSE HB1118!

This bill is a companion bill to SB1347!

Very telling on how you are trying to slip this through in both sides in case we are not paying attention! I appose bc Vaccines are not about health and are causing so many adverse reactions such as, cancer, myocarditis, autoimmune diseases.. The research is ignored and BIG PHARMA is not for the health of the children!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:25:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this highly unconstitutional bill, the government has no right to take away my religious freedoms for any type of vaccination. That is why we have constitutional laws that protect such freedoms, and our rights as American citizens. This government forgets that it works for the people, and not the opposite.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:44:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose House Bill 1118. It is an attempt to infringe upon people's rights to live in accordance with strongly held religious beliefs. Additionally, with mounting recent data showing correlations between certain vaccines and adverse reactions in otherwise healthy individuals, I question why the governor wants to force these upon the people he is supposed to be serving. Why does he truly seek to do this. It seems like an overreach of power and with all due respect, I would remind the governor that he is a public servant who is in office to represent the people-- not elites with intentions that do not pay heed to the voices of the public. Taking away religious freedoms is a big deal. Mr. Governor, stop playing politics with our lives. Respect our rights to religious freedoms as they are protected in the U.S. constitution.

Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:57:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Klocker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We cannot allow corporate pharmaceutical companies to dictate what we need to be healthy. There needs to be balance in perspectives, allowing choice for individuals and not allowing authoritarian laws to rule such as this one. The United States was founded on religious freedom under the First Amendment protections and people have a right to exercise these in regards to their own bodies. This law goes against fundamental rights of the people and I strongly oppose HB1118 and its companion bills.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:58:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose this bill it is unconstitutional. Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:09:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:10:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:10:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Propst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. If I was forced to go against my personal and deep seated religious beliefs during COVID I would have lost my job. As so many others had. As an American it is MY right not the governments right to dictate what I chose to put in my body. It is my right in this free country to choose for my children and family as well. It is NOT josh greens or any government body to make that choice for me. I will quote every pro-choice, pro-abortion person “my body, my choice”. It applies to any aspect in life. There is no double standard for abortion rights vs vaccine rights.

The American government was established to be “FOR the people, BY the people” not the for the government by the government. The government has no right to make my personal choices for me. Again I strongly oppose this bill. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:10:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Dedely	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:11:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jillian Jakahi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not take away religious exemptions for vaccines. Its taking away a constitutional right from the people and we will no longer be living in a democracy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:20:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
josh chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill HB1118. Hawaii Citizens are allowed the right to practice/express their religion without discrimination, and this bill proposes to prohibit that for the future generations.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:21:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Tagura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do not pass this . Religious freedom still stands . Free will too. Documents exist that explain contents and side effects that directly effect the religious and spiritual convictions to many regarding faith and health .

thank you for this consideration,sincerely .

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:22:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa A. Aiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is my decision and my decision alone on what I medically think is correct and necessary for myself and my family. If a religious exemption is the only way to be free of Green tryant power over the people of Hawaii. It needs to be an option The legislature needs to hear the voices of the people of Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:27:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill whole heartedly. This bill violates our constitutional right to practice our religion freely. This bill is a violation of personal autonomy. People should have the right to make decisions about their own bodies, remember "my body, my choice". This bill is just another example of government overreach. Many native Hawaiians will be greatly affected by this as many already mistrust the governments intentions. This will cause even more native to flee from our home to find states that allow us to practice cultural and religious practices freely.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:27:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Englund	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to the HB1118. All parents should have the right to choose which medical procedures their children receive. All vaccines are recorded to have health risks. Where there is a risk there must always be a choice! Thank you for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:35:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kealohi Hanohano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose!! This bill is ridiculous.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:36:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

My boy my choice as the liberals say. A lot of the vaccinations skipped the safety stage. Especially covid vaccination, they skipped the safety stage because the mice they tested on all died. This is just not ethical and moral science.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:38:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradley burdick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill in the sheer reality that taking these rights away from our choices over body autonomy are unjust and against my religious, spiritual, and physical beliefs. I believe we all have the rights to discern and choose what is right between me, my conception of god, my body and my children's.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:38:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Francis Chantavong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a memeber of the Christian community and a born and raised resident of Hawaii. I oppose this bill HB1118, this is a government over step in to my rights in regards to religious practices. I have the right as an individual to refuse immunizations based on my beliefs. Oncde again, I oppose this bill HB1118 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:41:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Lawson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB 1118 to remove religious exemptions to vaccinations. This is atrocious that the House would even consider this! Forcing people to vaccinate against their will has been a crime against society and iron fisted, misinformed and misguided from the start of COVID. The role of government is not to force citizens for violated their beliefs. The COVID vaccine did not protect people from getting sick and in fact, true science shows it has done more harm than good. This is a power move by the government to get more money, control its citizens and force us to either lose our jobs or violate our beliefs and take a vaccination that is not in line with the foundational beliefs of christianity. Why does the State need to do this if for no other reason than to profit and benefit from using us as a medical experiment. The State of Hawaii is not my GOD! Please do not pass this bill and stand up for the rights of all your citizens, not just those who will bow to your every wish. This is a free country, with respect of religious rights being a foundational belief. My doctor and I and my beliefs will guide what I put into my body, not the House or State of Hawaii. Please, I strongly oppose this tyranny!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:45:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Paun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha all, I am writing to encourage you NOT to support Bill 1118 regarding removing religious exemptions from vaccine requirements. I have first hand seen many adults and children suffer with vaccine induced injuries, specifically in relation to the COVID vaccines, but others on the schedule as well. People have the right to make medical decisions for themselves and their families. We cannot go down the slippery slope of mandating vaccines for every person across the board, especially our keiki. There are always risks involved with any medical treatment, medication, vaccine etc, and we have the right to weight the benefits vs risks for ourselves and our families and make our own decisions. Mahalo for reading, and for deeply considering the rights this bill will strip from all of us. Much love to all of you, I know your job isn't easy but I pray you will do what's right. <3

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:45:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. With all of the new information coming to light regarding the harmful effects of the COVID vaccine and vaccines in general (due to harmful ingredients in them) it is unlawful to push this on our people!!!! We have the right to choose! We always did! It's called informed consent!!!! The data on autoimmune and behavioral disorders speak for themselves!!! The vaccine schedule contained five times as many vaccines now than those I took growing up. I'm 41 years old. I have a masters degree. I know how to do research that is how I know!!!! Shame on you all for thinking you can mandate medical choices upon us!!! We have to right to weight risk versus benefit!!!! I oppose this bill!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:47:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Austin	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose government overreach in an attempt to remove my constitutional rights and those of others. what happened to my body my choice? this is a poor attempt at coercion and it will only cause harm to the state. while my children will be grandfathered in there are many who wont have this opportunity and they will pull their kids out of the school system. Is now really the right tie to be removing religious exemptions when other states have actually been restoring them.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:49:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Austin III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is government overreach that violates my freedom of religion, basic human rights, and bodily autonomy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:53:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
April Woolley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorary members—

There are many reasons that I chose the religious exemption option for my own children, but the biggest one as far as religion goes are 2 common vaccine adjuvant ingredients that derive from **aborted fetuses**. I oppose this in my own body as well as choosing to not subject my children to these ingredients. My children are under my husband and I’s governance until they are 18, and this is a choice once you do more research on, you might change your mind as well.

When I filled out the religious exemption form for the State of Hawaii, there are many rules on it; including not sending my children to school if there were any communicable diseases at which they would be at risk. **I stand by this agreement**, and will also note there has never been an outbreak of any sorts that I have had to keep my children home from. Moreover, there are certain vaccines that actually “shed” from a person, and can infect others—still I choose to trust in God and our amazing and healthy bodies that my kids will be protected and safe. I think we can all attest and agree that school attendance has been low state-wide since COVID, and I am telling you if you take away our rights as people and caregivers there will be many students missing from schools which would result in less and less funding, layoffs and unemployment, the list goes on.

Back to the religious side of the vaccine issue, please see the attached sources, detailing the common adjuvant ingredients MRC-5 and WI-38. To briefly summarize, both of these DNA lines are required in most common vaccines adults and children receive. They originated from an aborted baby boy and girl respectively, and it uses lung tissue fibroblast cells. I strongly oppose abortion and knowing there are aborted fetal cell lines in these make me sick and something I oppose personally. My children are citizens of the United States of America and any sort of discrimination from government is actually an abomination. The fact that there are people like you all who are forcing this on parents who are just trying to keep their kids safe and healthy is disgusting. I will remember each and every one of you who vote to take this parental right away and make sure you are never voted into office again.

SOURCES

MRC-5 Ingredients list/uses — <https://www.atcc.org/products/ccl-171>

WI-38 Ingredients list/uses — <https://www.atcc.org/products/ccl-75>

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:55:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

People who don't want to immunize their children for school entry can home school. Currently unimmunized children are not barred from school when an outbreak of a vaccine preventable disease is found in the general population as the current law provides for. It's much easier for all children to be immunized as long as there is not a medical reason prohibitive of the vaccine. It is very difficult to identity unimmunized students to bar them from school when outbreaks if vaccine preventable diseases arise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:00:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shannon gardenier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill to get rid of the religious vaccine exemptions.

Thank you,

shannon

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:03:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Winters	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My family and I strongly oppose the HB1118 for the following reasons:

This Bill violates the seperation of church and state

This Bill violates the Freedom of Religion that we hold so dear in our nation.

We should not be forced to take a vaccine. Every citiezen should be offerred a choice.

We should be allowed to choose if we want to prick our bodies with needles.

Thank you,

Mahealani Winters / Big Island

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:07:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cadence Feeley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing House Bill 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:09:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienn K Yarbrough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

Forced medical procedures are against my religious freedom. Please vote against this bill to preserve religious freedom in Hawaii.

Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:11:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter J Long III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit this testimony in OPPOSITION to HB1118.

When will the Hawaii Legislature STOP with the unlawful and unconstitutional encroachment?!? Especially with the hind sight of the state's dismal response to the whole COVID Vaccine lie! The vast amount of information now available shows that the government response to COVID was willfully oppressive and in some cases downright criminal. A line was crossed when the OPTION to receive the vaccine was removed and replaced with its REQUIREMENT.

AND, this from a government that uses the BODILY AUTOMINY argument as its excuse to allow for the murder of unborn children!

The Governor and his allies should be ashamed of themselves for pushing this nonsense. The US Constitution prohibits the government from violating Religious Freedoms and this bill flaunts those freedoms to appease the Big Pharma Corporations that Dr Green is beholden to.

Non-medical exemptions to vaccines requirements are an individual right and I urge the committee to REJECT this further example of government overreach!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:16:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shea Canada	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose this bill. We should have a choice with our religious views on what goes into our children's bodies. They all deserve an equal chance at education whether we have different beliefs or not.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:22:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leianah Kahahawai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is against the constitution, freedom of religion is what we stand for. I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:23:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:24:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Montero	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Opposition of HB1118

My name is Jessica Montero, and I am a resident of Kailua. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is unnecessary and, if passed, would infringe upon the religious rights of the people of Hawai‘i. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution explicitly protects these rights.

I have always homeschooled my children based on our religious beliefs. However, when my eldest son reached high school age, he expressed a desire to attend school to experience a traditional high school environment. My son is exceptionally bright and aspires to attend the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in the future. In support of his goals, we enrolled him at Hawai‘i Technology Academy (HTA), a public charter school. He is now a sophomore and thriving in his academic pursuits. Through HTA’s career-based learning program, he is currently in his second year of an internship with a video game development company.

If HB1118 is enacted, we would be left with no choice but to withdraw him from school, as he would no longer be allowed to continue his education there. This would be a devastating setback for his future.

CJ, my son, is not a threat to his classmates—he is rarely ever sick. He has never contracted a disease for which the CDC recommends vaccination, nor has he ever had the flu. Our family prioritizes a healthy lifestyle, which has contributed to our overall well-being. In my experience, unvaccinated children tend to be healthier and less frequently ill.

Currently, there are no widespread outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in Hawai‘i. Therefore, this bill does not address an existing public health crisis but instead threatens our fundamental religious freedoms. I urge you to stand against HB1118 and protect the rights of families like mine.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Jessica Montero

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:24:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Grace Hall and I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is yet another attempt by the government to overstep its bounds and take away the rights of parents and students to make their own informed decisions. We are not just numbers on a page—we are families, we are a community, and we deserve the freedom to decide what is best for our keiki.

My brother suffered a serious injury from a vaccine, and now he relies on expensive monthly medication to manage the effects. That was never a choice our family made—it was something that happened to him, something we had no control over. And that experience opened my eyes to how dangerous it is when the government starts making medical decisions for people.

The reality is that no medical intervention is without risk. Vaccines, like any other medical treatment, can have serious side effects—including neurological damage, autoimmune disorders, and other long-term health complications. The risks may be rare, but they are real. And for those who suffer from these adverse reactions, there is no undoing the damage. When the government forces a medical decision on people, it is also forcing them to accept that risk—whether they are comfortable with it or not. That is wrong.

HB1118 isn't about protecting people—it's about controlling them. It strips parents of their right to assess those risks and make the best choices for their own children. It forces families into compliance with government mandates, ignoring the fact that every child is different, every medical history is unique, and no one—not lawmakers, not bureaucrats—has the right to make these deeply personal decisions for someone else's child.

If this bill passes, what comes next? How much more control will we allow the government to take from us? The line must be drawn here. Our keiki are not the property of the state. Parents—not lawmakers—should be the ones making the choices that shape their children’s futures.

I urge you to reject HB1118. Stand with the parents who are fighting to protect their children. Stand for freedom, for autonomy, and for the right of every family to make their own informed decisions without government coercion.

Mahalo for your time and consideration. Please vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:25:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TIM REIMER	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our Body Our Choice , no one can dictate a mandate for residents to take vaccines. No person or state has the power to force the many future vaccines on Hawaii Residents. I, strongly oppose this bill (many Ewa Beach residents died shortly after getting vaccinated, they were all around the same age and very athletic.) If this passes , there will be world wide scrutiny against Hawaii Political Leaders. No, No, No

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:26:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lauren park	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm strongly against HB 1118. To take away a religious exemptions is absolutely unconstitutional! Every newborn is required to receive hepatitis B vaccine, which is primarily contracted through sexual relations or intravenous drug use. Why are babies required to be vaccinated against this disease within 24 hours of birth? To force vaccinations on children that have very long lists of adverse reactions that vaccine manufacturers have zero liability for is proof of such a corrupt system! The Bible is very clear that we "ought to obey God rather than men". We cannot sit idly by as our religious beliefs are violated by our government. There are multiple levels in which vaccine mandates interfere with the free exercise of religion!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:30:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Brian Wallace and I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government overreach, plain and simple. It threatens our fundamental rights—our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our keiki.

Hawaii is built on respect—respect for our families, our kupuna, our keiki, and our personal choices. This bill disrespects all of that. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one—especially the government—should have the power to force those risks on anyone.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects—neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is “acceptable” for someone else’s child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences.

HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? Our keiki are not the property of the state. Parents—not lawmakers—should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our keiki. Vote NO on HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Brian Wallace

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:37:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David E Shormann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trying to repeal non-medical exemptions means you are trying to end religious exemptions. Why would you do that? Religion matters to most Hawaiians. Our motto claims the life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness. The Bible says righteousness is from Christ alone. Christ's righteousness is a free gift, to receive it we only need to repent and believe. Praying you retract this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:37:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Expedita Pasion	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:37:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
D Y	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leave the people the choice. You don't have the right to lord control over people that put in the place you are now. You serve the people and this is not it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:43:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James K. Rzonca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is clearly unconstitutional. Religious exceptions are part of the law. The Amish people already secured that in their case against the government. What happened to "my body my choice"?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:44:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. This bill allows religious exemptions not to be used for school aged children who have a valid point of not wanting their children to be vaccinated. While I read that children who were granted a religious exemption in the past would be exempt from this new requirement, what isn't clear is would that also cover any new vaccines that are added to the list? I opposed having my older children get the HPV vaccine as they were not sexually active. They never contracted HPV and it isn't fair to penalize families who talk with their children, have open communication and strict boundaries to protect them from any sexually transmitted disease to then force them to get a vaccination with risks associated with it and to penalize them and not allow them to have the religious exemption to not get a vaccine with known risks. My younger son will not be getting the vaccine and should not be penalized or forced to get something that has risks associated with it. Religious exemptions are not just people who do not want to get vaccinated but have strong moral and ethical objections to vaccines that have risk and are not necessary. My son did not get the COVID vaccine and NEVER got COVID. I would ask you to not allow this bill to move forward and to kill it.

Respectfully,

Rebecca McGuire

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:57:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Do	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 because it removes parental rights to make an informed decision over injecting a vaccine into their child's body.

As every individual's autonomy is different, it is a government overreach to control what is mandated to put into someone's body.

The bill states, "Removal of non medical exemptions for immunizations would increase vaccination rates for Hawaii's school-age children," which is not a true statement and is implicating that those with non-medical exemptions would then choose to be vaccinated because of the requirement for schools. As we have witnessed, parents would rather give up their second income and increase the struggle in a hard economy instead of sending their child to school because of their core belief and values against vaccinations. We've also see the case studies in other states with high immunization rates. According to USA Facts, "high immunization states Massachusetts and Virginia both allow for religious exemptions."

The bill also states, that the "rate of non-medical immunization exemptions in Hawaii increased from 2.5 percent for the 2015—2016 school year to 5.3 percent for the 2023-2024 school year, more than doubling." This statistic shows the continual increase of parents wanting non-medical immunization exmemptions due to educating themselves and personal reasons, and should be considered when removing such exemptions.

There are huge concerns regarding the safeguards to adding vaccines to the immunization schedule with not enough research to see the effects of the vaccines on children. This is why we consistently see vaccine recommendations being changed (i.e. "CDC approves ACIP recommendation for lowering the age for pneumococcal vaccination from 65 to 50 years old. *October 23, 2024*") whether it's the age group, how many doses, etc.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:59:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I write in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1118. Every person in this state should be allowed to oppose any immunization. Since when does the government dictate what is correct for you medically? I ask that HB1118 be removed from consideration.

Respectfully,

Jason Kimura

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:01:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Kekuewa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE!!

THE GOVERNMENT IS NOT OUR GOD!!!! WE ARE THE PARENTS OF OUR CHILDREN
AND WE MAKE THE DECSIONS FOR OUR CHILDREN NOT YOU!!

STOP THIS TYRANNICAL FOOLISHNESS RIGHT NOW!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:01:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This bill is not in the best interest of the people of Hawaii. There is a separation between church and state for a reason, the spring and infringes on our rights to practice our religion freely. We have the first amendment and our right to religion. This inhibit our ability to practice our religion freely by ignoring the fact that we have autonomy over our own bodies and no one other that the Lord God Jesus Christ can tell us what to do and we answer to no one but him. Remember bodily autonomy! Our tax dollars go towards school you have no right to deny us our exemptions. Leave the children alone Green.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:02:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doug Pasnik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB111

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements in the state of Hawaii. This bill is a direct violation of fundamental human rights, international law, and religious freedom.

Reasons for Opposition:

- **Violation of the Nuremberg Code and International Law:**
 - The Nuremberg Code states that "the voluntary consent of the human subject is absolutely essential."
 - The Universal Declaration on Bioethics and Human Rights (UNESCO, 2005) mandates "prior, free, and informed consent" for any medical intervention.
 - Forcing individuals to receive vaccines against their religious or ethical convictions violates international legal standards.
- **Religious and Ethical Concerns:**
 - Some vaccines are developed or tested using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which is troubling for those with pro-life views.
 - Religious freedom is protected under the U.S. Constitution and international human rights agreements.
 - Article 18 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) guarantees freedom of thought, conscience, and religion, including medical decision-making.
- **Informed Consent and Bodily Autonomy:**
 - The government lacks lawful authority to mandate irreversible medical procedures.
 - Parents have the right to make medical decisions for their children without government coercion.
 - Medical decisions should be made in consultation with healthcare providers based on individual conditions, ethics, and beliefs.
- **Unnecessary and Overreaching Legislation:**
 - The increase in non-medical exemptions does not equate to an increased public health risk.
 - Outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases are multifactorial and not solely caused by exemptions.

- Medical exemptions still protect immunocompromised children.
- The assumption that eliminating non-medical exemptions will lead to safer schools is not conclusively supported by data.

Conclusion:

- HB1118 disregards international legal principles, constitutional protections, and religious liberties.
- The repeal of non-medical exemptions contradicts the right to informed consent, bodily autonomy, and religious freedom.
- The bill sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal medical decisions.
- I urge the committee to reject HB1118 and uphold the fundamental rights of the people of Hawaii.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:04:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenn Ellenburg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jenn Ellenburg and I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for immunization requirements. This bill not only undermines fundamental religious freedoms but also sets a dangerous precedent by infringing on the rights of individuals and families to make medical decisions that align with their deeply held beliefs.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, a principle that has long been upheld in matters of personal and family health decisions. Many families hold sincere religious beliefs that conflict with certain vaccines, and forcing compliance against their faith is a direct violation of their constitutional rights. Government should not have the authority to dictate religious beliefs or compel individuals to act against their conscience in medical matters.

Eliminating religious exemptions to immunization requirements is an extreme measure that disregards constitutional rights, informed medical choice, and deeply held religious convictions. I urge you to vote against HB1118 and uphold the rights of individuals and families to make medical decisions in accordance with their faith and conscience.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jenn Ellenburg

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:10:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Smart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The U.S. Constitution's first amendment's protection of religious liberty can't be subjugated by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine, procedure, etc. that violates their religious beliefs, as well as anything that is immoral or unethical according to their well formed conscience. As a retired military officer, I was duty bound to disobey unlawful orders. This bill is unlawful and immoral.

Non-medical exemptions for immunizations or other invasive procedures must be authorized.

Was the legislature giving false information when it included the following statement in this year's SB1246, "The legislature finds that the people of Hawaii have a long tradition of protecting an individual's right to privacy and bodily autonomy independently of, and more broadly than, the federal constitution."

If the state cares about protecting the right to privacy, especially in medical matters, and the residents of Hawaii actually have bodily autonomy (i.e. our own body - not a separate body inside our womb), then you can't pass this bill.

Vote no on HB1118 and every other similar bill.

Do not pass HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:11:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Poiani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONGLY OPPOSE! 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

WOW WHAT A LOADED BILL! This bill should be 5 seperate bills. Additionally language is broad and way over reaching in so many areas of health and environmental impact. This bill dances around religious exemption and I am certain once passed will be amended to fully infringe upon my religious and spiritual practices. Additionally this bill is filled with language covering all types of enviornmental issues without definition or guard rails. This flies heavy red flags for me because it gives the department of health way too much leway and freedom to impose extermination, rules and regulations. I will definitely be following this bill to the end and paying attention to who actually supports this. THIS IS A WORD SALAD OF A BILL AND A BIG HOT MESS THAT SHOULD DIE ON THE FLOOR!

Please do not pass this bill!

Thank you,

Dawn P.

Honolulu, HI 96813

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:20:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Shelton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! It strips individuals/families from their freedom of choice. Healthcare decisions are personal choices and should be left to the individual to fully and consensually decide, not to be swayed or deterred due to other unconstitutional policies and systems in place stripping them of that right.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:23:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

Paul Giles

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:29:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittney Eshima-Vaquilar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious freedom is a fundamental human right that allows individuals to freely practice, change, or express their beliefs without fear of persecution, discrimination, or coercion. As Religious exemptions are important because they allow individuals to practice their faith freely and without fear of punishment or discrimination, particularly when certain laws or policies may conflict with their religious beliefs. These exemptions serve as a way to balance individual religious rights with public policy, ensuring that people can live according to their values without being coerced into actions that go against their conscience.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:29:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Giles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is our choice as parents to what our kids should put in their bodies. We have the right to free religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:32:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I respectfully request that you strongly OPPOSE HB1118, Immunizations; Non-Medical Exemptions; Repeal.

Part of the First Amendment and Fourteenth Amendment provide that a state may not “burden a person’s exercise of Freedom of Religion.” This Bill impedes religious freedom. In addition, this Bill, as modified, attempts to compel and coerce students to get immunizations, even if it is against one’s sincerely held religious beliefs. The denial of religious accommodations is also contrary to the Civil Rights Act of 1964.

Please protect religious freedom by opposing HB1118.

Mahalo Nui Loa for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:37:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristina Goetzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I would like to encourage the house to oppose HB1118 as it is a direct violation of our first amendment rights. Removing religious exemptions from vaccination requirements in schools will negatively affect keiki in our state by forcing parents to remove them from schools in order to adhere to their religious beliefs. This is not a choice parents should have to make and I implore you to oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:40:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Peter Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, because it would remove religious exemptions for immunization requirements. The United States is a free country, and choosing whether or not to take a vaccine is an individual's personal choice. If the state decides to remove this religious exemption, it will be a case of discrimination against people of faith. I urge the house to stop this bill now. Thank you!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:44:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Len Corpuz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due restrictions that we as individuals can't be allowed to refuse a non essential vaccine

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:45:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Culver	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

My name is Emily Culver and I oppose HB1118. I have a son who will be attending school in Hawaii within the next few years. I made the decision not to vaccinate him based on the vaccine injuries that I have experienced.

Before giving birth to my son, I had 10 consecutive miscarriages. I've seen multiple specialist and was diagnosed with infertility related to reproductive Immunological. These issues are a result of having multiple extra rounds of vaccinations while serving in the military. I believe that my decision to protect my son from possible vaccine injury should not be a reason why I cannot send him to school.

During a time where the CDC vaccine schedule for children is under question, There's even more of a reason to allow parents to make the decision for their children. A child vaccination status does not put any other child at risk. It's a personal decision and one that should be done based on religious or medical reasons.

For that reason, I strongly oppose HB1118

Respectfully,

Emily Culver

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:50:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou,

This bill is an egregious overstep of government authority and violation of the first amendment of the United States constitution. The legislature must ask themselves why less keiki are vaccinated in 2023-2024 relative to the 2013-2016 time frame. If you are interested in public school enrollments declining, this is the correct way to go about it. Additionally, this does a disservice to our keiki, it puts the onus on the keiki to first get a vaccine injury an order to get an exemption. I urge you to examine data from 1980 until now on the change and growth in the vaccine schedule that our keiki are subject to.

Mahalo,

Calvin Howell

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 12:53:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hye Sun Kang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because of my family's beliefs that we should not put any other person's dead cell into our bodies, I strongly opposed repeal of religious exemption from childhood vaccination. All vaccines are made using aborted fetal cells. I refuse to inject products made using aborted fetal cells into my children's bodies. That would be against our belief. Also, everyone has a right for public education. State must NOT force any child to inject something against their or parent/guardian's will/belief in order to receive public education. Please keep the religious exemption from vaccination to attend public schools. Do not appeal religious exemption.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:00:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wai'ala Ahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose for religious, medical and personal freedom of families and individuals.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:01:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Camacho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please don't require vaccines across the board. This is unfair to our children who deserve science backed research rather than mandates.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:03:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aga Janocko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:07:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adeline McGonigle	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My 4 yr old son has a vaccine injury and a facial palsy due to it. They forced me to vaccinate him at 6 weeks old due to PCSing to Hawaii during COVID. Now that he has a religious exemption, it allows him to go to school with the vaccine I deem safe, not the government. After I filed a religious exemption with our Catholic school, I also got my children a federal medical exemption but not all children are able to get them. I don't think the government should tell me what I should put in my children's body when they are not proven safe nor effective. Did you know that if I spoon fed the ingredients in a vaccine to my child, I would be arrest for child endangerment since those are toxic substances? Yet, these substances are being forced via injection, breaking the brain barrier. I stand for my body my choice. For example, certain vaccines also contain fetal tissues and as a Catholic, it goes against my beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:13:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deanne	People of the Almighty Father God	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of the people including myself that was made pure and wholly by our almighty lord God. Our bodies are our temple and sanctuary that We beleive it shoulnt be compromised with all the toxins that are in a single vaccine. Our keiki of Hawaii should'nt be compromised with this poison int their temple bodies. How can we allow so many thousands of people to come to the state of Hawaii unvaccinated especially from other countries while WE the people of Hawaii who have lived here on the islands for generations with not a single outbreak of a deadly disease. No vaccine or medicine will save us from a sickness when it is our time and we're cosen to go home to our savior. Spare the island people of this wrath vaccine that you're trying to push on us. Mahalo!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:19:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Riyah.A	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill, My Body, My Choice & the Government is NOT MY God!!!!!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:20:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaunani Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government overreach, plain and simple. It threatens our fundamental rights—our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our keiki.

Hawaii is built on respect—respect for our families, our kupuna, our keiki, and our personal choices. This bill disrespects all of that. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one—especially the government—should have the power to force those risks on anyone.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects—neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is “acceptable” for someone else’s child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences.

HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? Our keiki are not the property of the state. Parents—not lawmakers—should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our keiki. Vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:22:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac blanchard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask you not to pass HB 1118 on. A person should have a god given right to choose. Please do not attempt to strip this away. I don't want someone or some organization choosing for me about immunizations. Isn't this a my body my choice state? Do not take away the right to decide what is best for you personally. Mahalo, Isaac

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:23:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:23:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nichole A.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It violates our freedoms, our freedom to choose and practice our religion for ourselves!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:23:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chevas Kunz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee/Board Members,

I am writing today in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccines in schools. If passed, this bill would infringe upon fundamental religious freedoms, undermine parental rights, and set a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal medical decisions.

Preserving Religious Freedom

The right to religious freedom is one of the most fundamental liberties guaranteed by the U.S. Constitution. For many families, opposition to certain vaccines is deeply rooted in their religious beliefs, whether due to the use of fetal cell lines in vaccine development, concerns about bodily autonomy, or a belief in divine guidance over medical choices.

For generations, religious exemptions have allowed families to make informed healthcare decisions in accordance with their faith, free from government coercion. HB1118 would eliminate this freedom, forcing families to choose between their religious convictions and access to education a direct violation of constitutional rights.

The Impact of HB1118 on Families and Children

Eliminating religious exemptions would create significant burdens on families who rely on them for ethical and faith-based reasons. If passed, HB1118 would result in:

Educational Displacement Parents who cannot comply due to their religious beliefs may be forced to homeschool, relocate, or face legal consequences, creating financial and emotional hardship.

Religious Discrimination The removal of religious exemptions disproportionately affects faith-based communities, singling them out for exclusion from education and public life.

Erosion of Parental Rights Parents, not the government, are best positioned to make medical decisions for their children in consultation with their faith and trusted healthcare providers. HB1118 undermines this fundamental right.

A Dangerous Precedent for Future Generations

If HB1118 is enacted, what other medical or ethical mandates will follow? This bill opens the door for increased government control over personal health decisions, setting a precedent that could extend beyond vaccines to other medical treatments, procedures, or interventions.

Medical autonomy is a deeply personal and sacred responsibility. If exemptions are removed, future generations may face increasing mandates that disregard religious convictions, erode parental rights, and create an educational system that prioritizes coercion over choice.

Conclusion

Religious freedom is not a privilege, it is a right. HB1118 represents an unconstitutional and unethical attack on religious communities and individual liberties. Parents should never be forced to choose between their faith and their child's education.

I strongly urge you to vote against HB1118 and protect religious vaccine exemptions in schools. True inclusivity means respecting diverse beliefs, not forcing compliance through exclusion and coercion.

Sincerely,

Chevas Kunz

Resident of Mililani

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:24:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Mahikoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We oppse this bill and should have the right to practice our religious beliefs including having religious exemptions for vaccinations. These vaccinations contain aborted fetuses and substances that we believe to be against our beliefs and should not be in our bodies. I pray in the name of Jesus that we would be able to maintain this right to continue to raise our family here in Hawaii. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:27:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because It is crucial to balance public health goals with respect for individual rights and religious diversity, ensuring that no one is forced to act against their conscience.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:29:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I very strongly support HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:29:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carolina Jesus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements is against the law, according to the United States Constitution's protection of religious freedoms. The State of Hawaii should not be trying to thwart the Constitution of the United States. Non-medical exemptions, especially religious exemptions, are the legal rights of American citizens; as well as, non-citizens who reside in this nation. The courts have ruled, in case after case regarding immunizations, in favor of religious freedom according to the US Constitution. Why is the State of Hawaii trying to oppose the United States Constitution? We should never do that! Oppose this egregious bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:30:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This is an over-reach of government to dictate that someone must be forced to vaccinate against their religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:31:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lysbeth Primacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Sirs & Madams,

I am a concerned citizen writing to request your thoughtful analysis of what passing this bill, which repeals non-medical exemptions, might do to the morale of the people who've chosen to forego vaccines based on religious grounds.

Individuals should have the choice to decide what they put into and onto their bodies. Religious individuals should also have that choice. This bill discriminates against religious individuals who, on the grounds of their religious values, have chosen to forego vaccines. There are also non-religious people who take care of their health, protecting their body by carefully watching what goes into it.

If there were bills to support other "preventative" care measures, such as requiring individuals to get colonoscopies, mammograms, flu shots, blood tests, etc., then I could understand why vaccines are always brought up. But, there are no other bills requiring individuals to take preventive care of their health. Why is it always that vaccines get the limelight? I've been taught to follow the money, and the money leads straight back into the pockets of certain politicians who have introduced this bill.

Government's first duty is to protect the people, not tell them how to run their lives. -Ronald Reagan

*By repealing non-medical exemptions, you are dictating to people how to run their lives. Please. You were voted in to protect people, not tell them what to do. If people begin to move from this state because of our government, where will the funding come for the positions in government?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:31:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tehani Napoleon-Pico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

He Hawai'i au mau a mau.

I am opposing bill H1118. Not only is it destructive to exercising our human rights religiously/beliefs otherwise, it is also targeting the most precious and important individuals in our community; the children. Whom are too young to fully understand and or comprehend the possible side effects/dangers of taking vaccines. Therefore their parents are held responsible to make those decisions and yet this bill is trying to take that choice of exemption away from parents, why? Vaccines are not proven to be 100% safe and effective, most have many side effects and lack research as far as taking all the vaccinations required by schools and the long term effects on children. In fact, there are many studies that show health issues/complications within children who were vaccinated vs unvaccinated. Vaccines have been around a long time and still children are getting sick. It is not a solution, rather an agenda being pushed by one of the wealthiest corporations, the pharmaceutical industry. Why are we focused on immunizations rather than nutrition in kids school foods or teaching children how to build strong immune systems naturally. This bill is not in the best interest of the children, especially when you're trying to take away the voice of their parents, whom are responsible for them. I am a mother and I do not support this bill because it is taking away the freedom of choice that is our birthright. If I do not wish my child to be injected with a substance I can't fully be sure is safe nor beneficial for my child, why would I risk their health? When we are blessed with so many natural 100% effective options. This bill is utterly disturbing and proves to cause more distrust with those chosen to be a voice for our people. This is hewa. Non medical exemptions were put in place for a reason, and personal beliefs and religion are a strong foundation of who we are as a person. It is important for us to have, it is protection, and yet someone is trying to take this away. Too much fear is placed in the media and spread amongst our community to control people and pressure them to make a decision they aren't fully knowledgeable about. Vaccines have warning labels and health risks that aren't talked about, but proven. There are many vaccine injuries happening every day. Those are not spoken about. Furthermore leads to my point that having a choice to be exempt from vaccines for our children is our right and should not be taken away.

Mahalo,

A caring and loving mother.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:33:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
krystle ilar	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Krystle ilar oppose this bill.

it isn't the governments right to force me to vaccinate my children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:36:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvonne Alvarado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a Violation of Our Civil Liberties and The Constitution. I, Yvonne Alvarado strongly Oppose to this Bill HB118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:37:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharee Orr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No to this bill. A religious exemption repeal is a violation of a person's 1st Amendment. This will go to court wasting taxpayer money. Stop wasting taxpayer money with dumb bills that end up in court.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:37:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcus Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The 1st amendment guarantees freedom of religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:41:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ailie Souriolle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a violation of the Constitution and religion freedom. Vaccines should never be forced as we are not all the same person and have different medical and religionous needs!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:41:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David McGuire	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118

To the members of the Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. This bill allows religious exemptions to not be used for school aged children whose families have a valid reasons for not wanting their children to be vaccinated. While I read that children who were granted a religious exemption in the past would be exempt from this new requirement, what isn't clear is would that also cover any new vaccines that are added to the list?

We, as a family, opposed our older children receiving the HPV vaccine as they were not sexually active. They never contracted HPV, and it isn't fair to penalize families who talk with their children, have open communication and strict boundaries to protect them from any sexually transmitted disease with a forced vaccination and the associated risks. We will be having the same boundary discussions and open communication with our youngest child. He will not be getting the vaccine and should not be penalized or forced to receive it.

Religious exemptions are not just people who do not want to get vaccinated but have strong moral and ethical objections to certain vaccines that have significant associated risks—risks which far out way the benefits. Our son did not get the COVID vaccine and NEVER got COVID. I would ask you to not allow this bill to move forward and to kill it.

Respectfully,

David McGuire

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:43:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SALINA MCMOORE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118! This bill 100 percent goes against my personal rights to freely choose, as the parent of my children, what is or is not in their best interest regarding vaccinations. The government should never make it mandatory or have the right to require an individual, let alone a child, to have vaccinations in order to attend public schools.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:46:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Correa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in opposition of HB1118 removing non- medical exemptions. We the citizens of Hawaii require the right to choose- Informed Consent. Where there is risk, there must be a choice. Is the State of Hawai'i willing to accept responsibility for any adverse side effects from vaccination? Religious rights must also be upheld as stated in the Constitution of the United States of America. This is outrageous and egregious government overreach.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:47:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deirdre Madrid	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is unconstitutional.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:48:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Barkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118. In addition to my personal stance, I represent other like-minded mothers in our community who share these concerns. As a parent and resident of Hawaii, I firmly believe that individuals must have the right to choose or be granted exemptions when it comes to immunization.

The ability to opt-out based on religious or medical grounds is a fundamental right protected by the First Amendment. It is not the role of the state or government to revoke these exemptions, as doing so would be both unconstitutional and an infringement on personal freedoms.

As a dedicated health advocate, I take my family's and community's well-being seriously. Removing religious exemptions is not the solution and should not be considered as such.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:49:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118!! The decision to get vaccinated or not should remain with the person, and/or parent not the government. Josh Green should focus on fixing the problems of Hawaii not making more. Start building in Lahaina. Ensure food security. How about making sure each child attending school can read at grade level. More important things for him to fix. I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:50:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. We cannot allow the government to make any type of medical decision for us. Why is it that a small group of legislators, a tiny fraction of our population, believe they know what is best for every individual without knowing each personally, knowing their medical history or their religious preferences. Eliminating our right to determine the best medical decision for ourselves and our children is a gross overreach by the government.

Vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:50:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Unconstitutional and against the Nuremberg code.

unbelievable tgat this comes from a " doctor," who happens to play a Governor as well

NO ONE should hold public education over our children's heads if they do not comply to forced vaccines

OPPOSED

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:52:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Ukauka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unacceptable. What happened to my body my choice or does that only pertain to aborting babies, up to 9 months of age? It is our constitutional right and our right as citizens of One Nation Under God to choose if we wish to get a vaccine or not, whether we take a medication or not. This is government over reach and is unacceptable!!! This bill CANNOT and SHOULD NOT even be up to the government. There are many people who are sensitive to medications and are trying to leave a clean healthy lifestyle free from Medications etc. Hawaii government please do better by your citizens and people.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:53:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joel C Helge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand with the many people opposed to medicalized coercion and assault. Especially given recent experiences violating public trust with unproven, unsafe, ineffective transfection technology and the gaslighting, coercion, fraud, and obvious harm that was denied, though gradually admitted- if still minimized; how dare you propose to double down on this assault? This bill is an obscene insult to the public's human rights of informed consent and personal medical sovereignty. These are not indulgences, they are paramount legal protections supported in international legal precedent superceding that of any state. You are beyond your scope of practice in this attempt. You should wisely turn away.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:56:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine D Lobendahn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This Bill VIOLATES my First Amendment Constitutional Rights. This DRACONIAN Bill MIST NOT PASS! I OPPOSE this Bill completely!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:57:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donn DeShayne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to add my testimony in opposing this bill to remove all non-medical exemptions for vaccinations. Removing religious exemptions in this case is also a way of removing freedom of religion. I understand this bill is based on trying to keep a herd immunity of 95%. Herd immunity is a concept that has not been widely proven and was showed to be a failed theory during the Covid pandemic. I am strongly opposed to this measure. Thank you for reading my testimony.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:58:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deja Antonio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I **strongly oppose** this bill (HB1118). With this testimony, I would like to ensure that lawmakers are aware of how *incredibly hard* it is to obtain a medical exemption for a vaccine injured children. My daughter was vaccine injured at 2 years old, after having a non-febrile seizure days after receiving three vaccines at once, during her well child visit. Please note that one of the *first* side effects listed on these vaccine safety labels, from the manufacturers themselves, have "**seizures**" listed as a known side effect.

I was shocked when I was met with a cold and defensive attitude from her pediatricians office as I followed up with them, after my daughter was admitted to the emergency room. I ended up ultimately being granted a medical exemption for Veda, which lasted for 10 years, right up until the office implemented a *new policy*. This policy *forced* patients to follow the offices' vaccine schedule or the child would *not* be welcome as a patient any longer. My daughter was then kicked out of the practice, and worst, they conveniently walked back and revoked the medical exemption they provided her for years, saying that they looked the case over again, and no longer felt that the vaccine has cause her seizure. All of this was done so that my daughter would no longer be a patient at this practice, since insurance companies give bonuses to practices who have a high percentages of vaccinated patients. This is horriifiing, and I was deeply hurt. This isn't the kind of treatment you would expect from people who you trust to ensure your childs health and well-being.

Vaccines have become money driven, and political. This is not a one size fits all drug, no drug is. Where there is any kind of risk, a choice is *required* to be afforded. This bill would empower drug companies and pediatrician offices to *continue* to evade any type of responsibility or protections for patients that are adversely affected by vaccines. Further more, after my daughters injury, I researched ingredients used in vaccines, also listed in the manufacturers insert. Blood fractions and other toxins are contained in many vaccines - which is against my religious beliefs. Please ensure that the people of Hawai'i have medical freedom of choice and freedom to practice their religious beliefs.

I can tell you from someone that is part of my community and who talks to many parents, this bill would not force *one* parent to vaccinate their vaccine injured child or their siblings, or go against their religious beliefs. This bill would force these parents to *homeschool* their keiki. Please do not punish our keiki or parents for their religious beliefs or the adverse effects they

have experienced with vaccines. Forcing a medical procedure on to people is a direct violation of our God-given freedom to choose. Please let our keiki attend public school, be part of their community and play sports.

Mahalo for all your painstaking work day in and day out for the people of Hawai'i, and thank you for reading all of these powerful testimonies, I appreciate it immensely.

Mahalo nui,

Deja Antonio

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 1:58:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Finley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:00:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

My body my choice. And Also my children's body my choice. If everyone who wants the vaccine is vaccinated, my child would not put them at risk by not having an injection that is in violation of my religious beliefs. You people are sick in the mind.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:01:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is a blatant disregard for our constitutional right to religious exemption! You cannot make a law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:01:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophie Sidhu	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a proud member of our aloha state, an educator who cares deeply about inclusivity, a caring community member and a mother, I strongly oppose this bill. This bill is a violation of our fundamental and constitutional right of religious freedom. Faith practices and the right to education must be mutually respected. If enacted, this bill would cause significant harm to families across the islands and tear apart the fabric of our aloha state. I implore you to uphold our constitutional integrity and vote no.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:02:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Aguiar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Gerald Aguiar and I strongly oppose bill HB1118. Please preserve our right to medical choice and our right to practice our religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:02:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Ng	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha, and thank you for hearing this testimony in opposition:

This bill, if passed, would take away religious freedoms in our state. Hawaii should retain its religious freedoms for all of its residents, instead of going down the slippery slope of taking away religious freedom.

The United States of America was founded and populated because of religious freedom ideals. To take that away is to go against not only the founders beliefs, but the people of Hawaii's beliefs.

I urge you to keep religious freedom intact for everyone in Hawaii.

Thank you in advance,

Vickie Ng

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:02:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this is absolute bull crap!! Disgusting

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:03:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

ABSOLUTLY NOT. I STRONGLY OPPOSE

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:04:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesika H.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Our religious rights and freedom will be violated because of this bill. Parents and caregivers have the right to choose if they would like to vaccinate their child or not. Government does not have the right to take our choices away especially when it comes to our own health or beliefs related to our health. I do not support this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:04:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

ABSOLUTLY NOT. I STRONGLY OPPOSE

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:07:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Luis Ma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed this bill.

****Disadvantages of Removing Religious Exemptions for Vaccination****

1. ****Infringement on Religious Freedom****

Removing religious exemptions may violate the principle of religious liberty, a cornerstone of many democratic societies. Certain faiths oppose vaccines due to ethical concerns, such as the use of fetal cell lines in development (e.g., Catholicism, though many leaders now endorse vaccination). Forcing adherents to choose between their beliefs and compliance could marginalize religious minorities and undermine constitutional protections, such as the First Amendment in the U.S.

2. ****Erosion of Trust in Institutions****

Mandating vaccinations without religious accommodations may breed distrust in government and public health authorities. Perceived coercion can fuel anti-vaccine sentiment, paradoxically reducing compliance. Communities might view such policies as dismissive of their values, leading to heightened resistance and reliance on misinformation.

3. ****Legal and Constitutional Challenges****

Eliminating religious exemptions could provoke lawsuits alleging violations of religious freedom. In jurisdictions with strong protections (e.g., the U.S. under the Religious Freedom Restoration Act), courts may strike down such policies, creating legal uncertainty and diverting resources from public health efforts.

4. **Social Division and Marginalization**

Targeted religious groups may feel alienated, exacerbating social tensions. For example, conservative Christian or Amish communities might withdraw further from mainstream society, homeschooling children or avoiding medical systems. This polarization could hinder broader public health collaboration.

5. **Unintended Public Health Consequences**

Strict mandates might drive non-compliant individuals underground, falsifying exemptions or avoiding healthcare altogether. This could leave pockets of low immunity, risking outbreaks. Additionally, enforcement efforts might overshadow education and outreach, which are more effective for fostering voluntary uptake.

6. **Economic and Educational Barriers**

Without exemptions, families refusing vaccines for religious reasons could face exclusion from schools or employment. This disproportionately affects low-income groups, limiting access to education and economic stability, and deepening inequities.

7. **Historical and Cultural Sensitivities**

Some minority religions have historical trauma tied to state coercion (e.g., Indigenous or Jehovah's Witness communities). Removing exemptions may echo past persecution, intensifying distrust and resistance.

Conclusion

While removing religious exemptions aims to boost vaccination rates, it risks infringing on civil liberties, provoking legal disputes, and fostering societal discord. Policymakers must balance public health goals with respect for religious diversity, ensuring strategies prioritize dialogue and inclusivity to avoid counterproductive outcomes.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:08:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carole Chung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The government is not my God!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:10:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mahealani Bernal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:10:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Venegas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Committee on Health,

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill. This bill allows religious exemptions not to be used for school aged children who have a valid point of not wanting their children to be vaccinated. While I read that children who were granted a religious exemption in the past would be exempt from this new requirement, what isn't clear is would that also cover any new vaccines that are added to the list? I opposed having my two children from getting the HPV vaccine as they were not sexually active. They never contracted HPV and it isn't fair to penalize families who teach their children to have values that include waiting for marriage to have sex. My husband and I have open communication and strict boundaries to protect them from any sexually transmitted disease to then force them to get a vaccination with risks associated with it and to penalize them and not allow them to have the religious exemption to not get a vaccine with known risks. My children will not be getting the vaccine and should not be penalized or forced to get something that has risks associated with it. Religious exemptions are not just people who do not want to get vaccinated but have strong moral and ethical objections to vaccines that have risks and are not necessary. in my opinion. My family did not get the COVID vaccine and NEVER got COVID. I would ask you to not allow this bill to move forward and to kill it.

Thank you for your time,

Julie Venegas

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:10:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Claudia Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to this bill. It is a direct violation of our right to hold our sincerely held religious beliefs and exempt us or my children or my children's children from getting vaccinated. This is illegal and unconstitutional; Blatant violation of my constitutional rights and the law

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:12:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curtis Tiritas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have a right, (and on behalf of my family) to preserve my body, and under the protection of God, from government forced desecration from vaccination under my religious beliefs. forcing medical intervention in order to receive education is religious prejudice which I am opposing.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:14:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lora Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE AGAINST HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:14:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Vizcarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Again, stop with these bills that continue to infringe on citizen conditional rights!!! The Constitution needs to be reread by those in office. If you can't Uphold what you swore an oath to, you best step down because GOD sees and knows all. Your days are numbered!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:15:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Primacio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Fully oppose any bill to take away our rights to religious exemption against any medicine or vaccine. I have a sincerely held religious belief against all vaccines. Please stop trying to force people to medically inject anything in their bodies. Aloha

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:16:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristine Kelly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill as it is not only unconstitutional but government over reach. It is our right to make choices for our family and children and to protect them.

Medical decisions are not up to the government and have no reason why this is even a discussion.

This bill takes away freedom and everything our country was built upon. If you want a communist country I suggest you pack your bags and move.

mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:17:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daly DeShayne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My testimony:

I would like to add my testimony in opposing this bill to remove all non-medical exemptions for vaccinations. Removing religious exemptions in this case is also a way of removing freedom of religion. I understand this bill is based on trying to keep a herd immunity of 95%. Herd immunity is a concept that has not been widely proven and was showed to be a failed theory during the Covid pandemic. I am strongly opposed to this measure. Thank you for reading my testimony.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:17:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loree Jean Searcy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

The people of Hawaii have the right to choose whether to have a vaccine or not. By you passing this bill you are violating the personal rights of each person over their own medical decisions and this is government overreach to the max.

We are a free people and we have the right to choose.

I oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:18:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
samantha pang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1118, as it infringes on the right for individuals to choose what is best for themselves and their family based on their religious views. This exemption should not be removed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:19:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fata McMoore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:19:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Sugiura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118.

This bill is government overreach, plain and simple. It threatens our fundamental rights-our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our keiki.

Hawaii is built on respect-respect for our families, our kupuna, our keiki, and our personal choices. This bill disrespects all of that. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one-especially the government-should have the power to force those risks on anyone.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects— neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is

"acceptable" for someone else's child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences.

HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom.

Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? Our keiki are not the property of the state. Parents-not lawmakers-should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our keiki.
Vote NO on HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:19:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela M Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccines, which include religious and philosophical objections, thereby mandating vaccination without medical exemptions.

This is a blatant violation of Religious Freedom - This will would infringe upon the constitutional right to freedom of religion by not recognizing religious objections - currently protected by state and federal law.

Philosophical exemptions reflect respect for individual autonomy and the right to make personal health choices based on ones own convictions. Removing this exemption strips away personal freedom.

Forcing vaccinations without exemption will further the distrust of the medical community and legislature. When so many studies and physicians opposed to the vaccine have been censored, it goes to follow that the public does not yet have access to all of the information and in implementing this bill, without all of the information is a gross failure of public health and safety.

BY disallowing non-medical exemptions, we risk further eroding public trust in health policy, without broader implications for public health beyond vaccination.

How can we tout the cultural diversity of our Hawaiian Ohana while failing to recognize cultural beliefs and practices that go against the democratic agenda? This bill does not accommodate the very differences this legislature claims to be protective of.

Rather than remove exemptions, we could enhance public health with education and engagement and allowing dissenting voices to be heard.

I am deeply concerned about the implications of HB1118 on individual rights, community cohesion and public health strategy. Eliminating non medical exemptions could have unintended consequences that outweighs the perceived benefits.

I encourage this committee to reconsider this bill and explore other methods that respect personal freedom and autonomy and the right for patients to decide personal health decisions with qualified physicians and the most up to date medical data available.

the legislature has no business in exam rooms.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:20:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Argall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please leave the religious exemptions for our children's schools. If removed, this would be an infringement of our religious freedoms. Mandates on medical products are also oppressive and illiberal. For products with risk, there must be informed choice. Vaccines can be wonderful, but it must be the parent's choice, an individual's choice based on their unique health and freedom of religious beliefs. Please do the right thing for our children.

Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:20:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelynn Broad-Kela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:26:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Euken	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

If passed this bill will fail in the courts due to religious and conscience freedoms, first amendment concerns, and the Governors ties to Big Pharma. The political and judicial environment will not allow this into practice. It is bad legislation and not in line with the people of this State.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:27:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Lahti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe in vaccination, my children are vaccinated and my grandchildren are vaccinated. There are a couple vaccines that I do not think are safe, risk vs reward ect. Parents should have the choice to decide what is injected into their children!! The government should NOT be able to tell you what to put in your body!! I strongly OPPOSE this bill and I'm not anti vaccine! I've worked in the medical field and still feel this is overreach of the government. PLEASE VOTE NO ON THIS BILL!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:27:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Nobriga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of two boys, one in 6th grade at Honokaa elementary & the other a junior at Kamehameha, Keaau.

We are strong in our faith & do not believe in vaccinating our boys, injecting them with aborted fetus cells or MRNA properties, mercury, formaldehyde, Aluminum, & any other chemicals, which go against our religious beliefs & views. This is a constitutional right to have the ability to say my body, my choice when it comes to injecting them with chemicals of which the doctors cannot even properly take the time to go over every single ingredient & every single side effect of. I know this because I have asked before.

1 Corinthians 2:5 That your faith should not stand in the wisdom of men, but in the power of God.

1 Corinthians 6:19 What? Know ye not that your body is the temple of the Holy Spirit which is in you, which is of God's and not of your own.

1 Corinthians 3:17 If any man defile the temple of God, him shall God destroy, for the temple of God is holy, which temple ye are.

Please do not move forward with this bill & allow us as parents to make the choices of our children's health which we know best.

Thank you,

Crystal Nobriga

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:29:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zaysha-Ann Maria-Sheldon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing this bill due to my religion. I will not be forced by the government to go against my faith. It is not right.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:30:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Ng	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Last I checked, Hawaii is still a state in the union. There has been court precedence in *Fulton v Philadelphia* as well as *Employment Division v Smith* that protects religious exemptions and deemed that religious exemption is a First Amendment protection.

Hawaii would be made an example by the Supreme Court if they were to pass this restrictive bill that limits our freedoms.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:31:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rita Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118

This bill is so wrong! Government is not our God!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:32:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not support HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:33:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:33:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This mandate has nothing to do with maintaining the health of our children. It is instead, an engrose infringement on our religious rights. As a parent, it is my responsibility to ensure my children stay safe and healthy, through diet, vitamin supplementation and excersise. It is not the governments responsibility to force their beliefs on "we, the people". I have 2, very healthy, teenage boys in highschool. Neither have ever recieved any vaccinations, and have gotten through every "sick" season of their lives better than most. They rarely ever get sick, thanks to our practices and the grace of God. If you feel removing them from school for the remainder of the duration, will help their physical and mental health, you are creating a much larger, overall, problem. I ask that you re-think this mandate and leave medical decisions in the hands of the families. I promise, if this madate goes through, you will be forcebly removing thousands of children from public schools around the state. This is not a decision to take lightly.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:34:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 goes against our constitutional rights. That's all that needs to be said. Do not break the constitution.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:34:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BROOKE BERRY	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe in the importance of protecting religious exemptions for school immunizations. As a parent, it's my fundamental right to make decisions about my child's health and wellbeing, including those guided by our deeply held spiritual beliefs.

Forcing parents to choose between their faith and accessing education is not only unjust, but also harmful. It's crucial we preserve the freedom to make informed, conscience-driven choices about vaccination, without fear of retribution or exclusion.

By safeguarding religious exemptions, we ensure that families from diverse backgrounds and faiths can continue to participate in our education system, fostering a more inclusive and equitable society for all.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:35:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Lavatai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. We should have the right to choose to take a vaccine or not especially if it doesn't fit within our religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:37:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalma Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. There are only four states in the country that do not have a religious exemption. Do not add Hawaii to the list of states that infringe upon the right of its residents to exercise their personal religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:39:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Puhala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is against our constitutional rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:40:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Battles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious freedom is a conerstone of our nation.

Please do not support this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:41:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arica Cornejo	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To Whom it may concern:

I just moved to Hawaii 3 weeks ago and was elated that Hawaii allow religious exemptions for children to get an education. Religiously I feel HPV vaccines go against my beliefs to vaccinate kids to get an education. I have lived in many places in my life and never seen a state pressure parents to vaccinate their kids from a Sexually transmitted disease to get an education. My daughter is only 11 yrs old and also have an 8 yr old, and find this vaccine ridiculous and against my religious practices. Please take account we are a military family and would love our voice to be heard. My kids are up to date with their vaccines and religously I feel the exemption should not change.

Thank you!

Arica Cornejo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:43:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Kauwalu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this horrible bill.

let the parents be in charge of their children's health decisions, NOT THE GOVERNMENT!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:43:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thomas Stoll	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

This Bill (HB1118) that would, if passed, refuse vaccine exemption for those that are unvaccinated due to their religious beliefs and/or convictions is very concerning to me. After years of the COVID-19 Vaccine audits, there is substantial evidence that this particular vaccine has caused widespread deaths and serious adverse reactions, some of which have left the recipients paralyzed, immune system compromised (VAIDS) and left some with the condition of Myocarditis. There is also mounting evidence of the dangerous DNA altering characteristics of this vaccine. It is with the utmost respect and conviction that I suggest that this Bill would be denied at this juncture. The data that is presently continuing to be analyzed needs more time to fully evaluate the harmful ramifications ensued to those affected. We should be careful to make any decisions now about mandating any vaccine, as some experts have come forward acknowledging how it was a mistake to assume that the Covid-19 vaccine was safe and effective. It was proven to be either. The fact that the Covid-19 virus was a result of "Gain of Function" experiments should be the focus of efforts to prevent any future Pandemics. This outcome of vaccine injuries should serve as a warning to halt any further vaccine mandates or development of vaccines carelessly. Thank you for your serious consideration as my convictions about experimental vaccines are converse to any Bill that would mandate anyone to being experimented on in fear of losing their livelihood.

Sincerely,

Thomas Stoll

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:46:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yumi Moore	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school vaccination requirements in Hawaii. This bill infringes upon fundamental rights and parental freedoms, setting a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal and religious decisions.

1. Religious Freedom and Constitutional Rights

Religious exemptions exist to protect the deeply held beliefs of families who conscientiously object to certain vaccinations. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, and forcing parents to vaccinate their children against their religious convictions is a clear violation of this fundamental right. Hawaii has long upheld diverse cultural and religious values—this bill threatens that foundation.

2. Parental Rights and Informed Consent

Parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children without coercion from the government. Medical interventions, including vaccines, carry risks, and each parent must have the autonomy to weigh the benefits and risks based on their unique circumstances. The removal of religious exemptions disregards parental consent and personal medical freedom.

3. Precedent for Discrimination and Exclusion

HB1118 effectively excludes children from receiving an education if their parents object to vaccinations on religious grounds. This disproportionately impacts faith-based communities and marginalized groups, forcing families to either violate their beliefs or seek alternative, often costly, education options. No child should be denied access to public education due to their family’s religious convictions.

4. Alternative Solutions Exist

Rather than eliminating religious exemptions, the state should focus on policies that ensure public health while respecting individual rights. This could include robust education on vaccines,

transparency in reporting adverse reactions, and reasonable accommodations for families with sincere objections.

Conclusion:

HB1118 is a direct attack on religious freedom, parental rights, and informed medical choice. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead work toward solutions that protect public health while upholding constitutional freedoms.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Yumi Moore

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:46:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Giuseffi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support religious exemptions being taken away or not recognized by our government for our citizens.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:48:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kayden radhe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not agree to the removal of Religious Exemptions for Vaccinations of our Keiki. This is UnConstitutional, and it is a horrific measure that is being brought before the Hawaii legislature to consider. Vaccinations, especially the MRNA Covid and other childhood vaccinations have NOT been proven safe or effective, nor do they have any redeemable benefits. In fact, these vaccinations have shown to harm 1000's of humans! This is absolutely unacceptable that this is even being considered in the way of a bill....to kill and hurt our Children and Grand Children. I am NOT in support of this Bill. We have the right to choose our Medical Freedom, and Religious Exemption is a God Given as well as Constitutional Right. There should never be anything Mandatory that has the possibility of harming humans. This is a bill to Kill, and may it be known as that.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:48:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
camille erickson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it removes our rights as individuals to determine what medical interventions we approve for our self and our children. Not all bodies are equal and no medical intervention is one size fits all. Many vaccines carry morally questionable ingredients that go against our religious and moral beliefs.

Not only that but This will drive more families out of the public school systems and your education budgets will drop. No body wins with this kind of overreach. Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:54:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Foyle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Refusing religious exemption for vaccines is unconstitutional as our first amendment rights include freedom of religion. There are plenty of recent examples from the blunders of the pandemic to reinforce this erroneous approach:

On September 24, 2021, a federal court in Kentucky acknowledged in *Beckerich v. St. Elizabeth Medical Center* that exemptions from a hospital's COVID-19 vaccine mandate should be granted for hospital employees who had a sincere religious objection under Title VII.

On October 7, 2021, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Sixth Circuit in *Dahl v. Board of Trustees of Western Michigan University* held that student athletes were likely to succeed on their First Amendment claim that a university infringed on their right of free exercise of religion when it enforced a coronavirus vaccine mandate and ignored or denied requests for religious exemptions.

In July 2022, Liberty Counsel settled the nation's first classwide lawsuit for healthcare workers over a COVID vaccine mandate, for more than \$10.3 million. The class action settlement against NorthShore University HealthSystem was on behalf of more than 500 current and former healthcare workers who were unlawfully discriminated against and denied religious exemptions from the mandate.

There are many more recent court decisions throughout the nation that conclude again and again, first amendment rights cannot be revoked. In this particular case, you will find that mama bears like me will fiercely protect our children, minors that we are responsible for, and will not let their bodies be mandated against God's will.

Extra good news: if your children are vaccinated, and those vaccines work as well as "the science" says, then an unvaccinated child cannot get them sick. God bless!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 2:54:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brooke Ponce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. The right and responsible of a child always belong's in hand of the parents and no one else. No government or school will be making any decison of any one's child especially of their medical health.

A lot of vaccination uses parts for aborted fetus (human baby) in their development. Abortion is clearly against my religions. In accordance with God's words (The Holy Bile), 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, commands Christians to honor Go by caring for our bodies responsibly, for it is a temples of the Holy Spirt. Receiving any vaccine will voilate God's commannd to honor Him with our bodies because of the the involvement of fetal stem cell in any vaccination development. Sruptures from The Holy Bible, teaches the value of preborn life which is created in God's imagine from the moment of fertilization. As in Psalms 139:13-16 and Jeremiah 1:5, a developing deture in the womb was created by God and is life that deserves to be protected.

Therefore being FORCE to inject any vaccination against my will or my child's will would violate my family's deeply held beliefs about, first, honoring God in caring for our bodies, and second, advocating for the protection of preborn life as it is commanded in Proverbs 31:8-9, Jeremiah 22:3, and James 1:27. Eliminating religious exemption is clearly a violate of my First Amendement of the United States Constitution which protects my right to pratice my religion without government interference.

Removing religious exemptions from vaccines is a direct violation of religious freedom, a fundamental right protected by the First Amendment. The government does not have the authority to override deeply held religious beliefs, as the people we elect to govern are not God and should not dictate matters of faith. For many, receiving certain vaccines conflicts with their religious convictions, and forcing compliance disregards their moral and spiritual autonomy. Additionally, religious exemptions have long been a recognized and respected part of medical and legal traditions, ensuring that personal beliefs are not sacrificed for government mandates. While public health is important, it should not come at the expense of religious liberty, which is a cornerstone of American democracy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:00:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dylan Sheldon	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a tax paying citizen, a father, and from religious faith I strongly oppose this bill as do many others that I know. This is against the constitution of the US, discrimination, and a form of communism trying to override a family's beliefs. Josh Green is a puppet of Big Pharma in which we all know and I do not support this. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:01:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rene Connolly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimonial Against Removing Religious Exemptions for Vaccination

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to urge you to oppose any bill that seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccination. This issue is deeply personal to me, not only as a parent but as someone who has experienced firsthand the devastating effects that medical mandates can have on an individual's health and well-being.

As a child, I suffered a severe vaccine injury—an experience that altered the course of my life. While conventional medicine failed to provide solutions, I turned to my faith for healing. Through prayer, holistic care, and natural healing practices, I was able to reclaim my health. This experience solidified my unwavering trust in God's design and the body's innate ability to heal when properly supported.

Because of my experience, I made the informed decision to raise my children without vaccines. Today, I have two healthy, vibrant children—one in high school and one in second grade. Neither of them has ever required a sick visit to the doctor, and both excel academically, consistently earning straight A's. My family's story is living proof that health is not dependent on pharmaceutical interventions but rather on a holistic approach that honors the body, mind, and spirit.

Removing religious exemptions would force families like mine to choose between our deeply held beliefs and access to education. This is not only unconstitutional but also an assault on religious freedom, informed consent, and parental rights. The government has no place dictating medical decisions that should be left to families and their faith.

I urge you to stand for freedom, bodily autonomy, and religious liberty by voting against any bill that seeks to eliminate religious exemptions. No parent should be forced to violate their conscience or their faith to participate in society. Please do not allow fear and coercion to override the fundamental rights of American families.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Rene Connolly

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:03:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carla Antonio	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government overreach. It threatens our fundamental rights; our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our children.

This bill disrespects our personal choices. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one, especially the government, should have the power to force those risks on anyone.

Speaking from a medical professional standpoint, this bill completely goes against “patient rights.” It goes against informed consent. The right to give or withhold consent to treatment. The right to participate in decisions about my care and my children’s care. The right to refuse treatment.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects; neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is "acceptable" for someone else's child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences.

HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices.

These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop?

What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? My children are not the property of the state. Parents, not lawmakers, should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii.

Protect our rights, our freedom, and our children.

Vote NO on HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:03:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Parents should have the right to refuse these vaccines. The government should not be allowed to dictate our religious beliefs.

Furthermore this should not be a requirement we had the opportunity to refuse flu vaccines in the past without exemptions. We were allowed to choose what we would put in our bodies. Where now the government is mandating vaccines. That is unconstitutional.

The government should not have the power to allow or disallow us rights to our own bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:07:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nawai kela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose of this Bill. It's not a fair system to all the kids especially local ones to exclude them from school because of there medical status. Also since we get charged state taxes that fund our schools, why can't our kids be allowed to go?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:08:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The first amendment guarantees US citizens freedom of religion. By passing this bill you are directly violating that. I have 4 children, all born in Hawaii, that this would affect. After Covid and all the mandates and challenges to religious freedoms, I would hope that legislators would recognize religious freedom stands. The people do not want this. A recent survey conducted by the Anneburg Public Policy Center showed "support for [religious exemptions](#) to school vaccine requirements also doubled, from 20% in 2019 to 39% in 2025" (The Defender, Burdick Feb 3rd, 2025 Article "Public Support for Religious Exemptions Nearly Doubled Over Past 6 Years"). People are much more aware of what goes into vaccines after the heightened awareness gained from the COVID vaccine push. That is why I believe you are seeing an uptake in religious exemptions. People do not want this stuff in their bodies. I urge you to keep the law as is and do not mess with the First Amendment of the people.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:08:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kari Howell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good afternoon,

I am a constituent from Kailua, HI in opposition of HB1118.

Removing religious vaccine exemptions undermines fundamental religious liberties by setting a dangerous precedent where the government dictates which beliefs are valid and which are not. The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, including the right to make health decisions based on faith and conscience. For Christians, this often includes convictions about the sanctity of the body as a temple of God and opposition to morally objectionable vaccine ingredients. Denying these exemptions forces believers to violate their conscience or face exclusion from society, which is a direct attack on the core principle of religious freedom.

This isn't just about vaccines. It's about safeguarding the right to live according to deeply held convictions without government interference.

Thank you for your time,

Kari Howell

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:09:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kera Wong-Miyasato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I deeply oppose this bill. I utilized this exemption to complete my MBA during the pandemic, which allowed me to change my life for the better while still staying true to my faith. Others should have the same opportunity.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:17:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Hawaii, and taxpayer, I vehemently oppose HB1118 for the following reasons:

1. It is in direct contradiction to the Civil Rights Act title 7.
2. It is a right that my family and I had already exercised during the alleged emergency pandemic of 2020-2021. This bill would remove the last vestiges of freedom for future generations.
3. it is also contrary to the first amendment, right to exercise religious freedom and self determination.
4. It places an inordinate amount of power to a few people in the department of health and state government.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:20:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Siakov	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Health can be a very touchy subject especially as it pertains to vaccinations. Most people are interested in preserving their own health, the health of their families and friends, and the health of the nation as a whole. Unfortunately, sometimes people take their health concerns and push that their health decisions should be applied to everyone, disregarding human rights and dignities in their benevolent pursuit. This bill is just like that.

As we look back on the lock down, there were many things we learned. The thing most relevant to this conversation was that nobody could promise us safety from Covid 19. We had cases of adverse reactions and nobody could be promised that there would be no chance of the same happening to them or their beloved. All the while, people who did get the vaccine were still getting sick with the same thing which the vaccine was meant to protect them from.

If vaccines hurt some people and weren't effective for others, why would it be okay to prescribe this "treatment" to a whole population? Especially when so many people felt uncomfortable with such a thing.

Haven't we learned that putting something into someone else without their agreement is rape?

And before anyone dares to say that it was by choice, it wasn't. People had families to feed, and bills to pay. It's not a choice if you're going to go hungry or homeless if you say no.

Religious exemption is the only way that one can avoid this medical violation. Please oppose this bill while you still have the ability to stand up for freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:23:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

House Bill 1118 has sparked significant concerns regarding its potential infringement upon our constitutional rights, particularly the freedom of religion. The legislation proposes a considerable increase in government overreach by mandating vaccinations that, as of now, have not undergone exhaustive clinical testing to ensure their safety and efficacy. This raises ethical questions about the appropriateness of such mandates when the long-term effects of these vaccines remain uncertain.

Additionally, it is critical to consider the implications of Governor Green’s steadfast support for public vaccination initiatives. His unwavering commitment may prompt suspicions about the extent of influence exerted by pharmaceutical companies on governmental policy. This concern is further compounded by the possibility that the bill could lead to a repeal of religious exemptions, which would directly impact individuals who hold sincere beliefs against vaccination. Such actions could set a troubling precedent, undermining the foundational principle of religious freedom that is deeply embedded in our society.

As the debate surrounding House Bill 1118 intensifies, it is imperative to examine both the public health objectives and the fundamental rights at stake, ensuring that neither is compromised in the pursuit of the other.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:24:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama and Committee Members,

I strongly oppose HB1118.

Kind regards,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:27:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As an American Citizen of the United States of America, born and raised in Hawaii, I oppose bill HB1118.

This is in contradiction to our the Civil Rights Act title 7.

You can not take away our First Amendment rights to exercise religious freedom. The director of health should not have the power to decide what we put in our bodies. Not allowing our keiki to go to school for this is unlawful. Do not take away our rights for future generations.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:28:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liisa VanderHeyden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because United States of America was founded on the principle of freedom. By restricting people's religious freedoms is tyrannical. Amish communities have never vaccinated and have peacefully existed in America, so have those people who aren't Amish, who refuse to vaccinate. We are humans, not slaves, we can decide for ourselves if we deem it necessary to vaccinate ourselves or our children. Non-vaccinated kids and adults do not pose a risk to anyone, the only "risk" is that people like us do not submit to tyranny.

I only got couple of vaccines as a child, until my mother learned of the risks that vaccines can carry and her strenght in God got stronger. So I grew up learning that we must stand up for our health and nobody knows our health better than us, and not some doctor behind a desk. I did not vaccinate any of my 4 children and they are very smart, top of their classes and very healthy, they never get sick, nor do they have any allergies.

There are enough vaccine injured children in this country, no need to create even more. If someone wants to vaccinate their child, they have that freedom, and if not, they should also have that freedom.

Liisa VanderHeyden

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:28:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Margarita Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill & DO NOT support it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:31:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Nichols	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing this bill (HB1118) is crucial as it directly infringes upon the constitutional right to religious freedom by eliminating non-medical exemptions for vaccinations based on religious beliefs. This action not only violates our First Amendment's Free Exercise Clause but also sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal and familial health decisions. Parents should retain the right to make healthcare choices for their children according to their moral, ethical, or religious convictions, and this bill strips away that autonomy. Additionally, the bill could disproportionately impact children from religious backgrounds by potentially barring them from public education, leading to educational disparities. Not every family has the means or resources for private schooling or homeschooling, which might force children out of school, affecting their educational opportunities and future prospects. Moreover, the legislation represents an overreach of government authority, advocating for a one-size-fits-all approach to public health that fails to respect the diversity of beliefs and practices within our society. This goes against the principles of a pluralistic society where individual freedoms should be balanced with public health considerations. Hence, this bill, by removing non-medical exemptions, risks undermining both personal freedoms and equitable access to education.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:33:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong OPPOSITION of HB1118 . . . specifically removing religious exemptions for immunizations. I am a parent of students that have a religious exemption because it is my deeply held belief that medical decisions, including immunizations, should be a matter of personal faith and parental choice.

HB1118 infringes upon my constitutional right to religious freedom and forces my family to choose between our sincerely held beliefs and my children's access to public education.

Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment protects the right to exercise religion freely. By removing religious exemptions for immunizations, HB1118 directly violates this fundamental freedom. Many families, like mine, hold strong spiritual convictions regarding medical interventions, and this bill disregards those beliefs entirely.

Discriminatory and Unjust

This bill unfairly punishes religious families by restricting access to public education, which is a right for all children. Public schools are funded by all taxpayers, including those who hold religious objections to vaccines. It is unjust to force families into choosing between violating their faith or being excluded from the education system.

Parental Rights and Medical Choice

Parents are the primary decision-makers for their children's healthcare. HB1118 removes the ability for families to make informed medical choices based on their religious convictions. This overreach sets a dangerous precedent, allowing the government to override personal and religious autonomy in medical decisions.

Public Health Considerations Must Respect Individual Rights

While I understand the intent behind public health measures, any policy must respect individual rights, including religious liberty. Religious exemptions have been part of Hawaii's framework for years without causing public health crises, and there is no compelling reason to eliminate them now.

Conclusion

Forcing compliance with medical procedures against one's religious beliefs is unconstitutional and unethical. I strongly urge you to oppose HB1118 and protect religious freedoms for all families in Hawaii.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:33:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
piilani schneider	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Body autonomy is a human right. As long as the companies making vaccines and you, the politicians are mingling; you have no right to pass any law taking away our own right to choose for self and for our keiki! it's a disgrace and complete OBVIOUS crime against humanity!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:34:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Respectfully,

freedom to our sovereign body of ourselves and our children is a human right. If we are not able to maintain a freedom to choose how can we maintain a freedom to our bodies and those of our children if those rights are being rescinded. It should be the parents choice whether or not their child requires medical services and tte type of care. This bill intends to remove that freedom. We should go further to substantiate our medical freedoms not impede them. I strongly and vehemently oppose!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:35:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please do not mandate vaccinations, it is highly against the concept of bodily autonomy. Our society has existed for centuries without forced vaccinations, and has always allowed for religious exemptions.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:36:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Okumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a mother and a God-fearing woman, I strongly oppose this bill. Our children are the greatest gifts in our lives here on earth and it is our divine responsibility to nurture and raise them with guidance from Jesus Christ. He provides everything we need through nature, as we are made in His image. I am not against science, but I believe that injecting chemicals, human/animal DNA/cells, and metals into our children defies our faith. As Christians, we understand that others do not share our beliefs and do not discriminate against those who will vaccinate to feel protected. Yet, our children are in danger of being seen as a threat and rejected by the school system for their religious background. Religious Exemptions are our right as Christians and citizens of the United States of America. Our children's education should not be leveraged by choices made by the government. The government is not God. Please DO NOT pass this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read this testimony.

God bless you all! ~ Lindsey

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:36:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Nishida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I work in a medical office with an interventional cardiologist and we have seen numerous complications from the COVID-19 vaccination. Symptoms of widespread inflammation, severe brain fog, joint pain, shooting pain in the extremities and crippling fatigue just to name a few. On diagnostic testing, we have also seen signs of myocarditis and injury to the heart.

There is no blanket solution for a pandemic as each individual of different ethnic background, different genetics and different metabolic health which directly influences how someone reacts to a chemical being injected into their system. COVID-19 is the best example of that and VAERS has published much of their data, please keep in mind that this is REPORTED data and excludes all the incidences that weren't REPORTED.

We adamantly oppose this Bill as it has the potential to negatively affect health.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:41:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Mie Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this attempt to take away our God given rights as to what should be injected into our bodies. What happened to "my body, my choice?" Our bodies are a temple from God and it is our right to decide on this matter. The government should not be allowed to decide. Many many studies have shown the negative effects of vaccines and so it should not be forced upon our Keiki but should be an educated choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:42:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darci Frankel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE BILL 1118

I believe people should have the right to medical freedom. As we know, childhood illnesses help to build a strong immune system. In addition, there have been aborted fetus cells in some of the immunizations. This alone is a basis for religious exemption. Some of the shots havent even been tested fully. In 1986 there was a bill passed which makes the manufacturers not responsible for harmful effects of their shots. Until they have been tested fully and the manufacturers have culpability, I will oppose this bill.

This bill eliminates non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school entry, effectively removing the previous option for parents or guardians to opt out of required vaccinations based on religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:43:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118 relating to removal of non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

Our government is acting like a Pharma representative instead of protecting the safety of the public. Vaccines are not tested adequately as the public would demand if they were aware--vaccines do NOT undergo rigorous double blind studies with a true placebo for years like other drugs--some have been tested for only DAYS OR WEEKS. That is NOT rigorous science to protect and inform consumers.

Have you or your healthcare providers actually read the vaccine package inserts with the long lists of known adverse effects or read the licensing studies, which likely were performed by the very manufacturers themselves? Conflict of interest? They have harmed people of all ages and are liability-free for manufacturers and providers. Most vaccine providers and government officials don't bother to learn any of this and merely regurgitate the Pharma-friendly sales pitches of "safety" and "efficacy" by Pharma-captured agencies of CDC and FDA. Turn off your Pharma-funded TV programming, and view with skepticism your Pharma-funded medical journals.

The mRNA vaccine platform has introduced a new level of hazard to health and the revelations about SV40 being detected in COVID vaccines is especially alarming--we now have an explosion of "turbo cancer" among the COVID-vaccinated. Look up researcher Kevin McKernan and the scientists around the world who are corroborating his findings. Learn from the millions of vaccine-injured people around the world about how they learned the hard way to question vaccine safety and efficacy.

We need to investigate who in government and media has their fingers in the lucrative Pharma pie and hold them accountable for their roles in this travesty.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:45:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
shawna kahoopii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e,

I would like to strongly express my concern for this bill. This is unconstitutional! We have the right to worship how we choose and apart of that is having certain beliefs. And some of our beliefs involve what we put into our bodies and our children's bodies. The government does not and should not have a say in this. "For the greater good" is a slippery slope.

mahalo!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:47:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendell Ching	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill & do not support it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:48:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kara Zahl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a member of a religious group who believes in freedom around what we inject into our children's bodies, I strongly oppose this bill and feel that it goes against the very seeds of democracy which birthed our nation into being. Please allow the freedom for choice!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:49:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Why are we being forced to put things into our children's bodies because Government says so. More and more they want to overrule parents! We all have the choice and that should not be taken away. This is reaching and feels like a violation of the constitution. This smells like a money thing for the government and Big Pharma over the actual well being over our keiki. This I know to be a real spiritual battle because there are ABORTED fetal cells in vaccines. I do not believe in this , I do not support this and I will not be forced by government to inject my children w poison. Thankyou

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:49:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva Keusen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:51:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine Mann	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and citizen I am adamantly opposed to the removal of religious exemptions to vaccines in the state of Hawaii for our children. All people should have the right to choose what goes into their bodies, especially our children. While I'm not opposed to all vaccines, I am opposed to the vaccine schedule and the forced administration of vaccines with no adaptation for those that are already immunocompromised. Parents should have the right to choose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:53:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori kimata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Honorable Representatives,

I strongly oppose. As a physician i do understand both sides of the vaccine story. Unfortunately this bill clearly goes against people's constitutional rights of religious freedom. This bill will not encourage more vaccine usage, it will simply drive people out of the system more and force them to move to states that respect their religious freerdoms.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Dr. Lori Kimata

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:55:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessie Schieber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposing this bill because I feel we should have the freedom to choose if our child needs to have these immunizations. This almost feels like we are being forced as parents to just trust that what is being injected into our kids is safe or doesnt have any affects long term on my kids. Please reconsider and please do no let this bill pass.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:56:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as I believe in the freedom to practice my religion freely & to adhere to its teachings. As a Christian we believe that our bodies are a temple therefore we should have the right to exemptions when it comes to immunizations. I should have the freedom to choose not to put what I believe to be toxic chemicals in my body without having a liability imposed on me.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:56:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sacred Healing Arts, LLC	Sacred Healing Arts LLC	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:56:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Raelene Shimokawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is with strong objection to HB1118 that I implore you to vote against this. This bill takes away our rights as Americans - for freedom. Freedom, religious freedom, bodily choice, our decision over our own bodies & those we care & are responsible for. Our choice, as concerned & loving parents, to make an informed choice for our children's bodies (until they are able to make an informed decision on their own). Not all vaccines are 100% effective & without irreparable side effects. If vaccines were 100% safe & effective, we would be able to hold the pharmaceutical companies liable. However, these powerful drug companies incentivize many government officials & others to do their bidding & "force" more & more shots. When does it end? Please do a study on why autism has sky rocketed & our children are suffering. If we look back 50 years, the number of mentally challenged, behavioral problems, & unhealthy children were far & few. I'm not a scientist, but the simple fact is the number of shots "required" for children have increased by A LOT. I sincerely hope you hear the people of Hawaii's voices & concerns over this over reaching bill. Please do not take away our freedom - our choice. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:58:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kohos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This mandate has nothing to do with maintaining the health of our children. It is instead, an engrose infringement on our religious rights and our rights as US citizens. As a parent, it is my responsibility to ensure my children stay safe and healthy, through diet, vitamin supplementation and excersise. It is not the governments responsibility to force their beliefs on "we, the people". I have 2, very healthy, teenage boys that are exemplary students at their highschool. Neither have ever recieved any vaccinations, and have gotten through every "sick" season of their lives better than most. They rarely get sick, thanks to our healthy practices and the grace of God. If you feel removing them from school for the remainder of their duration will help their physical and mental health, you are creating a much larger problem. As for the small percentage of children who have medical reasons for being unable to be vaccinated, their parents must figure out which route is best for them. If 1 person out of every 100 in a population is severely allergic to dogs, the answer is not to remove dogs from every home. Instead, that 1% will need to be weary and live accordingly. I ask that you vote down this mandate and leave medical decisions in the hands of the families. I assure you, if this madate goes through, you will be forcebly removing thousands of healthy children from public schools around the state of Hawaii. This is not a decision that should be taken lightly.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 3:59:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelle Galarza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I am a parent of young children in Hawaii and it is essential that we have the freedom to exercise our religious beliefs and remain exempt from vaccines to attend schools in Hawaii. Many states in USA remain open to giving religious exemptions so why change Hawaii. I strongly oppose bill HB1118.

Sincerely, Chelle Galarza

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:00:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angel morales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha my name is Angel Morales and I as well as my ohana are against bill HB1118 being who is the governor to go against religion? Also if I remember correctly green was pushing hard for "my body my choice" which is such a hypocritical thing for him to do. Just because he's a ER dr don't mean anything, he is paid by big pharma and one big reason he is pushing it so hard, for a paycheck not well being of our keiki. Please don't take the rights from parents to please this sick individual who shouldn't be the governor of Hawai'i. Aole to taking away religious exempts from our keiki

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:00:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Gillard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as the State has no right to dictate to us what we put in our body. If a parent doesn't want to have the poison put in their child's body, it is their right to reject it. My kids never had a flu shot and was sick less than kids who were given that shot. Kids without the vaccinations are healthier than kids with vaccinations and have less issues.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:00:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
raeleen patricio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: Aloha Chair and Committee Members, I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government overreach. It threatens our fundamental rights; our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our children. This bill disrespects our personal choices. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one, especially the government, should have the power to force those risks on anyone. Speaking from a medical professional standpoint, this bill completely goes against "patient rights." It goes against informed consent. The right to give or withhold consent to treatment. The right to participate in decisions about my care and my children's care. The right to refuse treatment. Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects; neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is "acceptable" for someone else's child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences. HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate. This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? My children are not the property of the state. Parents, not lawmakers, should be the ones making these choices. I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our children. Vote NO on HB1118. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:00:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martin Dixon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is just another measure to impose the government's will on people and rule out anything that would prevent it. The government is not god. I wholeheartedly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:02:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shani Hough	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB 1118! This bill threatens our right to make our own medical decisions based on our beliefs. Hawaii needs to respect its local people in making their own personal choice regarding medical freedom...My Body, My Choice! Just like it was always & should be, freedom of choice!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:05:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Leitner	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose the bill trying to stop religious exemption of vaccinations as this is a violation of my rights!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:07:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Liu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Rep Gregg Takayama and the Committee on Health,

I am OPPOSED to HB1118. Parents have the right and responsibility to make medical and health decisions for their own children. No government or private institution should control or take away that right. The due process clause of the 14th Amendment of the Constitution protects the fundamental right of PARENTS to direct the care, upbringing and education of their children. Parents, NOT the government! God has entrusted the care, stewardship and well being of children to their parents. They are not property of the government and the government does not have the right to impose any law that takes authority away from parents should they choose not to immunize or inject their children's bodies with certain vaccines. HB1118 takes away that fundamental parental right, religious or otherwise, to opt out. That is evil and tyrannical.

Please abide by the Consitution of the United States and do what is right and pono for our children and vote NO on HB1118! Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jodi Liu

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:07:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alika Randazzo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118: Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

Aloha! Here are the links if you'd like to **read them for yourself**. I always **recommend doing your own research**—don't just take what you hear in videos as truth, including mine.

I believe in **holding those in office accountable**, and I hope you **hold me accountable** too. If any of this information is incorrect, please **send me links** so I can review them. My goal isn't "**my way or the highway**"—my goal is to **inform in a way that's easy to understand**, because I know so many parents are **working hard just to put food on the table** and may not have time to dig through these bills.

No matter where you stand on this issue, **your voice matters**. You have the right to **submit testimony** and make sure your perspective is heard.

Mahalo nui!

 **DA LINKS** 

[HI State Legislature Page for HB1118](#)

[View HB1118](#)

Summary of HB1118 (Companion to SB1437, but I still urge you to read it yourself)

Hearing Date: Friday at **8:45 AM**

Testimony Deadline: Tomorrow at **8:45 AM**

What This Bill Does

- **Removes religious exemptions** for school immunizations, meaning **only medical exemptions** will be allowed. (*Section 302A-1156*)
- Students who already have a **religious exemption for the 2024-2025 school year** can keep it, but **no new religious exemptions** will be granted after that. (*Section 302A-1156b*)

Why This Bill Is Being Proposed

- **Hawai‘i’s immunization rates have been declining.**
 - In the **2015-2016** school year, **2.5%** of students had non-medical exemptions.
 - By **2023-2024**, that number had **doubled to 5.3%** (*Page 2*).
 - Some schools now have exemption rates over **10%** (*Page 2*).
- Lawmakers argue that **high vaccination rates help protect kids who can’t get vaccinated for medical reasons** by creating **herd immunity** (*Page 1*).

Potential Concerns

- **Parental Rights:** Some believe parents should have the right to choose whether to vaccinate their children.
- **Religious Freedom:** Removing religious exemptions could limit personal freedoms.
- **Precedent:** Some worry this could set a precedent for more medical mandates.
- **Public Health:** Supporters argue this will help **reduce the spread of disease** and protect medically vulnerable students.

Key Questions to Consider

- Should the government remove religious vaccine exemptions for school kids?
- Should parents have the right to choose, or should public health take priority?
- Does this bill strike the right balance between **individual rights** and **community safety**?

◆ **This bill will be heard on Friday at 8:45 AM. Testimony must be submitted by tomorrow at 8:45 AM.**

My testimony

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next?**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child's body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children's health.

4. What's Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don't matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more families may be forced to leave Hawai'i**. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom**. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Alika Randazzo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:08:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noel Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please assure that religious exemptions to vaccines do not get repealed. Allow us the freedom to decide what we wish for our health.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:08:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Asam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions for school immunization requirements in Hawaii. While I recognize the importance of public health and immunization programs, I believe that eliminating these exemptions would infringe upon fundamental rights and personal freedoms that many families in Hawaii hold dear.

This bill unfairly restricts the ability of parents and guardians to make informed medical decisions for their children. Vaccination decisions should be made based on individual circumstances, religious beliefs, and personal convictions rather than being mandated by the state. The right to bodily autonomy and informed consent is a cornerstone of medical ethics, and this bill undermines those principles by coercing families into compliance under the threat of exclusion from educational institutions.

Additionally, the proposed law does not account for potential adverse reactions to vaccinations, which vary from child to child. Some families choose non-medical exemptions not out of negligence but due to deeply held concerns about the risks associated with certain vaccines. The current system allows for a balanced approach that respects both public health goals and personal choice. Removing non-medical exemptions will likely result in unintended consequences, such as families being forced to homeschool or leave the state to maintain their rights.

Furthermore, data presented in support of this bill does not necessarily indicate a public health crisis requiring such an extreme measure. While immunization rates may have fluctuated, there has not been evidence of widespread outbreaks in Hawaii that would justify eliminating a long-standing exemption. Instead of taking a one-size-fits-all approach, the legislature should consider policies that encourage voluntary immunization through education and outreach rather than coercion.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and to uphold the rights of Hawaii's families to make personal medical decisions for their children. Thank you for your time and consideration of this critical issue. I respectfully request a response outlining your position on this bill.

Sincerely,

Wayne Asam

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:11:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aprill Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not remove any religious rights and freedoms for any reason. Specifically in this case, you are forcing families to decide between going against their religious beliefs and getting an unwanted, unneeded and oftentimes unproven vaccine in order to attend a school that their (and my) tax dollars are helping to fund or educate their child in another way. It is up to each parent to decide based on their religious beliefs whether or not to get a certain vaccine for their children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:20:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Do NOT pass.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:20:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Chiam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill HB1118, which will remove religious exemptions for school vaccination requirements.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:22:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leane Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:24:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kuulei Kupihea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:26:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Kaneko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:26:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leia M Latronic	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is taking away our right to choose. My body my choice?? Or does that only pertain to abortions. This bill would be forcing parents to vaccinate their children just to get a education. When California passed this in their state many families moved or homeschooled. Vaccines are not safe for everybody, its not a one size fit all, and when there is a risk there must be a right to choose. Every single vaccine has side effects listed in the vaccine inserts and people do have bad reactions to them. We cant wait until a child gets injured by a vaccine until getting a medical exemption. I am sickened by the fact that our State would want to pass this bill when there is literally no benefits out of this. The only purpose of a vaccine is to weaken the virus to show little to no symptoms. Vaccines do not stop transmission! So the theory of herd immunity is exactly that, 'a theory'. If the state could not guarentee my childs well being after getting a vaccine then they should not be forcing this ultimatum onto the public. Religious exemptions are so important to protect our constitutional rights in this country. The right to choose what we put into our childrens body will be compromised if this bill passes.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:27:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dezha George	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the bill requiring vaccinations for school-aged children, as it undermines both religious freedom and parental choice. Parents should have the right to make medical decisions for their children based on personal beliefs and values. This bill disregards the importance of these freedoms and imposes a one-size-fits-all approach to healthcare, limiting the ability of families to make choices that align with their convictions. I find it very important to safeguard our rights as individuals and parents if we want to preserve a society that values and respects religion and freedom of choice.

As a homegrown Christian educator who has served the families and students of our community for 15 years, to be rejected to have the opportunity to send my child to the very place I have served and poured into because of personal conviction is heartbreaking. I've served through the COVID-19 pandemic, denying vaccinations which did not come without a cost, including relationships, weekly testing, and threats of potential job loss. If I would risk so much for myself, how much more would I risk as a mother?

While I hear the rationale behind protecting medically fragile children, many who I have also served and worked with, my hope is that we would be to find another alternative without stripping religious freedom and personal choice. Advocates of this bill and those who are opposing the bill are not against each, we are two sides of the same coin - both with the desire to protect our children. Let's find another way.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:32:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Haunani Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please reconsider removing my parental right by passing HB1118 - Removal of Religious Exemptions.

It is our God Given right to choose what's best for our children.

We believe in the Word of Wisdom. Introducing anything altering into our bodies is against what we believe.

Please don't take away our rights and strip us of our religious freedoms.

No. No. No to HB1118

Humbly,

Haunani K. Jones

Mother to 6 healthy children all of which are protected by a Religious Exemption

Please No.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:34:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Wyand	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious objections are part of our human rights.

This is not a well thought out bill . Our state legislators and Governor have already been issued a "cease and desist". It's morally wrong and unconstitutional. Why is the government trying to force people to get unnecessary and perhaps dangerous and deadly medical injections. I strongly oppose this bill. The governor can't control our religious beliefs. STOP!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:35:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I OPPOSE HB118, this is Unconstitutional, for the governor to try and force parents to ignore their Religious beliefs is unconscionable. You all took an Oath To Protect The Constitution of The United States of America, now Honor your Oath. Thank you.

Noela von Wiegandt

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:36:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candice Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to ****oppose HB1118****, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away ****important rights from parents and families****.

As a parent I have the right to decide what is best for my child! The government has no place dictating to me what should/shouldn't be done regarding my child!

This bill takes away our religious freedom, it violates our rights as parents!

If this bill passes, it sets a dangerous precedent. Today, the government says religious beliefs don't matter when it comes to vaccines. What will they take away next? People should always have the right to make informed decisions for their families.

Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly urge you to reject HB1118 and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:36:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it will violate my religious freedoms and cause serious ethical stress regarding my religious beliefs

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:37:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill and DO NOT SUPPORT. It's baffling that Josh Green thinks he is able to override my family's beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:38:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Kahihikolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kristin Kahihikolo from the Island of Lana'i and I vehemently oppose the passing of HB1118.

This letter is intened to challenge any and all vaccine requirements based on claims of Religious Exemption for Immunization Requirements as well as religious liberty as set forth in the state and federal laws.

On this basis,immunization requirements violate the right to freely excercise religion as guarenteed by the First Amendment of the Constitution of the United States. I assert that any discrimination will be interpreted as a civil rights violation as protected and guarenteed to U.S citizens and residnets by legislation and by the Constitution.

Requiring vaccines is a form of tyranny and does not allow for religious or bodily autonomy.

Please do not allow the freedoms of this great nation to be taken away from us.

Respectfully,

Kristin Kahihikolo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:38:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana BredeKapu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please note this submission as my opposition for this bill HB1118. Religious exemptions for vaccines should be allowed for all. This restriction would conflict with the first amendment in our constitution for the right to religious freedom. By no longer allowing religious exemptions for vaccines, this is essentially telling someone they no longer have their right to religious freedom. Parent should have the ability to chose what is best for their religion and child/family needs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:39:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Kaulukou	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Lisa Kaulukou and I am a parent and concerned citizen. I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for vaccines in Hawaii. While public health is important, this bill infringes upon **individual rights, parental choice, and inform consent--** fundamental principles that should be protected in any democratic society. Removing non-medical exemptions would force families to comply with vaccine mandates, regardless of their deeply, held **religious, philosophical, or personal beliefs.**

Additionally, Hawaii has historically upheld, **bodily autonomy and medical freedom**, and removing these exemptions may set a precedent for more government outreach in personal healthcare decisions. It is essential to respect diverse perspectives and ensure that individuals and families can make **informed decisions** without coercion.

I urge the committee to consider the concerns of constituents who values **medical choice, informed consent, and personal freedoms.** Please vote **NO** on HB 1118.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:40:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eleora Miller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118 it is discrimination and against the constitution. You are asking parents to poison their children by trying to force vaccinations. If you do the research the research proves how toxic these vaccines can be! And now you want to take religious rights away as well?! Shame on you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:41:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

A' ole!!!

I do not support this bill! Just More Gov't control and Overreach! Gov't is NEVER looking out for the peoples best interest and safety!!!

Gov't motto over the past 4 years: Do as I say not as I do.

Example: Covid Vax and Mask Wearing: mandated or else you could not shop, eat at a restaurant, visit loved ones, isolation, 6 feet apart, stop the spread of the virus, there would be no side affects, told the unvaccinated were bad and the problem.

All of which were proven FALSE!!!! Mental health declined and it was proven there were many life threatening adverse effects from the shot and boosters!!! Answer this question...How many kids and adults that didn't take the covid vaccine (unvaccinated) die from covid? And compare that to how many kids and adults that took the vaccine, died or got some side effect from it or a life long side effect.

1/36 children now have autism. Why? Could be the 70+ scheduled vaccines now, could be the food system is being poisoned (artificial and highly processed foods), could be climate change, could be the water, could be anything, but we as people should be able to question everything!!!

So what happened to "my body my choice."? You shouldn't even need an exemption or anything to say I don't need to take a shot. Backwards system. Who are you as a government to say what we as the people, who you work for, should be doing and not doing with our own life and free will?

Make vaccines available but NEVER mandated or forced!!! And if you want to make a bill, make a bill that requires every doctor that administers a vaccine to sign a liability form for every parent and child saying that they the doctor are responsible and will pay for all damages, side effects, and even death of a patient that was administered a vaccine.

I FULLY DO NOT SUPPORT THIS BILL!!! No one should. Freedom of Choice! That is real Democracy!

Thank you!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:43:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodie Van Cleave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is unconstitutional to take away our religious rights. The government is not a god. The government works for the PEOPLE. We already saw the results of forced vaccine during Covid. It will NOT happen again.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:46:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rina Chiam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am **STRONGLY** opposed to House Bill 1118. The government should not be allowed to force vaccinations on our children that directly go against our religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:46:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eva K Hubbard	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

It is appalling to see and hear that our Govenor is forcing people to Vaccinate! What is even more appalling is that parents no longer have the right to choose and decide for their own biological children what is their best interest but government is forcing themselves to decide for us and our children. What is saddest to see is local people leaving their generational home because they no longer trust the system nor trust the government. I thought I belived in a state with good values and ethics, a state with Aloha, too bad its changing. We lost some of that Aloha when it was removed from the airport tower and replaced with a name and it is rare to find Aloha in government leaders. We need to bring back the Law of the Aloha Spirit, Chapter 5 HRS!!! Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:50:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby Hosana	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/1HOwa0Z2XQ3QYhP34m2ThwFmKTXRtnuXnwGRZeXZR7To/edit>

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:51:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leycia Tabajunda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committees Involved,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. While I understand the importance of ensuring public health and safety, I believe this bill undermines the fundamental right of parents to make informed and voluntary decisions regarding the health and well-being of their children.

Vaccination is an important issue, but it is equally important to preserve the personal freedoms of parents to decide what is best for their children. Repealing the non-medical exemption would severely limit parental choice, disregarding individual circumstances, values, and beliefs, whether based on religious, philosophical, or personal grounds.

Parents should have the freedom to make informed decisions about whether to vaccinate their children, considering factors such as family history, potential risks, and their own moral or religious beliefs. Mandating vaccines without the option for non-medical exemptions infringes upon parental rights and individual freedoms, especially when there is no one-size-fits-all solution for health care. Every child’s needs, medical history, and potential risks differ, and the decision should remain in the hands of parents.

Furthermore, the proposed legislation overlooks the fact that many vaccines have risks and side effects, and not all children are able to tolerate them equally. There are parents who have deeply held religious or philosophical objections to certain vaccinations, and repealing this exemption would force them into a position where they are required to make a decision that goes against their beliefs.

While we all agree on the importance of public health, we must strike a balance that also respects personal autonomy and parental rights. Instead of eliminating the non-medical exemption, I encourage the committee to explore alternative approaches, such as improving access to education on vaccination and addressing misinformation, which would allow individuals to make informed decisions based on facts, rather than mandating a blanket policy.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and preserve the right of parents to make choices that they believe are in the best interest of their children. Parents should not be forced to choose between adhering to their values and ensuring that their children can attend school.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust you will take these points into account as you move forward in deliberating on this bill.

Sincerely,

Leycia Tabajunda

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:52:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Lono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **OPPOSE** bill **HB1118**. The Governor is out of his mind if he thinks forcing parents to vaccinate their child/children just to attend school. Whatever happened to having a choice? Sorry this is a **NO** for me!!!

My testimony 02/05/2025

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**. Besides the fact that the Covid 19 vaccine in particular has **many studies proving it's ineffectiveness** and it has **injured or killed many people is it pure poison and it keeps being pushed which is beyond evil?** I'm not against vaccines if they have been studied and proven, I'm against vaccines that are an experiment at the expense of innocent people!

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next?**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child's body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children's health.

4. What's Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don't matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more families may be forced to leave Hawai'i**. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom**. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Jennifer Neumann

Kaneohe, HI

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:56:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Montoya	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Families must have an option to attend school with a religious exemption. Many families will not vaccinate children for many reasons, but one being their faith. We believe that altering our children's micro biome and gut health is directly against our belief that we are made in the image of God, perfectly and according to his will. We also completely oppose abortion, and many vaccines contain aborted feral cells. Both reasons keep us from vaccinating our very healthy children whose immune system we keep healthy by other means, such as solid nutrition void of processed foods. My children deserve to go to school with other children and learn alongside peers.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 4:57:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Hirata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill that seeks to ban religious exemptions for vaccines, as it directly violates fundamental freedoms protected by the Constitution. The principle of conscience, my choice should not be selectively applied. If individuals have the right to make personal medical decisions in other areas of healthcare, they should also have the right to decide whether to receive a vaccine, especially when it conflicts with their deeply held religious beliefs. The government should not have the authority to mandate medical procedures for individuals who, based on their faith, have moral or ethical objections to certain vaccines.

Furthermore, this bill blatantly disregards the separation of church and state. The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion, meaning the government cannot force individuals to act in ways that contradict their faith. By removing religious exemptions, the state is effectively compelling people to violate their sincerely held religious convictions, a direct infringement on their constitutional rights. Many religious groups object to certain vaccines due to their development, testing, or ingredients, and forcing them to comply under threat of penalty is an unjust overreach of governmental power. This bill sets a dangerous precedent, allowing the government to dictate which religious beliefs are acceptable and which are not, undermining the very freedoms that define our nation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:00:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Molina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This bill takes away rights from parents who are trying to protect their children from unnecessary vaccines, the toxins within them, and any adverse effects they cause. As a nurse, I was forced to be vaccinated with the COVID 19 vaccine in order to remain in nursing school and become an RN, nonetheless, I still got covid twice and am now worried about the adverse effects that may affect me in the future from that vaccine that was forced on me.

Every one of my patients are allowed to decline any medical treatment a Healthcare provider suggests. That is the right of the patient. Why are vaccines treated differently? We should get to make the personal choice on what medical treatments and/or services we receive and should most definitely be able to say no to things we don't want in our body. Every single person is affected differently from treatments and should have a say in their own health. If vaccines are truly effective, why would someone who is vaccinated care or even be affected by someone who is not? The vaccinated person should be protected right? What we learned from the covid vaccine and flu vaccine is that they don't prevent you from getting the flu or covid so why should we be forced to put these in our children's bodies, along with everyone other vaccine and toxic ingredients they are made with? Everyone should have the right to choose, not be forced, and most definitely not judged for whatever they choose to do.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:02:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darrin W. Scott Jr.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Darrin W. Scott Jr., am opposed to infringing upon anyone's constitutional rights. I defended against this very issue while serving in the military. Having wronged us, the federal government is now offering reinstatement and full back pay for everyone who had to separate due to the vaccine mandate. What you are doing here is even worse; you are forcing vaccination on our children as well as anyone who wishes to pursue higher education.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:04:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xena Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious Exemption Testimony

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this letter to formally request opposition from the vaccine/medical treatment/mandate/etc BILL HB1118 due to my sincerely held religious beliefs.

As a devout follower of God, my faith guides every aspect of my life, including my decisions regarding health and medical treatments. My religious beliefs affirm that my body is a temple, and I am called to honor it in accordance with sacred teachings. Specifically,

- Genesis 1:27 “So God created human beings in his own image. In the image of God he created them; male and female he created them.”

Genesis 1:27 NLT

<https://bible.com/bible/116/gen.1.27.NLT>

- John 14:15 “If you love me, obey my commandments.”

John 14:15 NLT

<https://bible.com/bible/116/jhn.14.15.NLT>

- 1 Corinthians 3:16-17 “Don’t you realize that all of you together are the temple of God and that the Spirit of God lives in you?”

1 Corinthians 3:16 NLT

<https://bible.com/bible/116/1co.3.16.NLT>

“God will destroy anyone who destroys this temple. For God’s temple is holy, and you are that temple.”

1 Corinthians 3:17 NLT

<https://bible.com/bible/116/1co.3.17.NLT>

- Philippians 4:6 “Don’t worry about anything; instead, pray about everything. Tell God what you need, and thank him for all he has done.”

Philippians 4:6 NLT

<https://bible.com/bible/116/php.4.6.NLT>

emphasizes the importance of respecting the sanctity of life and bodily integrity. For this reason, I feel spiritually compelled to avoid any interventions that conflict with these principles.

I believe that my relationship with God is deeply personal, and I am guided by divine wisdom to make decisions that align with His will. Any decision that compromises my faith or religious convictions would not only burden my conscience but also contradict my spiritual duty.

I have prayed and reflected earnestly on this matter, seeking guidance from God, and I have come to the clear conviction that by removing the right to choose & receiving the vaccine/treatment/etc. would violate my and my families faith. Therefore, I respectfully request that my sincerely held religious beliefs be honored, and that this bill does not go through.

Thank you for your understanding and for respecting my right to practice my religion freely.

Sincerely,

Xena Santos

2/5/2025

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:06:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I believe it is my right as a human being, to decide if I want to inject a substance into my body. The government is NOT God. Stick to fixing our infrastructure and physical space that helps society flow smoothly. And use our taxpayer dollars for things that ACTUALLY matter. Pray to Jesus and your life will be saved. Do not be a spawn of evil please and thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:07:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari Grief	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a pediatric hospitalist here in Hawai‘i, and I am in strong support of this bill. Vaccinations are an extremely necessary part of preventative health for children, and have helped to eliminate some of the deadliest diseases like polio that used to plague our population. Non-medical exemptions have been on the rise, and have been putting the herd immunity of the community at risk as vaccine rates have begun to fall. This puts all children at risk, including those who are unable to be vaccinated due to their ongoing medical conditions. Please consider voting in favor to remove non-religious exemptions.

Mahalo,

Dr. Mari Grief

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:07:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James R Cabodol Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No government agency or government should have jurisdiction over my children for those reasons I strongly OPPOSE this BILL

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:11:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Verhoef	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

To the Chairs of the Health Committee-

I am a pediatric and adult ICU physician here in Hawaii. I care for patients when they become critically ill, for any reason. In addition, I have a PhD studying the immunology of infectious diseases, making me uniquely well-qualified to speak on the importance of immunizations. My interest in this is purely medical and scientific; I simply want what's best for the people of Hawaii.

At a fundamental level, non-medical exemptions to immunizations put the keiki of Hawaii at risk. As the number of people immunized for vaccine-preventable illnesses decreases, so too does the number of people who contract those infections increase. Our keiki are the most vulnerable... many are too young for immunizations. While an adult can argue "measles isn't so bad. I had chicken pox when I was younger and I turned out fine," our infants cannot make that argument. So if the number of people immunized against measles or chicken pox decreases, the number of people that contract these infections will increase; while they may recover, what happens when they visit their 9 month old niece and inadvertently infect her? Suddenly, she ends up in my ICU with an illness that could have been prevented if only her family members had elected to be immunized. These are patients I have cared for; it breaks the hearts of healthcare workers (doctors, nurses, pharmacists, respiratory therapists, dieticians, etc) to care for people who are sick with vaccine-preventable illnesses because we know that their illness was, in all likelihood, preventable.

The state should strive to limit barriers to immunizations that are not supported by medical and scientific research, in order to assure that as many people as possible receive immunizations. Doing so reflects a commitment to protecting our population (and especially our keiki) from unnecessary suffering.

Sincerely,

Philip A. Verhoef, MD, PhD, FAAP, FACP, ATSF

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:11:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!! IT IS UNCONSTITUTIONAL AND GOES AGAINST MY
1st AMMENDMENT RIGHTS!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:14:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shari saiki Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am completely against this bill, it is unconstitutional.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:14:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isabella Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose a bill that would remove non-medical religious exemptions to vaccinations. There are significant spiritual and religious concerns with injecting foreign substances which include aborted fetal matter and animal cells into our bodies. Many religious cultures prohibit the actions that go into the development of vaccines and we need to have the right to refuse and pursue alternative medicines.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:25:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Freedom of choice to make decision's that we deem right and best for ourselves. I am in opposition to this bill. I do not agree and am not for it. With proper education and information we should be free to make our own personal decisions for our bodies and our lives. Free from paternalistic expectations and decisions of the government.

Committee on Health
Gregg Takayama, Chair
Sue Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair
and Committee Members

Re: HB1118

Report Title: Immunizations; **Non-Medical Exemptions; Repeal**

Description: Repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Please note that I stand in **strong opposition** to the passing of this bill. I see this bill was requested by the governor, the purpose appears to override the rights of those parents, guardians etc. who choose not to have their children subjected to unwanted vaccines.

I am sorry, however the governor being an MD, does not mean he has all the answers. There are and have been physicians, research teams and projects who have had opposing views on many of these vaccines, many of whom have been censored! Why?

We the people have the right to all information provided by these resources and then we have the right to make the decision for ourselves and our children.

This bill reflects that whole section protecting those right have been eliminated.

Pg 3

lines 13 - 20 have been eliminated

line 21 (b) Any child attending school who had an approved 22 religious exemption from required immunizations for the 2024-

Pg 4

line 1 2025 school year shall be permitted to remain exempt while 2 continuing to attend school in Hawaii.

Again, what happens going forward? Will this religious exemption no longer be an option?

Pg 9 lines 6-15 ... appears that exemption (non-medical) will not long be an option, no longer allowed!

Based on this, I strongly ask that you **not** move this bill forward

Respectfully,
Rita Kama-Kimura

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:33:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reina Loughlin	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill. People should have autonomy over their own bodies and health as well as parents over their minor children's body and health. Parents are solely held responsible for providing necessary care for the whole well being of their children, therefore anything health related should be left to the discretion of the parent. Eliminating religious exemptions is disregarding and discriminating against some religions, walks of faith, and their practices. Students should NOT be forced to take vaccinations to attend PUBLIC school or ANY school. Public education should not deny any student from their education for their vaccination choices and status, and parents who pay for their child's private education should not be held to medical requirements in order for their student to receive education.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:34:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
susan bealor	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and believe it is the right of the individual to choose vaccines.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:39:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This goes against our constitutional right of our first amendment of freedom of religion. How was this bill even proposed? "Free Exercise Clause: Protects the free expression of faith for all Americans". This bill will directly affect this part of our first amendment. If we can't freely express our choice through our religion then what is the point of giving your religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:40:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha

i appreciate you all taking the time to hear my testimony. As a Native Hawaiian it is important for everyone who is a government official to remember where you are and the honor the space in which you inhabit. The land is our ancestors and embedded in the land is knowledge and wisdom contained in plant form and used as medicine. For many Hawaiians prior to missionaries inhabiting Hawaii, our religion consisted of connection to many Gods not just one and was deeply spiritual. The focus was on ola pono which was balance and harmony with self, others and land and spirit. With this balance the health and well-being of the people was healthy and balanced. For many of us Hawaiians the trauma that we have endured due to colonization and western settlers continues to perpetuate the imbalance in our health and bodies. Taking away our religious exemptions would affect the health and well being of many native Hawaiians and others who believe that well being is also connected to a spiritual aspect as well. I ask that you please remember where you are and know that the mana and spirit realm that is embedded in these islands should be a large focus of discussion for why taking away this exemption is not Pono and does not represent aloha for all why are deeply connected spiritually and believe in practices that don't include vaccinations. It should be a choice given just like how religion is a choice in Hawaii. So I highly oppose this bill and mahalo for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:42:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Misunas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:44:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emiko Baker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Currently, there are many adults and teen deaths associated with the injections, even though many of them are young and healthy. These injections have not proven that they are safe as they are still experimental.

On February 5, 2022. Dr. Reiner Fuellmich from Germany heads a team of 1100 attorneys and over and over 10,000 medical experts from around the world in a legal proceedings against WHO world representatives for crimes against humanity. These experts will also bring up evidences that these representatives are violating the Nuremberg Code.

We know many doctors and other experts are attempting to express their extreme concerns through many alternate social media of the dangers, the severe side effects and deaths of many people around the world. These experts are taking the information through those medias because they have faced that the controlled mainstream media will not report the truth to the general public.

I am against any injections that are being considered for these young children who don't have a voice and parents who are facing the governmental mandates (not laws). Parents are the final say in their child(ren)'s rights for health and their religious belief should be recognized under the Constitution.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution protects the freedom of religion through the Establishment Clause and the Free Exercise Clause. These clauses prohibit the government from establishing a national religion or interfering with a person's right to practice their religious beliefs.

I opposed the passing of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:45:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beckley Dye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am against removing religious vaccine exemptions from schools. This is between the individual and God. This is not the place of the government. Children with HIV can go to school and their are policies in place for them to be treated like every other student. Unvaccinated children deserve to be treated like any other child. They deserve the right to public education if they choose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:46:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE, HB1118. It is NOT up to the government, society, or even my peers to choose for me and my children what they simply believe is right for us. This bill, HB1118 is without consent and it takes away liberties.

Religion is not just something we believe in half heartedly and/or part time participation. Our faith is not so easy to relinquish nor is it dismissive. I believe there are ways to keep strong and healthy and natural ways to boost your immune system by feeding yourself the right foods. God created food and saw that it was good. He is the only one who truly has a say over my life as he is the one who gave me life. This bill, HB1118, is a direct attack on my religion and the right to healthy boundaries. However, I will not allow any boundaries to be crossed, especially not this bill HB1118.

In conclusion, I will not entrust the medical decisions of my life and the lives of my children to the decision and authority of one man, Josh Green. Nor can one say that their way is the only way. Jesus is the way, the truth and the life.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:47:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Dye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:47:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Scott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Honorable Committee Chair

Dear Representative Takayama,

I humbly ask that you oppose HB1118.

Though it may seem to put the public's best interests at heart, in fact, it could prove to be highly detrimental, dangerous, and discriminatory for the individual residents of our great state.

Detrimental because a blanket law such as this leaves no alternative for those patients whose care requires an alleviation from vaccines.

Dangerous because the governor appears to marginalize those who seek to maintain religious, spiritual or faith practice. Is this not part of the freedom for which we seek to honor? The freedom to choose medical practices for one's own body?

Finally, one can only wonder at the possible and probably discriminatory charges to be brought against the state, wasting taxpayer money and losing the trust of a large portion of the responsible citizens of our land.

I humbly ask you and the committee to consider carefully these ramifications. Please protect the right of those who have placed you in office and vote no on HB1118.

Mahalo nui,

Melissa Scott

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:47:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey Duquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose, what happened to my body my choice? It's up to the individual or the individuals parents/guardians whether they take anything into their bodies.

strongly oppose, really disappointed how this is even a bill. Hate how my tax dollars are working towards misrepresenting my values and morals. I can't wait for Election Day, I won't ever vote for the incumbents with these types of actions. Change is needed and this bill isn't the change I want or what the community needs. These bills is why the belief in local government is at an all time low.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:48:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mel crivello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! This goes against our constitutional rights! I believe we should be able to use our religious RIGHTS as everybody else with different beliefs!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:49:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magoon Ohana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

VERY STRONGLY OPPOSE!!!

RE: HB1118 & SB1437

I'm appalled at the idea that govt yet again wants to take away individual rights and freedoms having to do with our own bodies and those of our children's bodies and health.

There is mounting evidence that the covid and numerous other vaxes and medical interventions have caused immense harm or death to children. The information is out there if you choose to find it.

The vaccine schedule has ballooned over the years, pushed along by big pharmaceutical companies and their bottom line.

Our elected officials are representative employees of the people - NOT big pharma or corporations! Pharmaceutical companies were previously given liability protection. Are Gov. Green and any of our Hawaii govt. members ready to take on personal liability for any child that is harmed in any way after being pressured into getting vaccines they or their parents may not want. I'm guessing NOT! This harm may show up years down the road, due to the products in the vaccines. I understand that Dr.'s are given VERY little vaccine education in medical school, so obviously there is a lot more to learn about them, especially from parents of the thousands of injured or deceased children.

If individuals and parents, after having a FULL informed consent of the product, decide they do not want immunizations given for whatever reason, religious included, then that should be their decision. Govt should NOT dictate a medical decision for them.

PLEASE DO NOT REMOVE PARENT'S OR PEOPLE'S RIGHTS TO OPT OUT OF ANY OF THEIR CHILDREN'S or THEIR OWN VACCINES TO ATTEND SCHOOL ETC.

Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:50:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandi Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill. It is against my religion to vaccinate my children. God makes the rules for my children. If you take this away you strip my child and other children whose religion does not follow vaccination. You strip them of life. They're healthy. Please leave them alone.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:51:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekapala Dye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, I want all children regardless of vaccination status to be able to attend public institutions of all kinds...schools, libraries etc. I am OPPOSED to HB1118. Vote NO.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:52:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanara Casey Richmond	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118. Please respect our constitutional right to choose. "My body, my choice."

I live in HD42. Chanara Richmond

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:53:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rosemarie Vailisale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill.

Dear House Representatives Gregg Takayama and Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy,

I am writing to express my strong support for HB1118, a bill that seeks to remove the non-medical exemption for school entry immunization requirements in Hawai'i. This bill is a crucial step towards safeguarding the health and well-being of our children and the broader community.

Removing non-medical exemptions for school immunizations will help ensure high vaccination rates, which are essential for maintaining herd immunity and protecting those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. The ongoing opposition to this bill underscores the need for informed dialogue and policy decisions based on scientific evidence and public health principles.

The recent outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases in various parts of the country serve as a stark reminder of the importance of vaccination. By eliminating non-medical exemptions, we can help prevent such outbreaks and protect vulnerable populations, including infants, the elderly, and those with compromised immune systems.

I believe that HB1118 is a vital measure to uphold the health and safety of our school communities. I urge you to support this bill and help ensure that all children in Hawai'i have the best possible protection against preventable diseases.

As a community pediatric doctor who is dedicated to the well-being of children, I believe that HB1118 is a vital measure to uphold the health and safety of our school communities. I urge you to support this bill and help ensure that all children in Hawai'i have the best possible protection against preventable diseases.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

Arlene Parubrur Kiyohara, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:55:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camil Buentello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill because it takes away our rights as parents and human beings to decide what is right for our children and ourselves. There is NOT enough data from Vaccines to say they are effective and safe enough for everyone. You guys take no responsibility if something bad was to happen due to vaccine effects. There is a lot of mercury and aluminum in vaccines and shouldn't be required for everyone to take and you have no right to take away our rights as parents and religious and non medical exemptions. If something happens to our child due to vaccinations then you guys and the pharmaceutical company should take full 100% responsibility but that is not the case. Stop forcing parents to take poison that there is barely any research on for effectiveness! Just Because you think it's right. You have no business forcing vaccinations! You have no right to take away our choices as parents and people. If I don't want me or my child to get vaccinated then me and my child shouldn't have to get vaccinated just because the government says so! Unbelievable vaccines aren't all effective and not all vaccines are safe for every person! Do more research and don't take parents rights away and our right to make choices for our children and ourselves. Look at what happen to covid vaccine day it's safe then switch up and say it's not effective and haven't done that much research on it. I strongly OPPOSE DO NOT TAKE AWAY OUR RIGHTS TO BE FREE FROM VACCINATION MANDATES AND FORCING THE PEOPLE AGAINST THEIR WILL! It's not right!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:58:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Richardson Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Today I write in strong opposition to HB 1118. The removal of religious exemptions for vaccination is an abuse of power and a gross over reach that denies individuals the right to religious freedom. Individuals who believe the processes in which some medical procedures are researched, developed and implemented as immoral (due to the use of aborted fetal cells, animal testing, etc.) should continue to have the right to decline such procedures for themselves and their underage children. To force people to undergo such procedures against their beliefs will compromise thier mind, body, spirit connection and could likely lead to poorer health outcomes. These poor health outcomes could significantly cost our state, further decreasing productivity and economic activity.

Religious beliefs should be respected as is stated in the US constitution. The state should not coerce individuals to vaccinate themselves or their children nor impose punitive measures on those that choose not to.

Mahalo,

Samantha Gomes

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:58:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Elected Officials,

As a licensed Physician in the state of Hawaii, I am OPPOSED to religious exemptions for vaccination. Vote NO on HB1118.

In Health,

Dr. Anne Dericks

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:59:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
allison vincent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious exemptions allow families to make decisions about what is going into their children's bodies, and all taking them away is going to do is push people away from public schools. It's not going to make schools safer. If anything, it will likely increase incidents of vaccine injury, for which pharmaceutical companies are not liable. This is simply unfair to force one particular belief as a requirement for enrollment in schools, which are funded by all our taxpayer money. It feels persecution.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 5:59:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennis Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:00:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Jasso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I recognize the role vaccinations play in disease prevention, this bill undermines **fundamental parental rights and religious freedoms**.

1. Parental Choice Matters

Parents should have the right to make **informed medical decisions** for their children. For families with deeply held **religious or personal beliefs**, this bill forces them into an unfair choice: **compromising their faith or accessing education**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of American values. For families who decline vaccinations based on their faith, removing this exemption **infringes on their constitutional rights**. If this exemption is eliminated, **what other freedoms might be at risk next?**

3. Recognizing Individual Health Needs

Every child's medical situation is unique. While medical exemptions exist, they are **extremely difficult to obtain**, even for children with legitimate health concerns. Families should not have to fight for the right to make **personalized medical decisions** for their children.

4. Setting a Concerning Precedent

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent** by allowing the government to override religious and parental rights. Today, it's vaccines—**what restrictions might follow in the future?** The right to **make informed health choices** should always be preserved.

5. Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already faces challenges with **school attendance and affordability**. If children are excluded from school due to their families' religious beliefs, **more families may feel compelled to leave the state**, further straining local communities.

While public health is important, **it should not come at the cost of parental rights and religious liberty**. Families should not be penalized for making medical decisions that align with their faith and values. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and uphold the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,
Alyssa

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:00:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rona Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:01:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melodie Reyes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill HB1118. Parents need to have the right to decide whether or not to vaccinate their children. The religious exemption needs to stay an option for parents to choose what is right for their children. Each individual is unique and parents not governors know what is best for their children.

The governor needs to listen to the people of his community instead of pushing his agenda at whatever the cost. Frankly, the idea of this bill is tyrannical!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:01:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Myette	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing in opposition of HB1118 to repeal religious exemptions of vaccinations.

The US Supreme Court held in *Frazer v. Illinois Dept. of Security*, 489 US 829, that a religious belief is subject to protection even though no religious group espouses such beliefs or the fact that the religious group to which the individual professes to belong may not advocate or require such belief. This ruling is also reflected in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended Nov. 1, 1980; Part 1605.1- Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Religion.

I thank you for respectfully adhering to my first amendment rights guaranteed as a citizen of the United States of America by her great Constitution and reinforced on a state level by the fourteenth amendment without prejudice.

As a Catholic we believe that life begins at conception. You formed my inward parts; You knitted me together in my mother's womb." ([Psalm 139:13](#)).

Many vaccinations use fetal cells either in the development or creation of vaccine. For example: Vaccines with Aborted Fetal Tissue

Chickenpox/Varicella

- Varivax (Merck)

Chickenpox+MMR

- ProQuad (Merck)

COVID-19

- COV2-S (Janssen/Johnson & Johnson)
- AdCOVID (Altimune)
- AZD1222 (AstraZeneca)
- Ad5-nCoV (CanSino)
- ChAdOX1nCoV-19 (AstraZeneca)
- Gam-COVID-Vac (Gamaleya)
- hAd5 S-Fusion + NETSD (ImmunityBio)
- PittCoVacc (University of Pittsburgh)
- Sputnik V (Gamaleya)
- V591/TMV-083 (Institut Pasteur/Themis/Merck)
- VXA-CoV2-1 (Vaxart)

Hepatitis A

- Vaqta (Merck)
- Havrix (GSK)
- Twinrix–Hepatitis A+B (GSK)

Measles, Mumps, and Rubella (MMR)

- MMR II (Merck)

Polio

- Poliovax (Sanofi)
- Pentacel–Polio+DTaP+HiB (Sanofi)

Rabies

- Imovax (Sanofi)*

Shingles

- Zostavax (Merck).

I consider the body given from God a temple, to honor and not tamper with. It is especially important to honor that in my greatest gifts from God, my children. *“Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies.”* [1 Corinthians 6:19-20](#).

I've included scripture because these are our firm beliefs that i believe that the state does not have the right to violate. These words I follow as a Christian. Please consider honoring our constitutional rights.

Sincerely,

Valerie Myette (mother of two)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:04:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Kelway	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly object to this bill. Removing the religious exemption for child immunization is in direct conflict with my freedom of religion rights guaranteed to me under the first amendment of the United States Constitution. Immunization conflicts with my bona fide religious tenets and practices.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:07:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Soriano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello committee. I Strongly oppose this bill on mini basis. It takes away a parent right to decide what's best for their child. It takes away what we believe in as in a family as a religious beliefs.This could be the start of something unrecognizable as an American.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:11:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Matsumura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

it takes away our right to choose, if we want to or do not want to get vaccinated.

Dayna Matsumura

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:13:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heavenlee Crivello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is unconstitutional to take away our religious rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:13:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kate Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**.

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child’s body reacts the same way to vaccines. For example, there are genetic mutations that go undetected which make metabolizing adjuvants etc more slowly, if at all. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns such as these genetic mutations, which are only available out of pocket at significant expense to detect in a child's particular genome. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children’s health.

6. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai‘i already struggles with school attendance and a **high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more families will leave Hawai‘i**. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom**. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families. There are only six other states that have eliminated the right to religious exemption, one of which has overturned this in the past year in court. If aiming to educate parents on vaccines, the state could choose to offer the existing religious exemptions with mandatory educational class or videos, which is the case in other states. Let's remember as well that the recent measles outbreak in Hawaii occurred amongst fully vaccinated individuals which calls in to question both the efficacy as well as the aforementioned safety concerns, in addition to the egregious disregard of personal and religious freedoms.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Kate

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:15:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Pereira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I respectfully submit this statement of faith for a Constitutionally recognized and protected religious exemption against any mandatory injection/vaccine. Based on my understanding of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act and the First Amendment to the United States Constitution, and other federal and state laws, we choose to exercise our right to demand our right to a religious exemption for our children against any requirements regarding vaccinations. This demand for an exemption is based on my deeply held religious beliefs pursuant to my reliance on teachings in the Holy Bible.

The Bible very clearly states that the body is the Temple of the Holy Spirit. We are commanded to take good care of it, not to defile it, and certainly not introduce something into it that could potentially harm it (1 Corinthians 3:16-17, 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, 2 Corinthians 5:10, and 2 Corinthians 7:1). These vaccines (by the very disclosure of the vaccine manufacturers) contain carcinogens, neurotoxins, animal viruses, animal blood, allergens, and heavy metals. I do not believe it would be right for me to introduce these substances into my body or the body of my children because they have not sufficiently been proven to me to be safe and effective. Rather, I believe they may be harmful to my body.

Additionally, the Constitution grants and protects every American citizen the God-given right to make our own medical decisions. The Declaration of Independence recognizes rights are God-given. God commands me to glorify Him with my body — and not give it to the government. First, the Ninth Amendment states, “The enumeration in the Constitution, of certain rights, shall not be construed to deny or disparage others retained by the people.” The Constitution does not grant the power or authority to the federal government to compel private citizens take medical treatments — especially not as a category. Therefore, I reserve this right.

Second, federal laws protects my choosing to disclose private medical decisions (Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act). Numerous legal and financial penalties exist for entities violating this law. Mandating vaccination as a condition of employment and or school acceptance implies I disclose medical information and is a violation of federal law for discrimination.

Taking away our right to a religious exemption is, to me, contrary to Biblical teachings, my faith in Jesus Christ, the specific powers granted the federal government, and existing federal law. It is unlawful to segregate people according to their skin color. It is unlawful to compel Jews to eat pork. It is also unlawful to compel personal medical decisions of citizens. My religious beliefs are sincere. Legally, I cannot be required to prove that a church or religious leader agrees with my sincere religious beliefs, or my interpretation of Scripture, or my instruction from the Holy Spirit. My beliefs are my own, and they are sincerely and deeply held.

Therefore I strongly OPPOSE HB1118

Shawna Pereira

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:16:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heleena Oliveira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. This is the United States of America where we have FREEDOM!!
How can anyone tell us what to do with our bodies?

dis allowing the FREEDOM to CHOOSE whether we want to vaccinate or not should not even
be on the table.

that is communism

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:18:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Chiam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is often taken for granted that our bodies have an incredible ability to protect and heal itself from diseases, sicknesses, injuries, etc... Thanks to the introduction of sanitation and clean water, our immune systems have been given the ultimate opportunity to thrive with the support of eating healthy food. Our immune systems are so complex that not even the surface has been scratched at understanding it as a whole.

In my religion as a Christian, I believe that God has designed our bodies perfectly. I also believe that we are not supposed to know everything about how it all works. That is called faith. Based on my faith in God and the body He has given me, I believe vaccinations are a defiance against God and his design. I see vaccinations as hedging bets against our immune systems that can do the job of protecting our bodies as God designed it. What I am NOT against is therapeutics and pain relievers that provide relief while the immune system heals a body.

I am a law abiding citizen and faithfully pay my taxes to the city and state on time. **My children should not be denied an education because our religious faith does not align with the views of politicians or doctors.** While our current government is so proudly pushing diversity in all other life aspects, religious discrimination is the most egregious. While other religious individuals may believe in vaccines, my faith and beliefs are specific to me and my family, not a decision of a religion or church. Our nation was built on a foundation of religion and should always be remembered and respected as such. Diversity has always been engrained in Hawaii's culture but If we are pushing diversity as an ideology it must include all aspects of life, not cherry picked. Especially in the case of vaccines where they are proven to NOT be 100% safe and effective.

My children do not have any allergies, auto-immune dysfunctions, or behavioral issues. They get sick but recover very quickly because we feed them a quality, healthy diet.

Please allow the religious exemptions to remain in place.

Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:19:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Garcia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I lost my cousin my helper of 22 years , five of my customers from covid vaccine's died from the covid vaccines . My children will never take another vaccine. People are dying suddenly or getting rapped cancer . Vaers government web site to file vaccine adverse reactions or deaths after 1.3 million affected my the covid vaccine I stop going onto the website. My children will not be going to school if vaccines are forced upon people . Even my grandchildren will not be taking any vaccines it dangerous. I want you to do your research on the Amish people no vaccines at birth and they do not have health issues like we do . I oppose this bill of children being forced to take any vaccine

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:20:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liam Wilmott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:21:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenneth Cho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:21:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:21:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makana Fronda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:21:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anapuni Coleman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:22:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Maeva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:22:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monique Perreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE OPPOSE! This is UNCONSTITUTIONAL! I stongly urge you to NOT pass this bill. No explanation needed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:22:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wade Terlep	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:23:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Mueller	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:23:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noah Campbell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this movement

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:24:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kapukonakona Bagood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:25:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jonovan Tuinei	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:25:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Mendiola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Keoni Mendiola, Strongly Oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:27:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donton Meinel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:27:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kekoa Bruhn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:28:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Collin Mansanas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:28:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Philhower	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel this bill violates my constitutional rights and I should be able to decide for myself what vaccine/ drugs are put into my body.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:29:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Lyman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because we should have the **RIGHT** to make our own decisions for our selves and family. This is a violation of our rights. Why are you trying to control our lives and our bodies. This is wrong to humanity and those who are trying to support this bill **KNOWS THAT**. You are all in it for monetary profit and not for the benefit of the people of Hawaii that you are supposed to represent. If you are for the people then **LISTEN** to the people. **THIS IS WRONG**. Side effects to immunizations are **HARMFUL** and often times non reversible. This is not the way that God made us. He made us perfect in his image. I will not support this bill. **I OPPOSE BILL HB1118!**

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:30:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Kahumoku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:31:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronny De Reis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:31:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Penner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I know my voice doesn't matter. I testified with over 700 other people in opposition to HAR 11-157 in 2018 and saw the rule changed despite only 12 testimonies in support. You will do what you want as our betters - I am under no illusion otherwise.

Just know that when you make rules forcing people to choose ALL vaccines or NO vaccines (like Hawaii religious exemptions currently do) you will radicalize the people that only opposed one or two.

When you remove people's voices by changing a rule to bypass the legislature every time you want to add a vaccine to the schedule (like you did in 2018 with HAR 11-157) you radicalize those of us who thought you were our representatives, who thought if we spent enough time explaining our concerns you could see the issue without bias.

When you ban people from travel and entering certain public spaces when they refuse to be vaccinated with an experimental product that does not create sterilizing immunity - they begin to question why you are making the decisions you do.

When you decide that only one *type* of "immunity" is acceptable and recovering from an illness or showing a titer test no longer qualifies as sufficient, it starts to feel like your basing your decisions on factors that are more ideological than scientific.

Your decision to pass this bill would not change a single mind in regard to vaccines, it would only isolate and radicalize a growing number of your constituents who are tired of being coerced, gaslit, and ultimately steamrolled.

It will only force more parents to opt out of public education.

It will undoubtedly add immense pressure to doctors from desperate parents (mostly the poorest) seeking medical exemptions because their feelings on basic bodily autonomy / conscience objection no longer matters - but cannot afford alternative education. This will of course lead to the persecution of doctors who are too "loose" with the amount of medical exemptions they give out (always wanting to follow in California's footsteps unfortunately).

It will only feed the growing discontent of the many of us who felt abandoned long ago to look at all of the other (even otherwise potentially valuable to us) work you do with suspicion and disdain.

That will be the cost.

Don't be ignorant to this reality.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:31:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DANIEL ORTIZ	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:33:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Lia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates my right to bodily autonomy and my right to freedom of religion. I do not consent.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:33:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick trani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:34:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
zachary matsunaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strongly oppose!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:34:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:36:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:36:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
anthony padilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose hb1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:36:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Chew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this measure.

Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:37:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Enriquez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:38:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Walter Walker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:39:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bernice Jarra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill HB1118. As a parent we should have the right to choose whether to vaccinate my child or not. We have the right / freedom to practice our Constitution. Also, removing religious exemptions could limit personal freedoms. This bill does not respect religious beliefs. Don't we live in America? The land of the free?!

Parents who choose not to have their children vaccinated are supported through verses in the Bible. It is up to parents to care for their children's welfare, according to 1 Timothy 5:8. Parents have every right legally and by religious beliefs to make decisions on behalf of their children, and not the state.

I humbly ask and pray please remove this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:41:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelsey Beck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:41:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nayeva Pajot-Gendron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

i Nayeva Pajot-Gendron Oppose HB1118 on behalf of the children of hawaii, we know that these vaccines cause more harm then good and it is unconstitutional to force parents to poison their children in the name of safety.

If i fed my children the ingredients that are in these vaccines you would say i am poisoning my child, so what gives you the right to force me to inject my children with such poisons?!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:42:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:42:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

It is unconstitutional to take away our religious constitutional rights!! Vaccines are made with fetal cells especially aborted ones! There are numerous Vaccine injured and vaccine deaths.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:42:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kona Makaula	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:42:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cole B Kashimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:43:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathan Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. I urge the committee to vote this bill down. Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:43:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sierra Revilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:45:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Conan K Donahue	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:46:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill as it violates the First Amendment rights The People are guaranteed. This is blatant overreach by the Governor for the citizens of Hawaii!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:47:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Villamil	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This is unconstitutional. Please honor your oath.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:48:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hunter Mako Morton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:48:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Jaworski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I wanted to submit testimony in favor of HB1118. As a mother of school aged children I would like to know my children are as safe as possible, especially after seeing the devastation of what happened in Samoa with a small drop in vaccine rates. On social media mom groups the topic of finding doctors who do not vaccinate and schools that accept "religious exemptions" and how to go about getting "religious" exception are posted about almost daily, leading to what feels like a lot of people are forgoing vaccination and seemingly falsely claiming religious reasons.

With the possible selection of RFK Jr. the federal government doesn't seem to be trying to protect our keiki. I appreciate the state of Hawaii still looking out for the best of its citizens.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Christine Jaworski

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:50:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:50:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blair Nahale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:50:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Mustoe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this. I do not consent for this bill it be passed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:52:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Sarkissian Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:53:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Spencer Christian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for multiple reasons/

1. Religious Freedom: The bill infringes on the constitutional right to religious freedom by forcing families to choose between their deeply held beliefs and public education. Religious exemptions have historically protected diverse beliefs, and removing them sets a concerning precedent.

2. Public Funding and Parental Rights: Public schools are funded by taxpayers, including those who oppose mandatory vaccinations on religious or philosophical grounds. It is unjust to exclude their children from education based on compliance with policies that conflict with their beliefs.

3. Lack of Evidence for Increased Risk: While the bill cites rising exemption rates from 2015 to 2024, it does not provide evidence of corresponding outbreaks or heightened public health risks during this period. This suggests that the increase in exemptions has not significantly compromised herd immunity or increased disease prevalence.

4. National Trends: Other states like West Virginia and Mississippi have recently reinstated religious exemptions, reflecting growing public support for such policies. Hawaii's proposal would make it an outlier, disregarding this broader cultural shift.

5. Potential Conflict of Interest: It is worth noting that Governor Josh Green, a key proponent of this legislation, has received campaign donations from pharmaceutical companies, including vaccine manufacturers such as Pfizer. This raises concerns about potential conflicts of interest and whether the bill prioritizes public health or aligns with corporate interests. Transparency and impartiality are essential when crafting policies that impact constitutional rights and public trust.

Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:54:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TiaLynn Coryell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill for we choose how and what goes into our children's body!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:55:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Trani IV	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

IN STRONG OPPOSITION OF HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:58:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly disagree with Bill HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:58:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Paling IV	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:58:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kale Ornellas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very strong opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 6:59:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

In strong opposition of hb1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:00:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dennyse Therese Baja	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:01:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolas Plauche	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, This bill can not be passed. The state does not have a right to dictate what goes in my children's bodies. My children all 4 of them will not participate with any mandated vaccinations and will be removed from school immediately for home schooling if this bill passes. Many people are very angry with Josh Green and his dictator type behavior. Unacceptable to even attempt to push this kind of agenda. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:02:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faifaiese Emosi Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:02:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Ruiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:03:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ric Kodama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:04:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheryl Cole	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 which seeks to remove my Constitutional Rights and Religious Freedoms as an American citizen to decline vaccinations I do not wish to put in my body! I am not against vaccinations that have been proven effective over many years; however, people should have a right to invoke their religious freedom and be able to decline the vaccination for their children and themselves should they see fit!! Our United States Constitutional Rights alone gives us the right to decline putting anything in our bodies we don't agree with or just plain don't want, especially vaccines that have not been studied, tested, etc., and have not been proven effective with no or very low risk of adverse reactions. I will decide what goes in my body not the Government!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:05:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dustin Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:05:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:05:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ahtooanya jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Ahtooanya Jones

do strongly oppose this bill, on the premise that we as Americans as humans and parents of public school keiki have been god given the right to make up our own minds about what to or what not to put in our babies bodies.

mahalo for your time

Ahtooanya Jones

aloha

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:07:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keone Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:07:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyler Yuu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:07:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Miyashiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:08:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is Government over reach. Why is no one talking about separation of Government and Religion. Sounds like a it's time for people to challenge the constitutional rights against the State in the federal courts if this passes.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:09:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bunnie Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:09:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Patton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this draconian proposal to repeal religious exemptions for vaccinations. Horrified that it would even be on the table. We live in a free country and we have a RIGHT to bodily autonomy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:10:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mike Harrington	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:10:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Autumn Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We, Seth and Autumn Parker, as the parents of Liam, Emma and Zoey, are asking you to vote NO to House Bill 1118 and protect our rights under the US constitution to receive Religious Exemption from vaccination due to our genuine and sincere beliefs which are contrary to the practices which are herein required.

The US Supreme Court held in *Frazee V. Illinois Dept. of Security*, 489 US 829, that a religious belief is subject to protection even though no religious group espouses such beliefs or the fact that the religious group to which the individual professes to belong may not advocate or require such belief. This ruling is also reflected in Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 as amended Nov. 1, 1980; Part 1605.1- Guidelines on Discrimination Because of Religion.

The following are ways in which these violations manifest themselves in the vaccinations recommended by the Center for Disease Control.

The use of cells, cellular debris, protein, and DNA from willfully aborted human children found in Adenovirus, Polio, DTaP/Polio/HiB Combo, Hep A, Hep A/Hep B Combo, MMR, MMRV Pro Quad, Rabies, Varicella, and the Shingles vaccines violate the very basic commands found in Exodus 20:13 and Deuteronomy 5:15 which instructs us to not murder. The following ingredients were derived from no fewer than 107 human souls who were sacrificed for social reasons and then used in past and ongoing vaccine research: PER C6, HEK293, WI-38 (RA 27/3), WI-1, WI-2, WI-3, WI-4, WI-5, WI-6, WI-7, WI-8, WI-9, WI-10, WI-11, WI-12, WI-13, WI-14, WI-15, WI-16, WI-17, WI-18, WI-19, WI-20, WI-21, WI-22, WI-23, WI-24, WI-25, WI-26, WI-27, WI-38, WI-44, and MCR-5 plus many other ingredients obtained from human children not required to be listed by FDA guidelines. Supporting vaccinations and vaccination developments is an endorsement of the sacrifice of those and the continuing sacrifice of other human souls.

Genesis 4:1, 17 and Jeremiah 1:5 demonstrate that the deceased children used in the aforementioned vaccinations were recognized by God as human souls from the point of conception in the same way that we, as parents, recognized our child as a human from the moment we were aware of his/her presence in his/her mother's wombs.

Genesis 1:27 - 28, 4:1, 2 Kings 17:17-18, Psalm 22:10-11, 106: 35, 37-38, 113:7-9, 127:3, 139:13-16, Amos 1:13, Matthew 18:1-4, and Matthew 19:13-15 are just a few verses that illustrate the aforementioned children as blessings from God that are valued and loved by him, their Creator, in whose image they were created and that their killing is condemned and causes God's destructive anger to burn against their murderers and those complicit in those murders.

Exodus 20:13, Leviticus 18:21 & 20:2-5, Deuteronomy 5:13, 12:30-32, 18:10, 2 Kings 16:3, and Psalm 106:38 illustrate that all child sacrifice is condemned with no exception clauses allowing for the greater good or public exception clauses found anywhere in the sacred scriptures.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 10:31 remind us that we are to regard our bodies as temples of God's Holy Spirit and that we are to honor God, our Creator and possessor of our very bodies by not defiling them. Notwithstanding the presence of socially sacrificed human cells and debris in vaccinations, we firmly believe that the presence of neurotoxins, hazardous substances, attenuated viruses, animal cells, foreign DNA, albumin from human blood, carcinogens, and chemical wastes is in strict violation of our imperative to treat our bodies as holy temples of the very Spirit of God.

Genesis 9:4, Leviticus 17:10-11, 17:14, Deuteronomy 12:23, Acts 15:20 and 29 informs us that blood represents the life force of human and animal species and that human blood was to be kept pure under all circumstances and free from contaminants such as animal cells, parts, and blood.

We thank you that you will continue to respectfully adhere to our first amendment rights guaranteed as citizens of the United States of America by her great Constitution and reinforced on a state level by the fourteenth amendment without prejudice. Please we urge you to vote NO on House Bill 1118 and any other bill targeted at stripping away our religious freedom and our God given right as parents to choose what gets injected into their perfect bodies.

Thank you for your time,

Seth & Autumn Parker

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:11:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madhava Shakti Moe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! We as mother and father of our daughters and sons should have the right and freedom to decide what goes into their bodies. This bill should NOT be allowed!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:11:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seth Holck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:13:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shavanna-Britney Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose House Bill 1118. It is a clear violation of Title 7 of the US Constitution. And the Governor is pursuing this as a part of his own personal agenda. It is clear that Green is in support of vaccines, especially the ones he makes a profit from. There are public records and proof of his monetary profit from pharmaceutical companies. I think it is in the best interest of the House and Senate to take that into account when looking to pass this legislature that Green has introduced. If he really cared for the people of Hawaii, he would allow us the free will to make our own decisions. Especially as a Doctor whom swore an oath, to care for people and not let his personal bias get in the way of ANY decisions that patients make.

Again, I oppose HB1118. And if this legislature does make it pass the house you all will have a plethora of lawsuits in violation of the Constitution's Title 7. We are ready to take legal action if and when you chose to make that violation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:17:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcia M. Nagao, MD, MPH	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support repealing the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:20:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Seen Morimoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In Strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:21:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lyndsay Coughenour	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You will not mandate any vaccine for my children!! This is more crimes against humanity while Governor Greed makes more #Pfizer money. I will pull my child out of school or move out of Hawai'i if this were to pass. Stay away from our children!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:21:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Wurst	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a resident of Hawaii, I am writing to oppose HB1118, a bill looking to get rid of religious exemptions to vaccines.

The **Fourth Amendment**, which protects against unreasonable searches and seizures, has been applied to bodily integrity, meaning that non-consensual medical procedures can be seen as unconstitutional intrusions. Additionally, the **Fourteenth Amendment's Due Process Clause** protects personal liberty and privacy, which courts have interpreted to include the right to make decisions about one's own body and medical care.

Key Supreme Court cases have clarified these constitutional protections. For example, in *Rochin v. California* (1952), the Court ruled that forcibly pumping a suspect's stomach to obtain evidence violated the Due Process Clause. In *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health* (1990), the Court recognized a competent person's constitutional right to refuse medical treatment.

Additionally, the idea that the state of Hawaii would trample the religious and individual freedom of parents and children to make medical decisions, like vaccines, is appalling. Vaccine manufactures have immunity from the US government for their vaccine products. Therefore, mandating these products when they have a shield from lawsuits places no restrictions on the pharmaceutical companies. When the Covid-19 vaccine was mandated there was a major uptick in adverse events. VAERS receives around **30,000 to 50,000 reports per year** for all vaccines combined. However, with the rollout of COVID-19 vaccines, the system experienced an unprecedented surge, with over **1.7 million reports** related to COVID-19 vaccines by mid-2021. Who is responsible for the injuries these people have received? With the Pharmaceutical companies immune, it has become the role of the Federal government to discern who is really injured. If the government mandates vaccines, tracks vaccines and then does the payouts for injuries it doesn't protect individual liberty regarding medical decisions. The government is then not in the role of protecting vulnerable people (those who become injured) but in silencing those who speak out against possible harm.

One of the adjuvants used in vaccines is aluminum. Aluminum is a heavy metal that when injected can be expelled from the body. However, when injected has the potential to accumulate in the body. When a child is given over 75 vaccines before the age of 5 years old, thats a lot of aluminum that can have detrimental health effects that need to be studied more extensively.

Finally, vaccine science has relied heavily on the use of fetal tissue cells from aborted fetuses. The **fetal fibroblast cells used to grow vaccine viruses** were first obtained from elective termination of two pregnancies in the early 1960s. These same fetal cells obtained from the early 1960s have continued to grow in the laboratory and are used to make vaccines today. Even if fetal cells aren't in the final vaccines given today, they have been used to develop vaccines past and present. Many pro-life Americans do not support this practice and should not be forced to use a medical product that has used aborted material for development. This goes against the consciences of Hawaii residents.

I hope the legislature will sincerely rethink this bill and vote NO on HB1118 to ensure the residents of Hawaii keep their bodily autonomy and freedom intact. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:22:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samantha Duhaylonsod	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I'm a family Nurse Practitioner with medical opinions on immunizations, however as a practitioner it is also equally important to provide cultural and religious sensitive care. If certain belief systems oppose medical interventions it should not be a decision the state denies. We honor various medical religious exemptions such as no blood transfusions for Jehovah Witness, regardless if medically benefiting the patient. It is our duty to provide informed care, but we should never force patients or shame families to treat against their beliefs. Schools are not in more danger by denying this exemption. If the current students are already vaccinated, then the idea is they are considered safe and immune. I understand there are immunocompromised individuals, however we also screen for sick kids frequently in school and have isolation precautions in place. If this is a decision a family wants to take based on their belief that should be left up to them.

mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:24:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Laranio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose. As a mother of very healthy children with strong immunity because they haven't received vaccines because of our God given right. Please strongly oppose this bill and any bill like it.

mahalo nui loa!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:24:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Falaniko Vitale	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

In Strong opposition of HB1118!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:25:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meghan Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not allowing exemptions for school vaccinations especially for religious reasons, or any reason, violates children's and parents rights. This is Unconstitutional. No one, no government has the authority to deny children and parents their Constitutional rights. Bill HB1118 is illegal.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:26:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Decker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this Bill.

Thank You!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:27:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanna Pareja	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the esteemed members of the committee,

I write this before you today to express my firm opposition to the bill currently under consideration. As a parent, I hold a profound belief in the fundamental rights of mothers and fathers to make informed decisions regarding what enters the bodies of our children. This responsibility is not merely a privilege; it is an essential aspect of our roles as guardians and nurturers.

The autonomy of parents to choose the best path for their children is rooted in both our ethical and cultural values. Each family possesses unique beliefs, traditions, and practices that shape our understanding of health and well-being. It is imperative that we honor this diversity by allowing parents the freedom to decide what is best for their children without undue interference from the state.

Moreover, I urge you to consider the importance of religious exemptions. For many, these beliefs are not just personal convictions; they are deeply held principles that guide our lives and decisions. To deny parents the ability to opt out based on their religious beliefs is to infringe upon our constitutional rights. It is essential that we protect the sanctity of these beliefs, allowing families to raise their children in accordance with their values and faith.

In conclusion, I implore you to recognize the vital role that parental rights play in the upbringing of our children. I strongly oppose being forced to do something that is in direct opposition of my value system. Let us not support a bill that undermines these freedoms, but rather, let us affirm our commitment to empowering families to make choices that reflect their values, beliefs, and aspirations for the future. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely

Leanna Pareja

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:28:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KRYSTAL TELEAAI	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly believe that we the people should have the right to make the decision to vaccinate our children or not. This is discrimination and unconstitutional and a violation of religious freedom. So I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:28:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Chinen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Thank you for serving our state. I strongly oppose HB1118. I believe in our rights to choose what we want to put in our bodies, just as pro-choice activists lobby for their right to make decisions for their body. I don't vaccinate my children and I would like to have the freedom to choose this option. I have also heard and seen awful side effects, even death, from the COVID vaccine. Please do not pass this bill. Please protect our right to choose what we want to do with our bodies. Thank you again for your time and service to our state.

Blessings,

Erin Chinen

Kaneohe home owner, mother, teacher, pastor's wife

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:30:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose House Bill 1118 which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations. This bill is an attack on our constitutional rights, violating religious freedom, bodily autonomy, and informed consent.

The First Amendment guarantees religious freedom. Removing exemptions forces individuals to choose between their faith and government mandates—an unconstitutional overreach. Medical decisions should be voluntary and based on informed consent, as supported by international human rights agreements.

Is there a profit to be made from this mandate? Hidden agendas often lurk behind policies presented as being for the public good. Pharmaceutical companies stand to gain billions from forced compliance, and lobbying efforts have long influenced legislative decisions. If this bill is truly about health and safety, why are religious freedoms—rather than corporate interests—being sacrificed?

If this bill passes, what freedoms will be next? It sets a precedent for the government to dictate personal health choices under the guise of public safety, eroding individual rights. Are we prepared to accept a future where the government determines what is injected into our bodies, regardless of personal beliefs?

Many faith-based communities oppose certain vaccine ingredients. Denying religious exemptions disregards their beliefs and discriminates against people of faith. For centuries, religious freedom has been a cornerstone of American identity—this bill threatens to unravel that foundation.

History has shown us that government overreach rarely stops at one restriction. If we allow religious exemptions to be removed now, what other fundamental rights will be eroded in the name of public interest? Consider past instances where freedoms have been stripped away with dangerous consequences:

- **The Patriot Act (2001)** – Initially intended to combat terrorism, it expanded government surveillance, infringing on personal privacy rights.
- **Forced Sterilization Programs** – In the 20th century, some governments mandated sterilization of certain populations under the pretense of public welfare, violating bodily autonomy. Notable examples include:

- **China** – Reports indicate forced sterilization has been used as part of population control policies, particularly affecting ethnic minorities like the Uyghurs.
- **India (1975-1977)** – During Prime Minister Indira Gandhi’s Emergency rule, a mass sterilization campaign targeted mostly poor and lower-caste individuals, often through coercion.
- **Religious Persecution in Totalitarian Regimes** – History has shown that when religious freedoms are restricted, broader human rights violations often follow, as seen in oppressive regimes that have suppressed religious practices and dissent.

By ignoring religious exemptions today, we risk normalizing government control over deeply personal decisions, opening the door for further erosions of liberty.

Lawmakers must reject this bill and uphold religious freedom. The right to make faith-based medical decisions is fundamental. Stand against this attack on our rights and protect the freedoms that define our nation. If we allow this infringement today, what liberties will be stripped from us tomorrow?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:32:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This bill is tyrannical.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:32:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jared thornton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:33:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blake Soares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:34:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
manndi kawasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this! This is a complete over step onto the rights of everyone. Vaccination is not a one size fits all. The past few years has proven that. Everyone has the right to choose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:35:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Brede	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please note this submission as my opposition for this bill HB1118. Religious exemptions for vaccines should be allowed for all. This restriction would conflict with the first amendment in our constitution for the right to religious freedom. By no longer allowing religious exemptions for vaccines, this is essentially telling someone they no longer have their right to religious freedom. Parents should have the ability to choose what is best for their religion and child. It is their body and it should be their choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:38:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:39:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Hobbs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please do NOT pass this legislation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:39:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaeo Neal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:39:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Papapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb1118. This govenor is over stepping his boundaries! Freedom of choice!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:42:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deidre Wibberley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill until the day that vaccines are safe and no longer immune from liability when they cause adverse reactions. Nothing is a one-size-fits-all for everyone. Parents must be able to make these decisions themselves while honoring their religious and spiritual beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:43:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Pecana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB1118. We as humans have rights to our own bodies and should be able to choose how we would like to care for and what we put into our own bodies. We have the right to choose!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:43:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryant Antonio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:44:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tyman Hayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:45:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eric Cluett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Any state laws restricting religious exemptions to school-mandated vaccines are in violation of parents' First Amendment rights and will end of in federal court. This will never pass as long as citizens are aware.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:47:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Hendricks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No. No. No.

Each family should decide what vaccinations they give their children along with guidance from their physician. In the end, it is the family's choice.

Religious exemptions SHOULD continued to be allowed.

No. No. No. I oppose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:48:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clarice Villamil	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because it is unconstitutional. Please honor your oath to the constitution.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:49:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Troy Maruoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118!!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:49:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Parents are the only ones with the right to decide what vaccines their children should have. Each adult has the God given right to decide what vaccines they and their children should take. The government does not have the right to make those decisions for us. This is another example of overstepping of government bounds. You do not get to decide what is right for us.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:49:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Navarro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to OPPOSE HB1118 repealing the religious exemption for school vaccination requirements. I am a mom of two school-aged children, one currently attending a charter school and one currently homeschooled. We've also attended our local public school previously. I love that we have various educational options here in Hawaii, whether public, private, charter, or homeschool. However, if this bill is passed, we will no longer have access to all educational options due to our religious convictions against vaccination. This bill is in opposition to our US Constitution-protected first amendment right to free exercise of religion and would be a travesty of religious oppression in what is supposed to be a free nation. While I understand the desire to increase vaccination rates among school children, removing a constitutionally protected right to religious freedom is not the way to do it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:54:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James Nakamura	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118. This proposed legislation raises significant concerns regarding individual rights and freedoms, particularly in relation to vaccination mandates and the elimination of religious exemptions.

Forcing individuals to receive a vaccine against their will is not only unconstitutional but also undermines personal autonomy. Additionally, making vaccinations mandatory for students to attend public schools constitutes discrimination against those who hold differing beliefs.

The people of Hawaii value their rights and freedoms, and we do not support measures that infringe upon them. I urge you to reconsider this bill and uphold the principles of choice and respect for individual beliefs.

Thank you for your attention to this important matter.

Sincerely,

James Nakamura

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:56:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacy Jame	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

Thank you in advance for reviewing my testimony. In May 2022, our private school partnered with Hawaii Pacific Health to bring a "vaccination bus" onto campus. Most of our son's friends received the first booster, mandated by the school for all athletes. The children were never shown the ingredients contained in the injections or explained the risks associated with taking these experimental shots.

After that booster in May, one of our son's classmates suffered a sudden major brain aneurysm - he was a healthy kid with no prior medical issues. Luckily, he survived.

That same week, after receiving the booster, another classmate experienced debilitating medical issues, so much so that he missed the last month of the school year and was confined to his bed at home. He was also a very healthy kid who spent most of his childhood playing baseball, he worked so hard that he actually made the competitive high school team, which is very difficult to accomplish.

Sadly, one month after the booster, his parents found him dead one morning in June 2022. After all the dedication to baseball, years and years of practice, this poor kid died before ever wearing his new baseball jersey.

This concerned mom has 3 questions: 1) Why do Hawaii's politicians want to continue maiming and murdering children? 2) When will Hawaii schools be held accountable for their actions? 3) When will Pacific Health be accountable for their actions?

Thank you again for taking the time to consider my testimony.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:56:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

****Protecting Personal Religious Convictions****

We believe it's essential to preserve the freedom to follow our personal religious convictions, guided by our faith and values. We should have the right to practice our faith without government interference, including mandates that contradict our deeply held beliefs.

Specifically, we believe that we have the right to follow our religious conviction that God created a perfect immune system.

Any alteration to our bodies, including immunization, should not be forced upon us if it goes against our trust in God's creation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:58:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawna Landford	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSING STRONGLY BILL HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:58:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamar Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:59:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Larry Duclayan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 1118 (HB1118) Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

Aloha,

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunizations in Hawaii. My objection is based on several fundamental concerns:

1. [Violation of Personal Freedom:](#)
 - o This bill infringes upon the individual's right to make personal health decisions, a cornerstone of our liberty. By removing non-medical exemptions, we are compelling individuals to undergo medical procedures against their will or beliefs.
2. [Religious Liberty:](#)
 - o Many in our community hold religious beliefs that are incompatible with vaccinations due to the use of certain ingredients or philosophical teachings. Eliminating religious exemptions undermines the First Amendment rights of these individuals.
3. [Philosophical and Ethical Considerations:](#)
 - o There are valid philosophical objections to mandatory vaccinations, such as concerns over informed consent, bodily autonomy, and the long-term effects of vaccines. These should be respected, not dismissed.
4. [Parental Rights:](#)
 - o Parents should have the authority to make health decisions for their children, especially when it involves non-medical considerations. This bill overrides parental rights in a manner that I find deeply troubling.
5. [Informed Consent:](#)
 - o Medical ethics dictate that individuals should give informed consent to any medical procedure. By removing non-medical exemptions, we're essentially negating this right for those with genuine concerns or objections.
6. [Government Overreach:](#)
 - o This legislation represents an overreach by the government into personal health decisions. The role of the state should not extend to dictating medical choices without compelling public health necessity.

7. Risk of [Public Distrust](#):
 - Forcing vaccinations without exemptions could lead to a significant backlash, increasing distrust in health officials and government, potentially lowering overall vaccination rates as people resist or avoid compliance.
8. [Individual Health Diversity](#):
 - A one-size-fits-all approach does not account for the diverse health needs and conditions of our population. While medical exemptions remain, the removal of non-medical ones suggests a lack of nuanced understanding of individual health.
9. [Potential Legal Challenges](#):
 - This bill is likely to face constitutional challenges based on freedom of religion, equal protection, and privacy rights, leading to legal uncertainty and costs.
10. [Cultural Insensitivity](#):
 - Hawaii's cultural mosaic includes practices that might not align with mandatory vaccinations. Respecting these cultural differences is crucial for community harmony.
11. [Educational Impact](#):
 - The removal of exemptions could lead to an increase in homeschooling, affecting public education funding and the social development of children.
12. [Ethical Coercion](#):
 - Mandating vaccinations without offering a choice raises ethical questions about coercion versus persuasion in public health policy.

In conclusion, while I understand the intent behind ensuring public health, HB1118 does so at the cost of personal freedoms, religious convictions, and ethical considerations. I urge the committee to reconsider this bill or at least amend it to maintain non-medical exemptions, thereby balancing public health goals with individual rights and community values.

Mahalo for your consideration,

Larry Duclayan

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 7:59:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Queen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school-aged children in Hawaii. While I understand the importance of public health and the role of vaccinations in preventing disease outbreaks, I have concerns regarding the removal of non-medical exemptions as this infringes upon we, the peoples, fundamental religious freedoms and parental rights.

1. Infringement on Personal and Religious Beliefs

The repeal of non-medical exemptions may infringe upon individual rights, particularly for those whose personal or religious beliefs conflict with immunization practices. It is essential to respect and uphold the diverse beliefs of Hawaii’s residents, ensuring that policies do not force individuals to act against their deeply held convictions.

2. Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freely exercise one’s religion. For many individuals and families, vaccine requirements conflict with deeply held religious beliefs. By removing religious exemptions, this bill forces individuals to choose between their faith and compliance with government mandates, setting a dangerous precedent for religious liberty in Hawaii.

3. Importance of Informed Consent

Medical decisions, including immunizations, should be made with informed consent. Parents and guardians have the right to make healthcare decisions for their children based on comprehensive information and personal circumstances. Removing non-medical exemptions may undermine this principle by mandating medical interventions without accommodating individual choice.

3. Government Overreach in Personal Medical Decisions

Medical decisions should be made by individuals and families in consultation with their healthcare providers—not dictated by the state. The removal of religious exemptions represents an overreach of government authority, stripping parents of their right to make informed medical choices for their children based on their values and beliefs.

4. Discrimination Against Religious Minorities

Religious exemptions exist to protect individuals whose beliefs differ from mainstream medical practices. Removing these exemptions disproportionately impacts religious minorities, effectively discriminating against them by denying them access to education and public services unless they violate their convictions.

5. No Justification for Removing Religious Rights

There is no compelling evidence that removing religious exemptions significantly improves public health. Vaccination rates in Hawaii remain high, and outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases are rare. Instead of coercive policies, the state should focus on education and outreach to encourage voluntary vaccination rather than infringing on constitutional rights.

While the intent of HB1118 to protect public health is commendable, it is crucial to balance this objective with respect for individual rights and freedoms. I urge the legislature to consider alternative approaches that promote immunization through education and outreach, rather than by eliminating non-medical exemptions.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,

Shannon Queen

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:00:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As Christians with religious objections to vaccines, we share the goals of promoting good health for our children and families, spiritually, emotionally, and physically. With these goals in mind, in good conscience we cannot agree to have the state mandate vaccinating our children. We are united against religious discrimination which goes against our sincerely held beliefs and constitutional right of our first amendment of freedom of religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:00:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Myers	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB1118.

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Joshua Duhaylonsod**, and I am submitting testimony in **strong opposition** to **HB1118**, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school immunization requirements in Hawaii.

1. HB1118 Violates the First Amendment's Protection of Religious Freedom

The **First Amendment** of the **United States Constitution** explicitly protects the **free exercise of religion**. The Supreme Court has repeatedly affirmed that individuals **cannot be forced to violate their religious beliefs**, especially when it comes to deeply held convictions about medical interventions, including vaccinations.

By eliminating religious exemptions for immunization, **HB1118 directly infringes upon this fundamental right**. If a parent or guardian's religious beliefs prohibit vaccinations, the State cannot override this belief without a compelling government interest that cannot be achieved by **less restrictive means**.

2. HB1118 Discriminates Against Religious Beliefs

HB1118 would **grandfather in existing religious exemptions from the 2024-2025 school year**, yet **deny the same right to future families with identical religious convictions**. This is **blatant religious discrimination**—treating individuals differently based solely on when they exercised their religious rights. The **Fourteenth Amendment's Equal Protection Clause** prohibits the government from enforcing laws that **unfairly discriminate against certain groups**.

If religious exemptions were valid before, they must remain valid for **all** who hold these beliefs—not just those who applied before an arbitrary cutoff date.

3. HB1118 Sets a Dangerous Precedent for Government Overreach

If the State can strip away religious exemptions for vaccinations, what stops it from overriding **other** religious practices in the future? This bill is a **slippery slope** toward broader government interference in **how individuals practice their faith**.

Hawaii has long been a place of **diverse cultures and religious freedoms**. Passing HB1118 sends a dangerous message that **the government has the power to override religious convictions whenever it deems convenient**.

Conclusion

I **strongly urge** the committee to **reject HB1118** as it is a **clear violation of religious freedom and constitutional rights**. The State of Hawaii must not set a precedent that **disrespects religious convictions and undermines fundamental civil liberties**.

I respectfully request that this committee **uphold religious freedom** by preserving religious exemptions for immunization requirements.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Joshua Duhaylonsod
808.782.3602

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:01:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ethel Caramonte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Religious beliefs should be kept separate from the government. The government should not be able to force vaccinations and impose their beliefs and erase the beliefs of others to promote their agenda. We're going down a slippery slope with this bill and allowing a dictatorship. Have we not learned anything from the Nazi regime and other countries that do not give their citizens a choice. I should not have to allow my government to make medical decisions on my children's health. Other scientific evidence proves herd immunity can be attained without using vaccines. Also, parents who decide that they must vaccinate their children should already be "protected" from other children who aren't vaccinated. This bill does not hold the manufacturers of these vaccines liable, which is concerning and alarming. There is also a possibility that parents may be unaware of medical conditions that their children may have and forcing vaccinations which may cause injury without being able to hold anyone accountable is outrageous. Nothing is free in this world and the fact that you are forcing insurance companies to pay for this program is ridiculous. We the people will be forced to pay higher premiums. Most folks are unable to pay for these high prices every month already. This bill also doesn't have a cap on how much the insurance companies are forced to contribute which means our premiums will keep going higher and higher with no end in sight and no one regulating or auditing where all the money will go to. All vaccines come with a pamphlet stating that there are risks. With any risk, we should be given a choice to decide if that choice is worth taking when no one can be held accountable for any injuries that may come with the vaccines. This bill is being pushed through by the governor and we have to remember that not all doctors make the correct decisions all the time for their patients. When we feel that our doctors are not giving the best medical advice what do we do, we go get a second opinion which we have a right to do so. If this bill passes, soon enough, we won't have any choices at all regarding our health or our children's health. Please do not pass this bill and do the right thing by honoring the 1st amendment and respecting the free exercise of religious beliefs and the freedom to allow all citizens to make vaccination decisions on their own.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:01:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shannon Mako	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

I will keep my testimony short, because we all know this is a direct violation of our constitutional rights to freely practice our religion. Do not sit on our elected council and claim to represent the marginalized when the opportunity to further exile us is up for discussion. The democrats are supposed to be the party of the underdogs, the voice for the voiceless. But all this is is a push for money and control by a bunch of spineless minions to the almighty Green Goblin of Oz. You pass this bill and I expect you to come to my children's school and tell them to their face why they can't be somewhere they love anymore. Where they are healthy and thriving and working toward making this state a better place in the future generations. Because we are being religiously persecuted and that is not their cross to bear. Make HAWAII HAWAII again and show us that you're worthy of representing our wonderful island state. And PLEASE, Never forget, you work for US.

You are required to vote in the direction of our voices and we are telling you: kill this bill immediately.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:02:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cris Gibbons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are living in a fastly evolving culture as traditional values and ideologies are being re-defined. Many people, for quite a long time, have been expressing deep and valid concerns about vaccines and the increase of new vaccines introduced into the new generations' vaccine schedule. Childhood illnesses are on the uptick and many have suffered tragically at the hands of insufficient medical studies. Many, such as myself, adhere to religious beliefs that affect what we choose for our family's health. Although we may represent a small percentage of the population, we still matter and deserve respect and our constitutional freedoms should remain in-tact. We pay taxes, we are good citizens, we elected you to represent the public and you would be doing a severe injustice to the Constitution of our founding fathers should you decide to take away our right to exercise our religious freedoms. It is time that all of the elected officials, that the people have chosen, do what is right and protect us from a dictatorship government and forced ideals that are far from the America our founding fathers fought hard to create; a free nation in which people, all people, are able to choose what goes into our bodies and our children's bodies. I am in opposition to this unconstitutional bill (HB 1118) and ask that it is revoked.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:02:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kiele Lehel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill due to the simple fact that it is unconstitutional. I think the efforts and energy of the state are better spent tackling other more pressing issues such as homelessness and quality education for our keiki rather than trying to take away our individual bodily autonomy and ability to practice our sincerely held religious beliefs in the way we see fit. I think this bill will do more harm than good and it would surely cost the state more money fighting lawsuits and push back. I urge you to vote in opposition and continue to uphold the constitutional rights we are ensured as American citizens. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:03:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradle Lindsey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to Hawaii HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions as a means to refuse vaccination among our youth in public schools. While I understand the importance of vaccinations in maintaining public health, I believe this bill infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms.

Religious exemptions are a critical aspect of respecting individual beliefs and values. For many families, these exemptions are a reflection of deeply held convictions that should not be dismissed or undermined. Public schools serve a diverse population, and it is essential to honor and accommodate the varied beliefs that make up our community.

Removing religious exemptions may also create distrust and resentment towards public health initiatives. It is important to build trust and encourage voluntary compliance rather than **dictating** actions that conflict with personal beliefs. A collaborative approach that includes education and dialogue is more effective in promoting vaccination while respecting individual rights.

I urge you to consider the importance of religious freedoms and the potential negative impact of this bill on our community. **Don't be a Dictator.** Please vote against Hawaii HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:05:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrienne Sellona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill. This is taking away the freedom of families in practicing their own faith. This is taking away the rights and the freedoms from parents choosing what they feel is best for their families. You are forcing your own beliefs and rights on to others which is not right. There has been a rise in cases of ADHD and other symptoms that our children are labeled with after giving them so many immunizations.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:05:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jay Amina III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:09:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Kong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yet another abuse of power in the form of negating body autonomy and sovereignty of the individual to make informed and educated decisions for ourselves AND OUR CHILDREN. The shameful display by government officials between 2020 and 2022 should guide citizens going forward. Religious exemptions should REMAIN. STOP GOVERNMENT OVERREACH

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:09:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle Balmores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

I am writing you in opposition of this bill. Passing this bill will take away a parents right to follow religious or personal beliefs regarding immunizations for their families. We as parents have a right to protect our keiki from things that go against our beliefs whether religious or personal. Our keiki have the right to participate in public school, sports, and extra curricular activities whether vaccinated or not and being able to use a non medical exemption allows this. By passing this bill, you are taking so many freedoms from a huge part of our community and that is very wrong! **DO NOT PASS THIS BILL.**

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:11:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle E. Sagun-Apilado	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This bill is unconstitutional. Parents should decide whether to vaccinate their child or not based on their religion/faith.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:12:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stazandra Dudoit-Cuello	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It should be our right to determine if our children will be getting these vaccines based off of our religion beliefs, and still be able to attend school, this should not be forced upon the government to vaccinate our kids.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:17:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it violates my right to decide what goes into my body. My body my choice!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:17:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shana Cabunoc	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill HB1118, or SB1437 (Which is not accepting Testimonies). I believe this is against our constitutional rights. As a parent I believe our Keiki have the right to attend school without having to get vaccinated if you choose not to do so based on religious beliefs or any other reason.

thank you!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:18:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anastacia Thomas	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Date: 02/05/2025

To: Committee on Health

Subject: Opposition to Bill HB1118 on Mandatory Vaccination Requirements for Public School Attendance

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which seeks to require all children in Hawai'i to be vaccinated in order to attend any public school, effectively eliminating religious exemptions and repealing non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements.

While I understand and respect the importance of protecting public health, I firmly believe that parents should have the right to make informed decisions about their children's health care, including the choice to refuse vaccinations based on religious beliefs or personal convictions. Requiring all children to be vaccinated, with no consideration for individual or family circumstances, infringes on fundamental parental rights. It is essential that parents, not the state, maintain control over decisions about their children's health and bodies, especially when it comes to something as personal as vaccination.

By removing the ability to opt-out of vaccinations for religious or personal reasons, this bill would limit the freedom of families to make choices that align with their beliefs. The government's role should be to support families, not to impose policies that infringe upon their constitutional rights. For many, vaccines can be a deeply personal issue intertwined with religious beliefs, and those beliefs must be respected, just as any other form of religious expression is respected under the law.

Furthermore, non-medical exemptions allow for flexibility in cases where parents may have valid concerns or beliefs that don't align with the prevailing medical or public health stance. Repealing these exemptions could create an environment of division and fear, as families are forced to choose between complying with a policy they morally object to or facing the potential of exclusion from education.

I urge you to reconsider the passage of this bill and to respect the rights of parents to make decisions about their children's health. If the goal is to protect public health, it can be done

through education and dialogue, rather than mandating a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards personal and religious freedoms.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Anastacia Thomas
4271 Independence Loop, Kapolei Hi 96707
anastaciaanisa@gmail.com
[\(808\) 225-7422](tel:8082257422)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:18:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfred Medeiros	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha mai kākou, it's very unfortunate to even have to write this, as this bill HB1118 shouldn't even have a chance to be heard or discussed, as it's in complete violation of the 1st amendment and what would be known as dictatorship, going against a person religious rights and freedoms. The audacity of this bill just shows that we've got public officials like Gov.Green working hand in hand with big pharma like Pfizer to push their agenda. Why is that? Because bug pharma is big business and the medical industry don't want you to have a natural immune system, they want you dependent on western medicines and be a part of their statistics that put money in their pockets. I'm in full opposition to HB1118 and any political representative should do the same, as our rights are being stripped illegally for unjust reasons. Please do what's right for the people of Hawai'i, especially us Kānaka Maoli and Hawaiians of Hawai'i, as this bill is wrong and will only bring more problems than solutions. Mahalo for your time, taking testimony and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:20:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian Peiler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. I will not have my children be forced to be vaccinated to get an education.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:21:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

In Strong Opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:22:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kasey Tabar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong Opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:23:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Moe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the esteemed members of the committee,

I write this to express my firm opposition to the bill currently under consideration. As a parent, I hold a solid belief in the fundamental rights of mothers and fathers to make informed decisions regarding what enters the bodies of our children. This responsibility is not merely a privilege; it is an essential aspect of our roles as guardians and nurturers.

The autonomy of parents to choose the best path for their children is rooted in both our ethical and cultural values. Each family possesses unique beliefs, traditions, and practices that shape our understanding of health and well-being. It is imperative that we honor this diversity by allowing parents the freedom to decide what is best for their children without undue interference from the state.

Moreover, I urge you to consider the importance of religious exemptions. For many, these beliefs are not just personal convictions; they are deeply held principles that guide our lives and decisions. To deny parents the ability to opt out based on their religious beliefs is to infringe upon our constitutional rights of religious freedom. As Americans, it is essential that we protect the sanctity of these beliefs, allowing families to raise their children in accordance with their own chosen values and faith.

In conclusion, I implore you to recognize the absolute vital role that parental rights play in the upbringing of our children. I strongly oppose being forced to do something that is in direct opposition of my value system, while being coerced to do so by a few in powerful and highly influenced positions. Let us not support a bill that undermines these freedoms, but rather, let us affirm our commitment to empowering families to make choices that reflect their values, beliefs, and aspirations for the next generation. Thank you for your consideration.

Daniel Moe

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:24:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill hb118.

mahalo,

nalani

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:25:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moku Santiago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Why is the government so focused on forcing new vaccines down citizens throats? Why the push? Why make it mandatory and make people lose their jobs and the ability to provide for their families if they don't want it? Is this a form of control? Will you take away more rights from those that refuse the vaccines? This bill that is obviously being forced through the approval process is unconstitutional and should not be allowed to pass.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:25:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Barry Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please strongly OPPOSE HB1118. Protect our rights to religious freedom.

If this bill passes, this State will be wasting our tax dollars on the multitude of lawsuits brought upon the State for violating religious beliefs and human rights.

Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:26:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Noble	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Opposition to HB1118 – Protection of Religious Exemptions to Immunization Requirements

Dear Chairperson and Members of the House Committee on Health,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements in Hawaii. As a resident of Hawaii and a parent who holds sincere religious beliefs, I believe that the proposed legislation infringes upon fundamental religious freedoms and could compel my family to relocate to another state where our rights are protected.

Religious Freedom and Constitutional Rights

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion. By eliminating the non-medical exemption, HB1118 would force individuals and families who conscientiously object to immunizations on religious grounds to choose between violating their deeply held beliefs or leaving the state. This is an undue burden on religious freedom and personal autonomy.

Impact on Families and Communities

My family has deep roots in Hawaii—we are not simply residents by choice, but lifelong members of this community. The repeal of the non-medical exemption would force us, along with many other local families who share similar convictions, to make an impossible decision: violate our deeply held religious beliefs or leave the place we have always called home. This would not only disrupt our lives, but it could also lead to an exodus of residents, affecting our local communities, economies, and the cultural fabric of Hawaii.

Public Health Considerations

While the intent behind HB1118 is to enhance public health by increasing vaccination rates, it is important to recognize that the vast majority of residents comply with immunization requirements. The current system, which allows for medical and religious exemptions, balances public health needs with individual rights. There is no compelling evidence to suggest that the repeal of non-medical exemptions would significantly improve public health outcomes.

Alternative Measures

Instead of repealing the non-medical exemption, I urge the committee to consider alternative measures that encourage vaccination through education and outreach, rather than coercion. Providing comprehensive information about the benefits and risks of immunization can empower individuals to make informed decisions without infringing upon their religious freedoms.

Conclusion

In conclusion, I respectfully request that the committee vote against HB1118 to preserve the non-medical exemption to immunization requirements. Protecting religious freedoms is essential to maintaining the diverse and inclusive nature of our society. I appreciate your consideration of my testimony and trust that you will make a decision that upholds the constitutional rights of all residents.

Sincerely,

Natasha Noble

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:27:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr Gerard Dericks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning, esteemed members of the committee. My name is Dr. Gerard Dericks and I am an aspiring parent, community member, and long-time advocate for religious freedom in our state. I appreciate the opportunity to speak today in opposition to the proposed bill that would ban religious exemptions for children attending public schools without receiving recommended vaccines.

I stand before you today because I believe that our nation’s foundational principles of religious liberty and individual conscience are at stake. The freedom to practice one’s faith—free from governmental intrusion—is a right enshrined in the First Amendment of our Constitution. For many families, including my own, sincerely held religious beliefs shape how we view health and personal responsibility. Forcing families to choose between their religious convictions and their children’s right to a public education is an invidious infringement on everyone’s fundamental liberties.

I understand that the intent behind this bill is to bolster public health and protect our communities. However, it is my belief that protecting public health should not come at the expense of our cherished religious and bodily freedoms. Rather than imposing a one-size-fits-all mandate that disregards the diversity of deeply held beliefs, we should explore approaches that foster dialogue, education, and community partnership. Many families with religious concerns are open to learning about vaccine safety when approached with respect and understanding; coercion only serves to alienate and create distrust between citizens and public institutions.

Moreover, eliminating religious exemptions may set a dangerous precedent. Today, it is about vaccines and public education; tomorrow, the erosion of religious rights could extend to other areas where the state oversteps its bounds into personal and spiritual matters. Our society is built on a respect for pluralism and the belief that individuals should have the freedom to make choices that align with their personal convictions—especially when those choices are made within the context of one’s own family.

I also worry about the unintended consequences this bill may have. By eliminating religious exemptions, we risk marginalizing and stigmatizing families who have long adhered to their faith traditions and practices. Instead of fostering a spirit of inclusion and mutual respect, such measures can drive vulnerable communities into isolation, undermining the trust and cooperation that are essential in effectively addressing public health challenges.

In lieu of a blanket ban on religious exemptions, I urge the committee to consider alternative strategies. We can and should invest in educational initiatives that respectfully address vaccine concerns, work with community and faith leaders to disseminate accurate, science-based information, and create forums for open discussion. Such measures honor the delicate balance between protecting public health while respecting the constitutional rights to religious freedom and bodily autonomy that form the backbone of all humane and just societies.

In conclusion, while I recognize the important goal of maintaining a healthy community, I respectfully request that the committee vote against this bill. Let us instead pursue alternative strategies of protecting public health, while simultaneously upholding our core freedoms and the mutual respect for everyone within our diverse community. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:28:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Feleciano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! How can you take away a persons right to autonomy and tell them that their religious beliefs and faith doesn't matter that they will be forced to go against what they believe in and what they feel is right to further someone else agenda and pockets.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:29:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

People should always have medical freedom and the right to choose what goes into their children's bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:29:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Enoka-Shayne Bingo	We, the people (Art.1 Sec.1,2,4,5,8)	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill, the entirety of the Governor's package, and members of Congress who've sworn an oath to support the constitution and, by default the unalienable rights endowed to us by our Creator (not you all), but choose lobby funds over the people's superceding political power, rooted in common law, the supreme law of the land (US V. Williams 1992 verdict by SCOTUS judge Antonin Scalia).

This is a gross violation of the religious freedoms within that very Constitution you're beholden to uphold. The very origin of law, comes from the very Bible SB1437 is attempting to separate these current laws from! American law within, juris prudence, corpus juris secundum, montesque, etc is rooted in the law of Moses and his 10 commandments, within Torah in the synagogues where they debated perspectives, as you all do today. Don't forget where the root of your very existence in that seat comes from.

Furthermore, the last vaccination this body attempted to enforce over us, increased cancer, heart problems, strokes, and a plethora of other diseases around the world. Thousands of independent, published studies proving they didn't work and in some countries, the vaccines have been recalled. Your sponsor money and lobbyist funds give you zero right to encroach on my, or anyone else's religious freedoms and rights endowed by our Creator. With righteousness in government the lands will prosper. Do the right thing for once, cuz we're beyond sick of you guys we never voted for telling us what you think is best.

Frustration aside, I pray Jesus sweep the evil out the halls of that Capitol and leave no corner unswept and no table unturned to clear the Hewa you commit in those rooms. I'm an imperfect child of God, but you are the princes of darkness, the worldly governor's of ephesians 6:12 and you all bow your knee to evil deeds, so I leave you with this crack in your foundation, a scripture to remind you where this entire world came from and I encourage you to start " In the beginning...

John 1:15-17

15 (John testified concerning him. He cried out, saying, "This is the one I spoke about when I said, 'He who comes after me has surpassed me because he was before me.'") 16 Out of his fullness we have all received grace in place of grace already given. 17 For the law was given through Moses; grace and truth came through Jesus Christ.

P.s. if this still has no effect to your decision-making, luckily we have case law on our side and do not have to entertain governor Greens ego

Marbury Vs. Madison, 5 US (2 Cranch) 137, 174, 176 (1803) states, "All laws which are repugnant to the Constution are null and void."

God bless my enemies with eyes to see and ears to hear .

Aloha,

Enoka-Shayne Bingo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:29:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. It is not right to disregard anyone's deeply held religious beliefs about what they will and will not allow into their bodies.

Further, we have now seen the damage caused by vaccines that were pushed on society and no one should be forced to take anything into their's or their children's bodies that they do not believe are safe.

The recent vaccines were rushed, inadequately tested, and modified repeatedly with no long-term studies, resulting in many injuries so should not be forced on anyone.

You all want to say "my body my choice" when it comes to killing babies, but not when it comes to injecting substances into our bodies that may have unintended consequences.

Again, I oppose this bill and ask that you respect people's choices when it comes to their bodies and their religious beliefs.

Thank you.

Aloha, my name is Jasmine Jenkins, I am a mother and I strongly oppose HB1118. It is extremely unsettling to hear that a family's ability to make decisions about their children's health in relation to their religious beliefs and values, would be taken away. Additionally, their constitutional rights are being challenged.

The first clause of the First Amendment states: "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof..." . It forbids Congress from both promoting one religion over others and also restricting an individual's religious practices. HB1118 violates religious rights under the Free Exercise Clause of the First Amendment to the United States Constitution to require the State to recognize religious exemptions in the same manner that it recognizes secular exceptions. The "free exercise" component of the First Amendment applies to states through the Fourteenth Amendment, rendering "the legislatures of the states as incompetent as Congress to enact such laws."

As in the similar case in Mississippi, *Bosarge vs Edney* in 2023, where they upheld religious exemptions. They had to determine whether the law to repeal religious exemptions from schools was neutral or generally applicable, "[a] law is not generally applicable if it invites the government to consider the particular reasons for a person's conduct by providing a mechanism for individualized exemptions." *Fulton*, 141 S. Ct. at 1877 (quotation omitted). A law also fails to be generally applicable "if it prohibits religious conduct while permitting secular conduct that undermines the government's asserted interests in a similar way." *Id.* A policy is not neutral if it is "specifically directed at religious practice," meaning that it either "discriminates on its face" or "religious exercise is otherwise its object." *Kennedy*, 142 S. Ct. at 2422 (quotations omitted)." This bill fails the neutrality or general applicability to suffice as proceeding.

The relevant question however, it seems, is not whether the government has a compelling interest in enforcing this bill as a general interest, but whether it has such a general interest in denying religious freedom to a people.

The constitution of our state, states in Section 1: "All political power of this State is inherent in the **people** and the responsibility for the exercise thereof **rests with the people**. All government is founded on this authority." Section 8 states: No citizen shall be **disfranchised, or deprived** of any of the rights or privileges secured to other citizens, unless by the law of the land.

It's deeply troubling to hear that our state government founded on these authorities and state constitutional rights, would force diverse communities of religion into choosing between their own religion, their children's health, their education while simultaneously upholding constitutional rights for some, and marginalizing theirs.

A family's right to exercise such decisions for their children's health based on their religious convictions, should be left in their hands and not the governments to decide. My body, my choice, my religion, my health, my child, my rights, my decision. I respectfully submit that our public health needs should be weighed in balance with families' right to their religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:32:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Al Savea	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong support of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:32:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Cox	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like oppose HB-1118 as it goes against the Constitution of the United States of America which guarantees all citizens the right to practice their religion freely. This bill unfairly alienates families whose children have a right to a public education while also being allowed to stay within their faith and religious practices. I believe their needs to be some pockets checked on who is getting paid off to submit this bill, which is clearly in the interest of well-bribed politicians taking payouts from pharmaceutical representatives, as opposed to the interest of the citizens whom you have been employed to represent.

thank you for your time and honest consideration

Alexis Cox

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:34:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kanoa gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:34:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deborah Umiamaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Hawaii State Legislature,

I, Deborah Umiamaka, hereby testify in opposition to HB1118 Relating to Non-Medical Exemptions to Immunization Requirements.

Religious exemptions from school attendance and childhood scheduled immunizations are fundamental choices and decisions that belong to legal guardians of underage children and adults who have God-given rights to their own bodies and health choices. No government or institution can be held accountable for vaccine damages, including resulting deaths or disabilities. Therefore, I respectfully submit my opposition to the removal of religious vaccine exemptions for Hawaii's residents.

Our children, our bodies, our choice - these are God-given rights we must exercise. Evidence shows that religious exemptions have been a longstanding practice in many states, respecting diverse beliefs and personal autonomy. In Hawaii, religious exemptions have been granted to students whose parents certify that their religious beliefs prohibit immunization practices.

Removing this option infringes upon religious freedom and parental rights. The decision to vaccinate should remain a personal one, especially given that individuals bear the risks of potential adverse effects.

I urge you to preserve religious exemptions and protect the rights of Hawaii's residents to make informed decisions about their health and the health of their children.

Sincerely,

Deborah Umiamaka

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:34:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rondi K Simon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of 2 school-aged children, I oppose this bill. Parents should have absolute rights when it comes to our children, especially what we deem to be acceptable to their health & well being. This bill interferes with our religious liberties and as such is unconstitutional.

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that school entry
2 immunization requirements have been shown to be effective in
3 improving immunization coverage rates. Based on decades of
4 strong evidence of effectiveness, the United States Department
5 of Health and Human Services Task Force on Community Preventive
6 Services recommended the continued implementation of school
7 immunization requirements as a means of increasing immunization
8 coverage, thereby reducing disease incidence. When ninety-five
9 per cent of individuals in a community are immunized, those
10 persons serve as a protective barrier against the likelihood of
11 transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases in the community.
12 This occurrence is referred to as "herd immunity."

13 High immunization rates at schools are especially important
14 for medically fragile children. Some children have conditions
15 that affect their immunity, such as illnesses that require
16 chemotherapy. These children cannot be safely immunized, and,
17 at the same time, they are less able to fight off illness when
18 they are infected. They depend on herd immunity for their

1 health and their lives. In Hawaii for the 2023-2024 school
2 year, 296 students had a medical exemption from immunization;
3 they were unable to get immunized due to a medical condition and
4 relied on herd immunity to attend school safely.

5 The legislature further finds that decreasing immunization
6 coverage due to non-medical exemptions increases the risk for
7 vaccine-preventable disease outbreaks that can be fatal to
8 children. In Hawaii for the 2015-2016 school year, the rate of
9 non-medical immunization exemption was 2.5 per cent. The rate
10 of non-medical immunization exemption more than doubled to 5.3
11 per cent for the 2023-2024 school year. The rate of non-medical
12 exemptions varied by school with fifty-five of the 382 schools
13 that reported for school year 2023-2024 having a non-medical
14 immunization exemption rate greater than ten per cent.

15 The legislature finds that since the health and safety of
16 Hawaii's keiki are paramount, the State has a compelling
17 interest in protecting the public against deadly diseases
18 considering an increasing trend in non-medical immunization
19 exemptions, while honoring certain non-medical exemptions that
20 previously have been approved.

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1 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to improve the
2 health and safety of school-aged children by minimizing
3 exemptions from school immunization requirements.

4 SECTION 2. Section 302A-1156, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§302A-1156 Exemptions. (a) A child ~~may~~ shall be
7 exempted from the required immunizations[+

8 ~~(1) If]~~ if a licensed physician, physician assistant, or
9 advanced practice registered nurse certifies that the
10 physical condition of the child is such that
11 immunizations would endanger the child's life or
12 health[~~, or~~

13 ~~(2) If any parent, custodian, guardian, or any other~~
14 ~~person in loco parentis to a child objects to~~
15 ~~immunization in writing on the grounds that the~~
16 ~~immunization conflicts with that person's bona fide~~
17 ~~religious tenets and practices. Upon showing the~~
18 ~~appropriate school official satisfactory evidence of~~
19 ~~the exemption, no certificate or other evidence of~~
20 ~~immunization shall be required for entry into school].~~

21 (b) Any child attending school who had an approved
22 religious exemption from required immunizations for the 2024-

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1 2025 school year shall be permitted to remain exempt while
2 continuing to attend school in Hawaii.

3 (c) This section does not prohibit a pupil who qualifies,
4 for an individualized education action program pursuant to
5 federal and state law, from accessing any special education and
6 related services required by their individualized education
7 program."

8 SECTION 3. Section 321-11, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
9 amended to read as follows:

10 "§321-11 **Subjects of health rules, generally.** The
11 department of health pursuant to chapter 91 may adopt rules that
12 it deems necessary for the public health and safety respecting:

13 (1) Nuisances, foul or noxious odors, gases, vapors,
14 waters in which mosquitoes breed or may breed, sources
15 of filth, and causes of sickness or disease, within
16 the respective districts of the State, and on board
17 any vessel;

18 (2) Adulteration and misbranding of food or drugs;

19 (3) Location, air space, ventilation, sanitation,
20 drainage, sewage disposal, and other health conditions
21 of buildings, courts, construction projects,
22 excavations, pools, watercourses, areas, and

1 alleys. For purposes of this paragraph, "pool" means
2 a watertight artificial structure containing a body of
3 water that does not exchange water with any other body
4 of water, either naturally or mechanically, and is
5 used for swimming, diving, recreational bathing, or
6 therapy by humans;

7 (4) Privy vaults and cesspools;

8 (5) Fish and fishing;

9 (6) Interments and dead bodies;

10 (7) Disinterments of dead human bodies, including the
11 exposing, disturbing, or removing of these bodies from
12 their place of burial, or the opening, removing, or
13 disturbing after due interment of any receptacle,
14 coffin, or container holding human remains or a dead
15 human body or a part thereof and the issuance and
16 terms of permits for the aforesaid disinterments of
17 dead human bodies;

18 (8) Cemeteries and burying grounds;

19 (9) Laundries, and the laundering, sanitation, and
20 sterilization of articles including linen and uniforms
21 used by or in the following businesses and
22 professions: barber shops, manicure shops, beauty

1 parlors, electrology shops, restaurants, soda
2 fountains, hotels, rooming and boarding houses,
3 bakeries, butcher shops, public bathhouses, midwives,
4 masseurs, and others in similar calling, public or
5 private hospitals, and canneries and bottling works
6 where foods or beverages are canned or bottled for
7 public consumption or sale; provided that nothing in
8 this chapter shall be construed as authorizing the
9 prohibiting of laundering, sanitation, and
10 sterilization by those conducting any of these
11 businesses or professions where the laundering or
12 sterilization is done in an efficient and sanitary
13 manner;

14 (10) Hospitals, freestanding surgical outpatient
15 facilities, skilled nursing facilities, intermediate
16 care facilities, adult residential care homes, adult
17 foster homes, assisted living facilities, special
18 treatment facilities and programs, home health
19 agencies, home care agencies, hospices, freestanding
20 birthing facilities, adult day health centers,
21 independent group residences, and therapeutic living
22 programs, but excluding youth shelter facilities

1 unless clinical treatment of mental, emotional, or
2 physical disease or handicap is a part of the routine
3 program or constitutes the main purpose of the
4 facility, as defined in section 346-16 under "child
5 caring institution". For the purpose of this
6 paragraph, "adult foster home" has the same meaning as
7 provided in section 321-11.2;

8 (11) Hotels, rooming houses, lodging houses, apartment
9 houses, tenements, and residences for persons with
10 developmental disabilities including those built under
11 federal funding;

12 (12) Laboratories;

13 (13) Any place or building where noisome or noxious trades
14 or manufacturing is carried on, or intended to be
15 carried on;

16 (14) Milk;

17 (15) Poisons and hazardous substances, the latter term
18 including any substance or mixture of substances that:

19 (A) Is corrosive;

20 (B) Is an irritant;

21 (C) Is a strong sensitizer;

22 (D) Is inflammable; or

- 1 (E) Generates pressure through decomposition, heat,
2 or other means,
3 if the substance or mixture of substances may cause
4 substantial personal injury or substantial illness
5 during or as a proximate result of any customary or
6 reasonably foreseeable handling or use, including
7 reasonably foreseeable ingestion by children;
- 8 (16) Pig and duck ranches;
- 9 (17) Places of business, industry, employment, and
10 commerce, and the processes, materials, tools,
11 machinery, and methods of work done therein; and
12 places of public gathering, recreation, or
13 entertainment;
- 14 (18) Any restaurant, theater, market, stand, shop, store,
15 factory, building, wagon, vehicle, or place where any
16 food, drug, or cosmetic is manufactured, compounded,
17 processed, extracted, prepared, stored, distributed,
18 sold, offered for sale, or offered for human
19 consumption or use;
- 20 (19) Foods, drugs, and cosmetics, and the manufacture,
21 compounding, processing, extracting, preparing,

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- 1 storing, selling, and offering for sale, consumption,
2 or use of any food, drug, or cosmetic;
- 3 (20) Device as defined in section 328-1;
- 4 (21) Sources of ionizing radiation;
- 5 (22) Medical examination, vaccination, revaccination, and
6 immunization of school children[. ~~No child shall be~~
7 ~~subjected to medical examination, vaccination,~~
8 ~~revaccination, or immunization, whose parent or~~
9 ~~guardian objects in writing thereto on grounds that~~
10 ~~the requirements are not in accordance with the~~
11 ~~religious tenets of an established church of which the~~
12 ~~parent or guardian is a member or adherent, but no~~
13 ~~objection shall be recognized when, in the opinion of~~
14 ~~the department, there is danger of an epidemic from~~
15 ~~any communicable disease];~~
- 16 (23) Disinsectization of aircraft entering or within the
17 State as may be necessary to prevent the introduction,
18 transmission, or spread of disease or the introduction
19 or spread of any insect or other vector of
20 significance to health;
- 21 (24) Fumigation, including the process by which substances
22 emit or liberate gases, fumes, or vapors that may be

1 used for the destruction or control of insects,
2 vermin, rodents, or other pests, which, in the opinion
3 of the department, may be lethal, poisonous, noxious,
4 or dangerous to human life;

5 (25) Ambulances and ambulance equipment;

6 (26) Development, review, approval, or disapproval of
7 management plans submitted pursuant to the Asbestos
8 Hazard Emergency Response Act of 1986, Public Law 99-
9 519; and

10 (27) Development, review, approval, or disapproval of an
11 accreditation program for specially trained persons
12 pursuant to the Residential Lead-Based Paint Hazard
13 Reduction Act of 1992, Public Law 102-550.

14 The department of health may require any certificates,
15 permits, or licenses that it may deem necessary to adequately
16 regulate the conditions or businesses referred to in this
17 section."

18 SECTION 4. Section 325-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
19 amended to read as follows:

20 "§325-34 Exemptions. Section 325-32 shall be construed
21 not to require the vaccination or immunization of any person for
22 three months after a duly licensed physician, physician

1 assistant, advanced practice registered nurse, or an authorized
2 representative of the department of health has signed two copies
3 of a certificate stating the name and address of the person and
4 that because of a stated cause the health of the person would be
5 endangered by the vaccination or immunization, and has forwarded
6 the original copy of the certificate to the person or, if the
7 person is a minor or under guardianship, to the person's parent
8 or guardian, and has forwarded the duplicate copy of the
9 certificate to the department for its files.

10 ~~[No]~~ Except as required under section 302A-1154, no person
11 shall be subjected to vaccination, revaccination, or
12 immunization, who shall in writing object thereto on the grounds
13 that the requirements are not in accordance with the religious
14 tenets of an established church of which the person is a member
15 or adherent, or, if the person is a minor or under guardianship,
16 whose parent or guardian shall in writing object thereto on such
17 grounds, but no objection shall be recognized when, in the
18 opinion of the director of health, there is danger of an
19 epidemic from any communicable disease."

20 SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

H.B. NO. 1118

1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Ned K. Nelson*

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BY REQUEST

JAN 21 2025

H.B. NO. 1118

Report Title:

Immunizations; Non-Medical Exemptions; Repeal

Description:

Repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

JUSTIFICATION SHEET

DEPARTMENT: Health

TITLE: A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

PURPOSE: To repeal statutory authorization for non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements, and preserve exemptions already approved.

MEANS: Amend sections 302A-1156, 321-11, and 325-34, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

JUSTIFICATION: Routine childhood immunizations help protect the health of children and create safer environments for childcare and learning. When ninety-five per cent of individuals in a community are immunized, enough people have immunity to the most infectious vaccine-preventable diseases to prevent an outbreak, which protects those who, for medical reasons, are unable to get vaccinated or develop an immune response to vaccination.

The rate of non-medical immunization exemptions in Hawaii increased from 2.5 percent for the 2015-2016 school year to 5.3 percent for the 2023-2024 school year, more than doubling. The rate of non-medical exemptions varied by school with fifty-five of the 382 schools that reported for 2023-2024 school year having a non-medical immunization exemption rate exceeding ten percent.

This bill is needed to respond to the rising trend of non-medical exemptions from school immunization requirements that is increasing the risk of an outbreak. Due to the morbidity and mortality of vaccine-preventable diseases among children, the State has a compelling interest in repealing exemptions for which there are no objective medical bases and thereby increasing

protective factors for individual children and the community at large. Maintaining high immunization rates among children is crucial for protecting the safety and health of the children, their families, and the community.

Impact on the public: Removal of non-medical exemptions for immunizations would increase vaccination rates for Hawaii's school-age children.

Elimination of the non-medical immunization exemption will reduce the risk of infections, secondary infections in the families of students, and the spread of communicable diseases in the wider social and occupational community at large, including in care facilities and other congregate centers where close contact can increase the spread of communicable diseases.

Impact on the department and other agencies: Elimination of non-medical exemptions will streamline immunization screening and reporting processes to the Department and improve public health.

The Department of Education will likely experience diminished administrative burden, and campuses will be safer from vaccine-preventable diseases.

GENERAL FUND: None.

OTHER FUNDS: None.

PPBS PROGRAM DESIGNATION: HTH 131.

OTHER AFFECTED AGENCIES: Department of Education.

EFFECTIVE DATE: Upon approval.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:35:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
George Timoteo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations. This bill is an infringement on fundamental rights, disregarding both religious freedom and parental authority over medical decisions for their children.

Religious exemptions exist to protect individuals whose deeply held beliefs guide their medical choices. By eliminating this right, HB1118 forces families to choose between their faith and accessing education—an unconstitutional and unethical mandate. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, and no government entity should have the power to override this sacred right.

Furthermore, every individual has the God-given right to make informed decisions regarding their own body and their children's health. Mandating medical procedures without allowing exemptions violates the principle of bodily autonomy and informed consent. Parents, not the government, should determine what is best for their children's health based on personal convictions, medical history, and religious beliefs.

Additionally, this bill ignores the fact that religious exemptions have coexisted with public health policies for decades without catastrophic consequences. Families who utilize these exemptions do so thoughtfully, weighing risks and benefits in accordance with their faith. Stripping them of this right is an unnecessary overreach that undermines trust in both the government and the healthcare system.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and uphold the freedoms that our Constitution protects. Government should not dictate personal medical decisions, especially when they intersect with matters of faith. Please stand for religious liberty, parental rights, and bodily autonomy by opposing this bill.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:35:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
suzanne mexia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable chair and committee members,

I am in the strongest opposition to HB1118. This bill infringes on the rights of individual and families to make medical decisions that are best for them. Government mandated vaccines is inherently dangerous as it does not allow people to opt out themselves or their child if they feel that they or their child may be harmed. It also tramples on the constitutional religious liberties of those who have chosen not to participate with vaccines due their beliefs. The children of Hawaii do not belong to the government of Hawaii but to their parents and families. No government should be telling a parent that they must put their child at risk of being harmed physically, mentally or spiritually. The role of our government should never be blurred with the role of a parent. What other doors of freedom to raise our children and make decisions for them as we see fit will be shut if this bill passes? For these reason, and as a mother and grandmother, I urge you to please oppose HB1118.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Mexia (Kaneohe)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Krista Vessell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill, as it infringes upon the religious and cultural practices of indigenous people. This is an insult to the HOST culture in ILLEGALLY OCCUPIED HAWAII.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meg Ganser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Kakou, I oppose this Bill and the intention behind it. Governor, you are shameless to continue to push Globalist ideals on a population who has already suffered so much at the hands of its captors, this initiative is no different. You seek for personal and political gain in exchange for lives, wellness, freedom and sovereign, God-given health. Your leanings belie your loyalties for your constituents and the world to see, Hewa!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jarred Burns	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in STRONG OPPOSITION.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:36:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jodi Rementer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines. This bill is a direct assault on religious freedom, parental rights, and bodily autonomy - core principles that must be protected.

Forcing individuals to choose between their deeply held religious beliefs and government mandates is unconstitutional and sets a dangerous precedent. The First Amendment guarantees the right to religious liberty, and removing vaccine exemptions disregards this fundamental protection.

HB1118 also ignores the fact that religious exemptions have long been recognized as a legitimate right, balancing public health interests with personal freedoms. Eliminating these exemptions would:

1. Violate the First Amendment by punishing individuals for adhering to their religious convictions.
2. Erode parental rights by stripping families of the ability to make medical decisions for their children in accordance with their faith.
3. Create a slippery slope where government power expands to override religious beliefs in other areas.

Religious freedom is not a privilege granted by the state - it is a God-given right enshrined in our Constitution. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and stand firm in protecting the religious liberties of all of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response on this critical issue.

Mahalo,

Jodi Rementer

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:37:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kitiona kolone	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear committee members,

I am writing to strongly oppose Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill represents a direct infringement on personal, parental, and religious rights, and it disregards valid medical, ethical, and scientific concerns surrounding mandatory vaccinations.

1. Parental Rights and Bodily Autonomy

Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children. Removing exemptions forces families into a one-size-fits-all medical model that does not account for individual health needs or deeply held beliefs. Medical choices should remain a personal decision between a patient (or their guardian) and their healthcare provider, not mandated by the government.

2. Religious Freedom Violations

For many, immunization decisions are guided by sincere religious beliefs. The U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to practice one's faith without undue government interference. Forcing vaccinations upon individuals who object on religious grounds is a clear violation of their First Amendment rights.

3. Medical Risks and Individual Health Considerations

No medical procedure is risk-free, and vaccines are no exception. Some individuals have adverse reactions, and not all medical exemptions are easily granted, leaving those with genuine concerns vulnerable. The current exemption system allows families and individuals to make informed decisions based on their unique health circumstances. Removing these exemptions ignores the reality of vaccine-related injuries and conditions that contraindicate certain immunizations.

4. Public Health Without Coercion

While public health is important, coercive policies often backfire by eroding public trust in the medical system. Education, transparency, and informed consent should be the foundation of any public health initiative, rather than forced compliance. Many communities with strong vaccine education programs maintain high immunization rates without resorting to government mandates.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose [Bill HB1118]. Preserving exemptions ensures that individual rights, medical freedom, and informed consent remain protected in our society. I ask that you reject this bill and uphold the principles of personal choice and parental authority in medical decision-making.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Kitiona Kolone

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:40:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamie Toyofuku	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill because it is a complete overreach of government power over an individual's personal health decisions. No government entity should be able to dictate anything that would be injected into anyone's body that could potentially negatively affect that individual's life, especially and including children. Please DO NOT PASS this bill. Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:41:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli Timoteo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations. This bill is an infringement on fundamental rights, disregarding both religious freedom and parental authority over medical decisions for their children.

Religious exemptions exist to protect individuals whose deeply held beliefs guide their medical choices. By eliminating this right, HB1118 forces families to choose between their faith and their children’s education—an unconstitutional and unethical mandate. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, and no government entity should have the power to override this sacred right.

Every individual has the inherent right to make informed decisions regarding their own body and their children’s health. Mandating medical procedures without allowing exemptions violates the principles of bodily autonomy and informed consent. Parents—not the government—should determine what is best for their children’s well-being based on personal convictions, medical history, and religious beliefs.

Furthermore, religious exemptions have coexisted with public health policies for decades without catastrophic consequences. Families who utilize these exemptions do so thoughtfully, weighing risks and benefits in accordance with their faith. Stripping them of this right is an unnecessary overreach that undermines trust in both the government and the healthcare system.

I urge you to reject HB1118 and uphold the constitutional freedoms that protect religious liberty, parental rights, and medical choice. Government should not dictate deeply personal medical decisions, especially when they intersect with matters of faith.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:41:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this Bill that violates bodily autonomy and rights to religious freedom. I urge all members of the Committee to **VOTE NO** on this Bill.

Here are some potential problems or criticisms associated with the bill as described:

Reduction of Exemption Options:

Elimination of Non-Medical Exemptions: The bill removes the option for religious exemptions from school immunization requirements for new students, which could be seen as an infringement on religious freedom or personal beliefs. This might alienate or burden families who hold specific religious convictions against vaccinations.

Potential Constitutional Challenges:

Religious Freedom: The removal of religious exemptions could be legally contested on grounds of violating the First Amendment rights to free exercise of religion, although there's a provision for those with pre-existing exemptions to continue.

Public Backlash:

Community Opposition: There might be significant opposition from communities or groups that value personal choice in health decisions, potentially leading to decreased trust in public health policies or increased resistance to vaccination in general.

Equity and Access Issues:

Inequity for Certain Groups: While aimed at protecting public health, this could disproportionately affect families who might not have access to a physician to provide medical exemptions, particularly if they face socioeconomic barriers.

Impact on Vaccination Rates:

Unintended Consequences: While the goal is to increase vaccination rates, the removal of exemptions might lead some parents to choose alternative education options like homeschooling, which could paradoxically lower the number of vaccinated children in public or private schools.

Medical Exemption Concerns:

Burden of Proof: The bill still allows for medical exemptions, but the criteria might be too stringent or subjectively interpreted by healthcare providers, potentially excluding children who genuinely cannot be vaccinated due to health risks.

Implementation and Enforcement:

Enforcement Challenges: Schools will have to navigate new policies, potentially leading to administrative burdens or confusion over how to handle students without vaccinations. There might also be issues with consistent enforcement across different schools.

Potential for Discrimination:

Stigmatization: Children with medical exemptions might face stigmatization or be treated differently in school settings, which could affect their social and educational experiences.

Legal Ambiguity:

Grandfathering Clause: The provision allowing students with existing religious exemptions to continue might lead to a two-tiered system where newer students must comply with stricter rules, creating confusion or perceived unfairness.

Public Health vs. Individual Rights Debate:

Balancing Act: The bill highlights the ongoing debate between public health measures and individual rights. Critics might argue that it tips the balance too far towards mandatory compliance without adequately addressing individual or family beliefs.

Educational Impact:

Educational Disruption: If parents decide to remove their children from schools due to these policies, this could disrupt educational continuity for those children.

While this bill aims to enhance public health by reducing the risk of disease outbreaks through higher vaccination rates, these potential issues suggest a need for careful consideration of legal, social, and ethical implications. This bill should be immediately abandoned and not passed through this committee.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:45:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Garza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing my strong opposition against bill HB1118 regarding non medical religious exemptions to immunizations. This is not about health, but about money! It's completely unconstitutional as a law abiding citizen, and native of the State of Hawaii to force someone to inject something in their children's bodies, that deeply goes against one's beliefs and practices. As a Christian, I value and believe in human life at the moment of conception. The ingredients in these vaccines are known to have aborted fetus cells, and toxic heavy metals that can cause irreversible damage. The government is not my God, and they should not have the power to force immunizations. I urge you to vote against bill HB1118. Thank you for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:46:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hopena Pokipala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in strong opposition to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:47:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am not in support of this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:47:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Buck	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB 1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:49:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tori Sims	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118. Religious freedom and informed consent are of the utmost importance for an American citizen.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:49:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dakota Papapa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:51:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Cluett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/5/2025

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118 – RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, as a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Vaccination defies God's perfect design of the human immune system, which was created to fight illness naturally. Psalm 139:14 affirms, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." It is my deeply held religious belief that artificially altering my immune system through vaccination goes against God's divine plan for human health and well-being.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous

precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,
Misty Cluett
Kauai Island

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:52:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DANALI NISHIDA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to formally and respectfully address parental rights for religious exemption to the Department of Health in the State of Hawai'i's school health requirements. Hawai'i State Law for childcare facility and school attendance requires all students to meet physical examination, immunizations, and tuberculosis clearance requirements before they may attend a childcare facility, preschool, or public/private school in the State. Parents should be able to base exemption requests on religious grounds. Many people hold sincere and genuine beliefs that forbid them from accepting any and all vaccinations.

Under Title VII of the Civil Rights Act, an employer must not discriminate against an employee on the basis of that employee's sincerely held religious beliefs. Religious discrimination involves treating a person, in this case a student, unfavorably because of his or her religious beliefs. As you may know, the law protects not only people who belong to traditional, organized religions, such as Buddhism, Christianity, Hinduism, Islam, and Judaism, but also others who have sincerely held religious beliefs.

According to the State of Hawai'i's Department of Health school health requirements, children may be exempt from immunization requirements for medical or religious reasons, if the appropriate documentation is presented to the childcare facility or school.

[Haw. Rev. Stat. § 302A-1154, 1156](#). Hawaii schools should allow for religious exemptions because they must allow for employees under Title VII.

This request for religious exemptions are the thoughts and sentiments not shared in casual conversation and deeply personal to many with their unique understanding of the language of God. The only reason that this is being shared with you is because the law dictates that we do.

“God created us in his own image.” (Genesis 1:27)

The Book of Genesis states that God created man in His image. It is many people's belief that God knew what He was doing and the body of many needs no “fixing” by mankind. Many people see vaccines as “fixing.” No one cannot improve on God's creation. Numerous religious scriptures tell us we need to trust in God and His creation.

“Honor the Lord with your bodies.” (1 Corinthians 6:20)

Blood is usually the first problem for vaccines for all faiths. We are created in the image of God - in God's image: Human blood is sacred and must remain pure. The issue with blood that poses vaccination to be a sin is that it is injected into one's bloodstream and that vaccines alter our sacred human blood.

“If you diligently heed the voice of the Lord your God and do what is right in His sight, give ear to His Commandments and keep all His statutes, I will remove none of the diseases on you which I brought on the Egyptians. For I am the Lord who heals you.” (Exodus 15:26)

Unfortunately, many people have been previously vaccinated of all childhood immunization but the decision to be vaccinated was not theirs, but their parents. Now as adults, we make our own medical decisions. However, some of their children may have received a few of the childhood vaccinations because they didn't hold the personal understanding of God's message to them back then, as they do now.

“Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own. That God is in you. That he is our healer.” (Corinthians 6:19)

I do recognize a clear difference between helping a body in crisis and addressing a healthy body with medical help or intervention. Generally speaking, if my body were in a state of emergency, I would consider all the options and discuss what to do with my trusted physician. I would also consult with the Bible, pray to my God for help and guidance and rely on the healing power of God to aid me.

“So that your faith might not rest on human wisdom but on the power of God.” (1 Corinthians, 2:5)

Whatever God sends my way, I will seek His help for solutions and guidance and my decisions will adhere to my personal belief in God.

“No man can serve two masters: for either he will hate the one, and love the other; or else he will hold to the one, and despise the other. (Luke 16:13)

Understand that I do not turn my back on all “modern” medicine and its practices and philosophies. There is a significant difference between a body in crisis needing help and a body that is healthy accepting a medical procedure. Many people, like myself, believe God would accept the former, He would not accept the latter.

Jesus said: “Those who are well do not need a physician, but the sick do.” (Matthew 9:12)

Jesus again repeated the same: “When Jesus heard it, he saith unto them, They that are whole have no need of the physician...” (Mark 2:17)

The medical establishment as well as most family and friends apply pressure and guilt to others in society to participate in the vaccination process. Modern society tells us that we can hurt

ourselves and other people if we do not accept vaccines into our bodies. Society tells us we jeopardize babies, elderly people and everyone in between, if we do not vaccinate. Without a medical background or specific scientific knowledge, it is difficult to comment on the truth to that assertion. But the point is controversial because I am certain of this; God has communicated to me that to address my immaculate, healthy, God-given body with the procedure of vaccinations would be a sin against my conscience.

Please take into consideration of my justification of my sincerely held personal religious beliefs, as there are many people like me. I hope I have defined them sufficiently. Again, these thoughts are the Holy message I receive from my God. I don't ask that you, or anyone else, agree with these thoughts and personal translations. But under the law, I respectfully request that they be honored as truthful and legally permissible. Based on what I have shared, I ask this religious exemption be allowed.

Parents should be allowed to opt out of school vaccines for personal reasons. This bill would be taking away parental choice and religious freedom. The government shouldn't decide if kids must be vaccinated, even if it goes against a family's beliefs.

Vaccine mandates infringe upon constitutionally protected religious freedoms.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution states, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

In the unanimous 1939 ruling for *Cantwell v. Connecticut*, the US Supreme Court held that state and local governments' infringement upon religious freedom is also unconstitutional.

Several religions oppose vaccines and mandatory vaccinations. Some Christian Scientists consider vaccinations against their religion because founder Mary Baker Eddy stated that the "calm, Christian state of mind is a better preventative of contagion than a drug, or than any other possible sanative method... the 'perfect Love' that 'casteth out fear' is a sure defense."

Amish communities do not view all vaccinations as "necessary" and some believe that vaccinations weaken the immune system.

The Church of Illumination states that "the teachings of the Church unequivocally affirm that injections of vaccines and inoculations are a violation of these biblical teachings... Immunizations and vaccinations are a form of blood pollution because they have devastating effects on the regeneration of the soul that each Church member seeks to attain."

The Universal Family Church believes that parents should decide whether their children should be vaccinated and that "God intends the health decisions of individuals should... be honored by all authorities."

The government shouldn't intervene in personal medical choices.

Medical decisions for children should be left to parents or caregivers. Barbara Loe Fisher, Co-founder of National Vaccine Information Center, stated, “If the State can tag, track down and force citizens against their will to be injected with biological products... there will be no limit on which individual freedoms the State can take away in the name of the greater good tomorrow.”

Ron Paul, former US Representative (R-TX), stated, “intimately personal medical decisions should not be made by government.... Freedom over one’s physical person is the most basic freedom of all, and people in a free society should be sovereign over their own bodies. When we give government the power to make medical decisions for us, we in essence accept that the state owns our bodies.”

Further, some vaccines contain ingredients some parents consider immoral or otherwise objectionable; mandates infringe on those sincerely held beliefs. For example, some DTaP/IPV/Hib combination, Hep A/Hep B combination, HepA, MMR, and chickenpox vaccines are cultivated in cells from two fetuses aborted in the 1960s (listed as MRC-5 and WI-38 on package inserts). The Catholic Church, in a report about using vaccines made using cells from aborted fetuses, indicated that “there is a grave responsibility to use alternative vaccines” to avoid the “evil” of actively or passively participating in anything that involves abortion.

And some vaccines for DTaP, Hep A, RV, Hib, HPV, IPV, flu, MMR, and chickenpox are made using animal products like chicken eggs, bovine casein, insect cells, Cocker Spaniel cells, pig gelatin, and cells from African Green monkeys, making those vaccines conflict with some vegetarian and vegan philosophies. Others consider it problematic that some vaccines are produced using human albumin, a blood plasma protein.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:53:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marlisa Akau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel everyone has their own choice on if they want to do it or not. I don't think it should be required at all.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:53:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Imiloa Koka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:54:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Not one person has the right to take away someone's medical rights. You are going against people's rights if you pass this bill. Our religious beliefs are not of your opinion. The only person who should be able to have a say in my body, medical or religious beliefs is myself and God.

My kids should have the same rights as everyone else. My children can not be vaccinated due to religious beliefs as well as medical issues that conflict with all vaccines. This should not keep them from being able to go to school.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:56:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jorie Siilata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't approve this bill. The governor is violating our rights as citizens. The people should have the right to decide if they want to vaccinate their kids or not.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:57:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clardean Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. This is a shockingly evil bill. Woman can choose to abort a pregnancy. But this bill will take away my right to submit a non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. My body, my choice.

Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:57:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misty Yee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The passage of this bill would prevent me from practicing my sincerely held religious beliefs as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the United States Constitution. There are other ways to keep Hawai'i's keiki safe. One example to promote public health in this area is to not allow people seeking to immigrate to Hawai'i or the United States, who have vaccine-preventable illnesses, entry to our state and country. Governor Green, with all respect, you were wrong about the COVID vaccine, its efficacy and safety. This bill is misguided and hubristic in nature. Do not pass this bill that will take away my right as a U.S. citizen. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 8:58:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mapuana Tector	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama:

The Governor of Hawai‘i may govern intangible items in Hawai‘i as to protecting their citizens. The Governor has no right demanding me to take a vaccine that is irrelevant to my health and a demetrimment to my grandchildren, nephews and nieces. He is infringing and violating on my rights and the rights of my grandchildren and of my nephews and nieces who are minors and I am their voice, under the first amendment of the US constitution to oppose HB1118. I have taken over my ownership to manage my own ability of my grandchildren, nephews and nieces and over myself and our canoe. What is is.

Subject: Strong Opposition to HB1118 – Protect Medical Freedom in Hawai'i

To Whom this May Concern,

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school entry in Hawai'i. This bill is a blatant violation of personal freedoms, parental rights, and religious liberty, and I urge you to reject it in its entirety.

Government Overreach and Violation of Personal Rights

HB1118 is a dangerous overreach of government power, stripping parents of their right to make informed medical decisions for their children. The government does not own our bodies, and it certainly does not have the right to coerce medical procedures upon individuals against their will. Forcing vaccination without any allowance for personal, religious, or philosophical beliefs is an authoritarian move that disregards bodily autonomy and fundamental human rights.

Religious and Philosophical Freedoms Under Attack

The elimination of non-medical exemptions directly targets families with deeply held religious or philosophical objections to vaccination. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to religious freedom, and this bill tramples on that protection. No government entity should be allowed to dictate what medical procedures a child must undergo, especially when such procedures conflict with a family's moral or spiritual beliefs.

Ignoring the Risks and Individual Health Considerations

Not all children react to vaccinations the same way, and some may be at risk for adverse effects even if they do not qualify for a narrowly defined medical exemption. Medical professionals themselves acknowledge that vaccines, like all medical interventions, carry risks—including documented side effects and injuries. Parents, not the state, should have the final say in what medical interventions their children receive.

Erosion of Trust and Dangerous Precedents

HB1118 will not foster public confidence in the healthcare system—it will destroy it. Removing informed consent breeds distrust and resistance. History has shown that when governments impose medical mandates, the public pushes back. The result? More families will leave the public school system, seek alternatives, or even move out of state. Instead of promoting public health, this bill will deepen division and erode trust in health authorities.

A Smarter Approach: Education, Not Coercion

If the goal is to increase vaccination rates, the government should focus on education rather than force. Respecting individual rights while providing transparent information allows families to make informed choices. A free society does not operate on mandates; it operates on informed consent and voluntary decision-making.

Conclusion: HB1118 Must Be Rejected

This bill is an egregious overstep that undermines personal liberty, medical freedom, and constitutional rights. I urge you to reject HB1118 in its entirety and stand for the principles of choice, informed consent, and parental rights.

The people of Hawai'i deserve the right to decide what is best for themselves and their families —not government bureaucrats.

Vote NO on HB1118.

Sincerely,

Brittini Paiva

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:01:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacqueline Bosman	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I vehemently Oppose HB1118.

It is absolutely and completely absurd that we would get rid of Religious exemptions when people value and hold dear their deeply held religious beliefs. Religious choice especially around something so personal as vaccination is something that cannot be questioned for a human right to be given. Why are we taking away choice? It is simply unconstitutional. People at the base of all living rights should have the right to choose and that persists through religious reasons.

Please know that this bill does not serve the people of Hawaii- it is not the way of Hawaii as it stands on its own as the islands that are at their core very spiritually centered Or as America which stands for having a choice and freedom, that always should apply to bodily autonomy. Please reconsider this dangerous and shameful bill, do not be on the wrong side of history here.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:02:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Rohr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jessica Rohr and I am a mother of two and I oppose HB1118. Many commonly used vaccines have their origin in cell lines that were originally developed from an aborted fetus. This poses a serious moral dilemma for those who oppose abortion. Religious exemptions should be allowed due to the nature of these vaccines and our basic religious rights as Americans as stated in the first amendment of the bill of rights.

Please offer this respect and right to the people of Hawai'i. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:02:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leimomi Ka'aihili Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a teacher, mother, citizen I strongly oppose this bill as it takes away our right as parents.
Please do not pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:06:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Maldonado	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Absolutely UNCONSTITUTIONAL! This interferes with peoples freedom of religion! Even more so NOW with so much conflicting information! you are daring to ask people to choose between having their children go to school or their religion, which is protected by the constitution of the United States of America.

also, if kids are getting vaccinated against diseases, to make them immune to them, what difference does it make if another child does NOT have it?

LET PARENTS MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ABOUT THEIR OWN CHILD'S HEALTH!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:07:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nick yee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this Bill because it attacks my religious freedom as guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. The medical community was wrong about the efficacy and safety of the Covid vaccines. How can we be sure that they are right this time. I believe parents should have the freedom to make educated choices as to what is right for their children. Please do not pass this Bill.

Thank You

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:08:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!! This bill violates our constitutional rights. The State will not make medical decisions for anyone!! Period...

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:08:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeline Ross	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Vaccines do not come without risks and every single doctor I've ever spoken to has agreed with this fact. Therefore no parent should be forced to vaccinate their child. There are so many reasons why a parent may not want to vaccinate and it is not the role of the government to force injections that have risks involved.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:11:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffa Garza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA,

I vehemently oppose HB118. When it comes to medical decisions, parents should have the full right to say yes or no to vaccines for their children. I have family and friends Who have been vaccine injured. Vaccines should not be mandated. Should not be forced. Parents should not be strong armed, and manipulated to have to make that choice in order for their kids to be educated. Please do not pass this bill. Give parents the right to choose. Give everyone the right to choose. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:11:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Rincon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines go against my families sincerely held religious beliefs. Not allowing a religious exemption for my children to attend public school would be discriminatory.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:12:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mariah Borden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support ha 1118. It should be parents decision only! The government should have NO say in vaccinating Keiki!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:13:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dr. Casandra Simonson, MD	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

2/5/2025

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD FAAP

Testimony for HB1118

In Support

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson. I'm a pediatrician in Maui, where I have worked with the underserved and Native Hawaiian keiki for over 10 years. I'm speaking today on my own behalf and not representing anyone else, in strong support of HB1118. I love babies, I love their first smiles. I love helping parents find those little moments of joy in between the stress and the worry about whether or not their baby is doing well. As a parent to 3 keiki myself, I know parents never want their babies to feel pain or suffer. Your worst fear is that they could die.

I want to take this opportunity to do something that I should have already done, but was too afraid to do it. I want to apologize to my patients and families who are hesitant to immunize. I have often avoided talking much about immunizations with you out of fear. I didn't want to push you away. I didn't want you to reject me. Recently, I heard from a mother who had lost her daughter to meningitis. She said outright "my pediatrician never told me this could happen. If they would've warned me, I would've given my daughter the immunization that would have saved her life." It dawned on me that in my attempt to be friendly and approachable, that I was doing your child and you a disservice by not clearly telling you what it is like to watch a child to die from meningitis. Every time a family signs a refusal form, I see her. My memory flashes back to that hospital room and to the moans and wails of her mother and her father screaming her name. He screams and chokes out the words "I am so sorry I missed your birthday party." I see her pupils, fixed and staring, from the pressure of pus in her brain. My hand holding my stethoscope to her chest, hearing her heartbeats come further and further apart until they stop. I look up, still with my hand to her chest, and nod an acknowledgement to the family and nurse that she is gone. "Time of death." May you never hear those words. May I never speak them again. Every time you sign a immunization refusal, I relive this. And yet I haven't told you that story. I am a coward and I am sorry. I am here today to promise I will do better. I owe you an apology for the brief conversations about immunizations and for not better helping you process your feelings, your fears, the rumors that you've heard. I should've given you my time, my

energy, my patience because each of your keiki are worth it. Every keiki deserves protection. This bill will help protect us all.

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:14:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donald Yanito-Duncan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my **strong opposition** to **H.B. NO. 1118**, which seeks to **repeal non-medical exemptions to school immunization requirements** in the State of Hawaii. This bill infringes on **fundamental constitutional rights**, disregards important legal precedents, and violates the principles of bodily autonomy and informed consent.

1. Violation of Constitutional Rights

This bill contradicts the **First Amendment** of the U.S. Constitution, which protects religious freedom. The **removal of religious exemptions** effectively forces individuals with deeply held religious beliefs to violate their conscience, an act which the **U.S. Supreme Court has repeatedly ruled unconstitutional** in cases involving religious liberty (**Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U.S. 205 (1972), Sherbert v. Verner, 374 U.S. 398 (1963)**).

- Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U.S. 205 (1972). Retrieved from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1971/70-110>
- Sherbert v. Verner, 374 U.S. 398 (1963). Retrieved from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1962/526>

Furthermore, the bill disregards the **Fourteenth Amendment’s Due Process Clause**, which protects individuals from state-imposed medical procedures without consent. The Supreme Court in **Washington v. Harper, 494 U.S. 210 (1990)** ruled that “forcible injection of medication into a nonconsenting person’s body represents a substantial interference with that person’s liberty.”

- Washington v. Harper, 494 U.S. 210 (1990). Retrieved from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1989/88-599>

Additionally, the **Ninth Amendment** ensures that rights not explicitly listed in the Constitution are still retained by the people, which includes medical autonomy.

2. Precedents Against Mandatory Vaccination Policies

While the government has a legitimate interest in public health, its powers are not absolute. In **Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health, 497 U.S. 261 (1990)**, the Court affirmed

that individuals have a **fundamental right to refuse medical treatment**. This ruling sets an important precedent, reinforcing the right of parents to make medical decisions for their children, including the refusal of vaccines based on religious or philosophical beliefs.

- *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health*, 497 U.S. 261 (1990). Retrieved from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1989/88-1503>

Additionally, in **Prince v. Massachusetts, 321 U.S. 158 (1944)**, the Supreme Court ruled that while the state has an interest in public welfare, it cannot **override parental rights** when it comes to personal religious beliefs and medical decisions, unless there is a direct and immediate threat.

- *Prince v. Massachusetts*, 321 U.S. 158 (1944). Retrieved from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1943/98>

3. President Trump's Position on Medical Freedom

Former President **Donald J. Trump** has clearly stated his opposition to mandatory vaccinations. In 2019, he declared that vaccinations should be a personal choice, and in **September 2020**, his administration emphasized that no vaccine should be forced on any American citizen.

“**I do not support** forcing Americans to take vaccines. **It should be a personal decision**,” Trump stated.

His administration implemented the **Executive Order on Preventing Mandatory Vaccination Policies**, reinforcing that medical decisions must remain voluntary.

- Trump, D.J. (2019). Trump: I am all for vaccines, but I want smaller doses over a longer period. *The Hill*. Retrieved from <https://thehill.com/policy/healthcare/437108-trump-says-he-supports-vaccines-but-wants-smaller-doses-over-longer-period/>

4. Ethical and Medical Considerations

Mandating vaccines without exemptions creates a **dangerous precedent** for medical coercion. Historically, **forced medical procedures** have been ruled unconstitutional and unethical.

- **Nuremberg Code (1947)** – Established ethical guidelines for human medical experimentation, emphasizing **informed consent** and voluntary participation in medical procedures.
 - Nuremberg Code (1947). Retrieved from <https://www.nejm.org/doi/full/10.1056/nejm199711133372006>
- **World Medical Association (WMA) – Declaration of Helsinki** – Reinforces ethical medical treatment, ensuring that patients cannot be coerced into medical interventions.
 - World Medical Association. (2013). WMA Declaration of Helsinki – Ethical principles for medical research involving human subjects. Retrieved from

<https://www.wma.net/policies-post/wma-declaration-of-helsinki-ethical-principles-for-medical-research-involving-human-subjects/>

5. Impact on Individual Rights and Public Trust

Eliminating non-medical exemptions will erode public trust, leading to further resistance to public health initiatives. The Supreme Court rulings and global medical ethics guidelines reinforce that **medical decisions must be based on informed consent and personal choice.**

Conclusion

I urge the Hawaii State Legislature to **reject H.B. NO. 1118** in defense of **religious freedom, parental rights, and bodily autonomy.** The Constitution, Supreme Court rulings, and statements by national leaders all reinforce the principle that medical decisions must remain a matter of **informed consent and personal choice.**

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:16:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misha Hesse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children’s health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens’ ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:17:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Hart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is a freedom of choice that should not be imposed by our local, state or federal governments. Bodily autonomy should remain as is.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:18:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill violates our constitutional right to religious freedom, undermines parental authority, and disregards medical autonomy.

The First Amendment protects religious beliefs, including the right to decline medical procedures that conflict with faith. Forcing vaccination against religious convictions is unconstitutional and sets a dangerous precedent.

Parental rights are also at stake. Medical decisions should be made by families, not the government. Children have unique health needs, and one-size-fits-all mandates ignore personal and medical risks. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program has paid billions to families affected by vaccine injuries - proof that risks exist. No family should be forced to take on that risk against their will. Children shouldn't be penalized by schools, programs or doctors offices who are not vaccinated either.

Medical freedom is essential. Bodily autonomy means individuals must have the right to informed consent, free from coercion. Removing religious exemptions forces compliance at the expense of personal choice, which is an overreach of government power.

I urge you to NOT PASS HB1118 and protect the rights of Hawaii's families to make personal, faith-based medical decisions.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:19:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Paer	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to consider my testimony. I was born and raised in Hawaii and love our community and island home. I strongly OPPOSE this bill.

“My body, my choice” has long been a core value of Democrats. The right to choose what happens to your body is a sacred, fundamental and inalienable right. Citizens should have the right to a religious or conscientious exemption to vaccines for themselves and their children.

Also how are the unvaccinated putting the vaccinated at risk? The point of the vaccine is that if you get it, you won't get the disease. After I got the Yellow Fever vaccine, I didn't then wait till everyone in Southeast Asia got the Yellow Fever vaccine before going there. I was safe around the unvaccinated *because* I had gotten the vaccine. The logic of vaccinated being at risk around unvaccinated does not hold. Unless the vaccines don't stop transmission. In which case, the vaccinated are at risk around the unvaccinated AND the vaccinated. The logic of mandating a vaccine that doesn't stop transmission is also faulty.

Violating someone's right to choose what happens to their body is incredibly serious. To even consider taking it away should require rock solid logic coupled with a very dire, deadly public health emergency the vaccine would undoubtedly solve. We are not remotely in that scenario.

Please please please respect our right to choose what injections/medications do and don't go into our bodies. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:19:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaymie Lewis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Chair and Committee

Many people will submit well researched testimony, so no need to waste time repeating the glorious FACTS that are readily available about skewed data, conflict of interest, lack of honest reporting, cancel culture, and so much more, BUT regardless of all that truly relevant information, I have one simple question... If one's body is not their eminent domain then what is?

Please vote NO!

Sincerely,

Jaymie Lewis

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:19:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

People should always have a choice of what's going into their body. This bill is unconstitutional and will cost the tax payers in law suits.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:21:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura Haug	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/5/2025

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118 – RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

If you believe in “My body, my choice” then this belief should be protected even if you personally make a different choice with yours.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,

Laura Haug

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:22:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lacey Cummins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any bill that seeks to remove religious exemptions, as it directly violates the First Amendment and is fundamentally unconstitutional.

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right to freedom of religion, including the right to practice one’s faith without government interference. Forcing individuals to act against their deeply held religious beliefs strips them of their constitutional protections and sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach.

Furthermore, removing religious exemptions for children in schools is discriminatory and unjust. Every child, regardless of their religious beliefs, has the right to a free and equal education. By eliminating these exemptions, the government is effectively barring children from attending school simply because of their faith. This not only violates their constitutional rights but also denies them access to education, which is a fundamental right in our society. No child should be excluded from learning and growing alongside their peers due to their family’s religious convictions.

Religious exemptions have long been recognized as a critical safeguard in a diverse society where people hold different beliefs. Removing these exemptions not only infringes on personal liberties but also creates educational discrimination against children whose families hold sincere religious convictions. The Constitution was designed to protect the rights of the people—not to empower the government to dictate personal religious practices.

No government should have the authority to compel individuals to act against their conscience or religious convictions. To remove religious exemptions is to deny Americans their fundamental right to religious freedom, a right that has been protected since the founding of our nation.

I urge you to uphold the Constitution and protect the religious liberties that define our democracy by rejecting this bill.

Sincerely,
Lacey C

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:22:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Vernon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly believe that it's up to every individual to decide whether they want to be vaccinated or not. And that a government or any other entity shouldn't take away the choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:22:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Brooks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the fundamental premise of this bill (HB1118). This bill is an outright infringement of our first amendment rights. It is shameful that our elected officials would even entertain the idea of denying a citizen of the United States (who chooses to reside in the State of Hawai'i) the right to their freedom of religious expression. The government was not intended to have a say on how one can or cannot practice their religion when it comes to a parent's decision on why they chose to abstain from vaccinations. It is the parent's job to make sovereign decisions for thier children, not the role of an elected official.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:22:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Yoneda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Parents should have the right to refuse vaccinations for their child. This bill is unconstitutional and unethical.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:22:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am here to express my concerns about passing HB1118 requiring children to be vaccinated in order to attend school in Hawaii with no exemptions. While I understand the importance of public health, I believe this policy violates both religious freedoms and parental rights.

Religious Freedom

The U.S. Constitution guarantees our right to practice our religion freely. Many families, including mine, have religious beliefs that guide our healthcare decisions. Mandating vaccinations without allowing exemptions for religious reasons interferes with our right to make these decisions based on our faith. This is a direct violation of our religious freedom.

Parental Rights

Parents have the right to make decisions about their children’s health and education. Requiring vaccinations to attend school takes away that right and forces parents to choose between their child’s education and their personal beliefs. Parents should be able to make informed decisions about what is best for their child’s health.

Health and Medical Autonomy

Parents should be in control of their child’s medical decisions. Vaccines, like all medical treatments, can have risks, and not all children respond the same way. Some children may have adverse reactions to vaccines, and parents should not be forced into a decision that could harm

their child. We need to trust parents to make the best choice for their child's health with the guidance of healthcare providers.

Conclusion

Mandating vaccinations for school attendance is an overreach of government power. It violates religious freedoms, parental rights, and medical autonomy. Instead of imposing forced mandates, we should focus on providing parents with the information they need to make informed decisions.

I respectfully urge you to reject this law and protect the rights of families in Hawaii. Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:23:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robin Johnston	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB 1118. I believe this is a pro-choice decision and my body my choice decision. We shouldn't be able to determine which vaccines if any for our child. I have two family members and two close friends who suffered strokes just a few days after the Covid vaccine. I do not feel comfortable with Josh Green's choice as he told me personally that he was never for mandates but here he is pushing mandates. The money put forward by the drug companies to push this agenda is in plain sight on public record.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:24:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca Migita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:24:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Tyrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees individuals the right to freely practice their religion. Removing religious exemptions for vaccinations would infringe upon this fundamental right. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:25:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sasha Cantrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The United States of America was founded upon religious freedom amongst other things. This bill is an abomination to democracy. Mandating vaccination for children, including the Covid MRNA vaccine (which isn't even a vaccine but rather expired gene therapy) is completely irresponsible and gross government overreach. My body, my choice does not just apply to abortion, it applies to any medical decision. Which vaccines we choose to give our children is between our family and our doctor. State legislature has no business here. Hawai'i must oppose this big Pharma funded bill for the sake of our keiki and our freedoms of choice over our own bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:26:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it strips Parents of their rights to determine the best course of medical care for their children. It is an essential right for individuals to determine when and what medical care is needed for themselves and their dependents. The state has no business legislating medical mandates and must maintain the constitutional separation between church and state.

Subject: STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1118 – Protect Parental Rights & Medical Freedom

To Whom this May Concern,

I **strongly** oppose HB1118, a dangerous and unconstitutional attack on parental rights, religious freedom, and medical choice. No government has the authority to force medical procedures on children or strip parents of their fundamental right to make informed healthcare decisions.

This bill is nothing short of medical tyranny. Eliminating non-medical exemptions will **coerce** families into compliance, forcing them to choose between their deeply held beliefs and their children's education. It will **not** build trust in public health—it will fuel resistance and drive families out of the school system or even out of Hawai'i entirely.

HB1118 must be **defeated**. Medical decisions belong to families, **not** the government. **Vote NO** and protect the rights and freedoms of Hawai'i's people.

Sincerely,

LeAnn Takayama-Paiva

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:26:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Ann Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE BILL 1118

I believe people should have the right to medical freedom. As we know, childhood illnesses help to build a strong immune system. In addition, there have been aborted fetus cells in some of the immunizations. This alone is a basis for religious exemption. In 1986 there was a bill passed which makes the manufacturers not responsible for harmful effects of their shots. Until they have been tested fully and the manufacturers have accountability, I will oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:29:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Hirazumi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. The unvaccinated or limited vaccinated do not harm anyone and should not be held out of school. This will cause many families to have to homeschool and put a burden on them.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:30:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lacey Lien	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members/Legislators,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to any bill that seeks to remove religious exemptions, as it directly violates my constitutional rights and the rights of countless other families.

As a parent, I firmly believe that I should have the right to make decisions based on my religious beliefs without government interference. The First Amendment guarantees freedom of religion, and taking away religious exemptions forces families like mine to choose between following our faith or complying with laws that go against our deeply held beliefs. That is not freedom—that is government overreach.

More importantly, removing religious exemptions for schoolchildren is discrimination. Every child deserves access to a free education, regardless of their family’s religious beliefs. By eliminating these exemptions, you are excluding children from school simply because of their faith, which is both unconstitutional and morally wrong. No parent should have to choose between honoring their religious convictions and ensuring their child gets an education.

This bill does not protect public health—it punishes families for their faith. Religious exemptions have existed for a reason, and removing them takes away a fundamental right that has been protected in this country since its founding. I urge you to stand for religious freedom and protect our children’s right to education by rejecting this bill.

Mahalo for your time,

Lacey Lien

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:30:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nazarie Burchett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:31:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse King	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

It is disgraceful that this piece of legislation even exists.

It's not only unconstitutional, it's advocating for medical apartheid.

I wonder why the DOE isn't speaking up in opposition to this? Do they have any idea how many parents will pull their kids out of schools?

Make no mistake about it, legislatures that support this bill have contempt for our constitution. Nevertheless, they are supposed work for us, the People.

Josh Greene is pushing this. Remember, he was the same one that was 100% incorrect about everything related to Covid.

This isn't about health. It's our government grasping for more control over the people. What a shame.

I strongly oppose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:31:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Mailo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118. Reasons:

It is an infringement on religious freedoms, specifically the 1st Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, in violation of the right to practice one's religion freely.

The sanctity of life is the belief of the Christian faith and One Love Ministries, that all life is given by and sacred to God. Therefore, God alone is sovereign over life. Abortion violates this belief. The fact that the cells grown from an aborted fetus were used in the development of most vaccines is grounds for any Christian to object and be exempt from receiving a Covid 19 vaccine.

(Genesis 2:7, Genesis 9:6, Psalm 139:13-16)

- Our body is a temple of the Lord in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Christians may object to mandated vaccines and ask for an exemption, because they would not want to put an experimental drug in their body, which is a temple of the Lord.**

(1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 7:1)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:32:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rylan Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees individuals the right to freely practice their religion. Removing religious exemptions for vaccinations would infringe upon this fundamental right. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:33:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faye Chieko Shimizu	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. We the people have the right to choose if our children should be vaccinated or not. Why is our government taking away our FREEDOM OF CHOICE!!!!Fo not remove the religious exemption for vaccinations.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:34:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I write in strong OPPOSITION to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions from Hawaii’s already draconian immunization requirements for school-aged children. This bill is an egregious attack on religious freedom, parental rights, and bodily autonomy, and it sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into deeply personal medical decisions.

The **First Amendment** of the U.S. Constitution guarantees religious liberty, ensuring that individuals are free to practice their faith without government interference. HB1118 would **force families to violate their deeply held religious beliefs** in order to access education. This is not just an issue of health policy—it is a **direct assault on religious freedom**.

Many religious traditions emphasize bodily integrity and the belief that medical interventions should be a matter of personal conscience. Some faiths object to vaccines derived from or tested using fetal cell lines, while others oppose any medical procedures that alter the natural immune system. To strip families of their right to make medical decisions in accordance with their faith is **tyranny, not public health policy**.

Parents have an inherent and natural right to make medical decisions for their children. Government bureaucrats should not override the personal, informed choices of families. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill forces parents into compliance with state mandates, disregarding their ability to weigh risks and benefits for their own children.

Proponents of HB1118 argue that public health outweighs individual choice, but since when does the government get to determine what risks parents must accept? Where does this end? If the state can dictate **forced medical procedures today, what else can it mandate tomorrow?**

Let’s not forget the recent history of government-imposed medical coercion. During the COVID-19 era, Hawaiians were forced to choose between their livelihoods and a experimental shot that we now know was never fully tested for safety and efficacy and had pages of side effects released later that were not available at the time for informed consent. We saw:

- Unlawful mandates that prolonged suffering and stripped away personal freedom.
- Censorship of those who questioned government narratives.
- Power-hungry bureaucrats who ignored informed consent and medical ethics.

This bill continues that dangerous trend, **entrenching government control over personal medical decisions**. The argument that "public health emergencies justify extreme measures" has been **weaponized to strip away freedoms**, and those measures have only expanded since COVID-19, not disappeared.

Supporters of HB1118 claim that eliminating religious exemptions is necessary for herd immunity and protecting vulnerable children. However, history does not support this claim. **States that have removed religious exemptions have not seen significant changes in disease outbreaks, but they have seen increased medical discrimination and families forced out of schools.**

Public health must **balance** protecting the community with **respecting individual rights**. The government **does not own our bodies or our children**—medical decisions must remain a matter of **parental discretion, not state control**.

If the goal is **public health**, the solution is **education, not mandates**. The state could:

1. **Improve informed consent laws**, ensuring parents receive unbiased information about risks and benefits.
2. **Offer alternative accommodations**, such as robust exemption education programs, rather than outright bans.
3. **Respect the diverse medical and religious beliefs of Hawaii's families** instead of forcing compliance through legislation.

The true test of a free society is whether it protects individual rights **even when it's inconvenient** for those in power. Hawaii has already **gone too far down** the road of medical authoritarianism. Our elected officials should be working to **restore personal freedom, not eliminate what little remains**.

I urge this committee to reject HB1118 and uphold the fundamental rights of parents, individuals, and religious communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Nicholas Zehr

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:34:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mimi Jakobson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sample testimony

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children’s health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens’ ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118."

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:34:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:35:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Wiencek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

Unfortunately, vaccination has become a controversial political football. Development of modern vaccines throughout the 20th century has brought unheard of health benefits to humans worldwide. Since 1950, we have **Globally Eradicated** smallpox, a scourge of humanity from ancient times that killed hundreds of millions, if not billions. We have *almost* globally eradicated polio, another millenia old killer of mankind. Only in the most remote and least develop places is polio still infecting people.

COVID-19 vaccines developed through the visionary leadership of the Trump Administration saved countless lives in America and abroad. We no longer fear devastating outbreaks of measles, anthrax, polio, malaria, yellow fever, and whooping cough in this country. We are blessed by God to have had such incredible health interventions.

I do not often discuss my Catholic faith in public debates, but I am deeply inspired by the Culture of Life articulated by the Church. Protecting and nuturing life from natural conception to natural death is a core part of humanity. Ensuring *bonum commune* (Common Good) is essential to a functioning society, with responsible adults.

I **STRONGLY URGE** this Committee to **SUPPORT** this bill!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:36:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estella Euclide	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill revoking any exemption for any vaccine.

how about concentrate your efforts on the underserved, unhoused, and infrastructures for starters!!

Do better!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:36:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Beyer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is wrong on so many levels. Have we not learned anything from covid??? No exemptions? Then what happens if we don't vaccinate our children? Then what? We become criminals? Sounds like forcing something against our will!! Seems like everything is about control now. No free will. For the greater good you say? BS!!!! We need different people representing us!!! Hawaii politics is horrible. Never for the people!!! Let us choose how to live our own lives! Democrats need to get out of office. They do nothing but mess life up for us all. Awa for governor! Get green out of here. He needs to get impeached.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:36:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David LaCaille	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Our freedoms are being eroded by government overreach.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:37:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samuel Barrionuebo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118! Mahaloz!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:37:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shawn Murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:37:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Makalani Franco-Francis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Makalani Franco-Francis

As a Kanaka Oiwī of Hawai‘i I strongly oppose HB1118.

This bill violates both the United States Constitution as well as the Hawai‘i Constitution.

It is each person's GOD GIVEN RIGHT to CHOOSE their medical care and what goes into our bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:38:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaipo Bee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:41:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kerrese Hogg	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118. Reasons:

It is an infringement on religious freedoms, specifically the 1st Amendment of the Constitution of the United States, in violation of the right to practice one's religion freely.

The sanctity of life is the belief of the Christian faith, that all life is given by and sacred to God. Therefore, God alone is sovereign over life. Abortion violates this belief. The fact that the cells grown from an aborted fetus were used in the development of most vaccines is grounds for any Christian to object and be exempt from receiving a Covid 19 vaccine.

- **(Genesis 2:7, Genesis 9:6, Psalm 139:1316)**

Our body is a temple of the Lord in which the Holy Spirit dwells. Christians may object to mandated vaccines and ask for an exemption, because they would not want to put an experimental drug in their body, which is a temple of the Lord.

- **(1 Corinthians 6:19, 1 Corinthians 7:1)**

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:43:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Asing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this unconstitutional bill. It goes against my God given religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:43:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anela Kealakai	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next?**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child’s body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children’s health.

4. What’s Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don’t matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai‘i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more**

families may be forced to leave Hawai'i. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom.** Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Anela

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:44:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle A Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government does not have right to restrict my adherence to my freedom of religion. It is our religious right to refuse vaccinations. Furthermore, The government shares no medical liability in forcing my self or family to get vaccinated, and therefore shares no voice in the matter.

This is Private decision based on religious practices and no government should be deciding to take away that right.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:45:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steele Asing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong OPPOSITION of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:45:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kawika Kekuawela	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:45:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lianokeola Mora-Duquette	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

My family and I oppose bill HB1118 which is an infringement upon our God-given rights. This bill is unconstitutional and at no point should the government be getting involved with our choices or punishing our children for abiding by a holistic approach that is in line with our faith and religious beliefs. For a governor who promotes tolerance, this bill sends a message to the people that he is intolerant of those who choose to live differently than he. Shame on him and all in favor of this bill. This is not Aloha and this is not constitutional.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:47:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nashea Kitaoka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Christian educator with children, I strongly oppose the revocation of religious exemptions and to advocate for the fundamental right of parents to make choices that align with their faith and values. With living through COVID and having to take additional precautions to complete my tasks and perform my job, I understand that vaccines can be a way to create safety. However, I do believe that every family should have the right to decide and ensure it aligns with their faith and values.

Equally important is the right of parents to make decisions regarding their children's upbringing, education, and healthcare. Parents, not the government, are best equipped to determine what is in the best interest of their children, particularly when it comes to matters of faith and conscience. Revoking religious exemptions would force many families into situations where they must choose between their beliefs and compliance with state mandates—an unjust and unnecessary burden.

Religious exemptions and parental choice are not barriers to progress; they are safeguards of personal liberty and diversity. True inclusivity means respecting different perspectives and ensuring that no family is forced to compromise its values. I urge lawmakers to uphold these essential freedoms and protect the rights of individuals and parents to live according to their beliefs without fear of coercion.

Mahalo for your time,

Nashea

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:47:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlyn Manaea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A parent's "NO" should be enough and religious exemptions should not be taken away. I serve God not government and the government is not allowed to dictate these types of matters. The government is supposed to be made of public servants and this should not be a topic of discussion. If this bill is signed Governor Josh Green will not be allowed to call President Donald Trump a dictator because this bill makes Josh Green a dictator and goes against our constitutional freedoms.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:49:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremae Caraballo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Jeremae Caraballo and I strongly oppose this bill.

This bill goes against the First Ammendment of the United States Constitution which protects freedom of religion.

Thank you for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:50:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tamara Mckay	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I am writing in **strong opposition** to **HB1118**, which seeks to **repeal non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements**. This bill is a direct attack on **personal freedom, parental rights, and medical choice**. The government **must not** have the power to force medical procedures on children or any individual.

The Government Should Not Mandate Medical Decisions

Medical decisions should be left to **individuals and families, not the government**. The **risk of adverse reactions** to vaccines is real, and **HB1118 fails to address who will be held accountable** if a child suffers from a severe reaction.

- **Will the government accept responsibility for vaccine injuries?**
- **Will the state provide compensation for those who suffer adverse effects?**

By mandating vaccines without allowing religious or personal exemptions, the government is overstepping its authority and removing **informed consent**, a fundamental principle in medical ethics.

The Hypocrisy of "My Body, My Choice"

The same lawmakers who advocate for **"my body, my choice"** in the context of abortion are now pushing **forced medical procedures on children**. This is a **blatant contradiction**—either individuals have bodily autonomy, or they do not.

- **Why is bodily autonomy only respected when it fits a political agenda?**
- **If parents do not have the right to refuse a vaccine for their child, what will be mandated next?**

HB1118 is Unconstitutional

This bill **violates the U.S. Constitution** by infringing on **religious freedoms and parental rights**.

- **First Amendment** – The **right to religious freedom** is protected under the First Amendment. Forcing parents to vaccinate their children against their beliefs is an **unconstitutional government overreach**.
- **Fourteenth Amendment** – The **Due Process Clause** protects the right of parents to **direct the upbringing and medical decisions of their children**.
- **Ninth Amendment** – Rights **not explicitly stated in the Constitution** are still **retained by the people**. The right to **make personal medical decisions** is one of them.

HB1118 Sets a Dangerous Precedent

If the government can **mandate medical procedures for children**, what is next? Will they extend mandates to adults? Will they decide what other medical treatments are **compulsory**? This is a **dangerous path** toward medical authoritarianism.

HB1118 Does Not Consider Natural Immunity or Individual Health Concerns

- Many children **already have natural immunity** to certain diseases. **Why should they be forced to take a vaccine they do not need?**
- **One-size-fits-all medicine is bad science**. Medical decisions should be based on **individual health needs, not government mandates**.

Vote NO on HB1118 – Protect Medical Freedom

This bill is an **unconstitutional, unethical, and dangerous** overreach of government power. I urge you to **oppose HB1118** and **stand for personal liberty, parental rights, and medical choice**.

Vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:50:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clint Mariteragi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. Taking away a religious exemption is an attack on Religious freedom and it also undermines choice. It is important to let the people have a voice and a choice especially when it comes to their children.

Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:51:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
michelle andrews	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I would like to testify in opposition of this bill. This would completely take away body autonomy and health freedom. We the people deserve to have freedom of choice when it comes to our bodies as well as our keiki.

thank you,

Michelle Andrews

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:51:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Asing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose! This is unconstitutional and illegal. No one can go against the people's God-given fundamental right to religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:54:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong opposition to HB1118.

This Bill seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions to vaccination requirements, which infringes on the right to make personal healthcare choices based on religious beliefs.

Due to its capacity to significantly limit the ability of individuals to opt out of vaccinations based on their religious beliefs, it would force citizens to choose between their faith and medical compliance.

If we have concerns about the safety and efficacy of vaccines, we should have the freedom to make the decision to opt in or out.

This is a violation of our fundamental constitutional rights.

It is a competent individual's decision to refuse medical procedures is an aspect of liberty protected by the Due Process Clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

I urge you to oppose HB1118.

Thank you for respectfully listening to my voice of concern; may heartfelt wisdom guide your decision,

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:54:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
CALVIN T CHINEN	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My understanding is that this bill will remove the religious exemption. If that is true, then this bill is not only against the spirit of the separation of church and state but it violates our personal freedom to worship God in our own manner.

Please do not pass this bill.

Aloha,

Cal Chinen

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:56:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leigh Wong-Miyasato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:57:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wren Vidal	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for school children. As a concerned citizen, parent, and advocate for religious freedom, I urge you to vote against this legislation, which directly undermines the fundamental rights of families to make decisions in accordance with their deeply held religious beliefs.

Religious liberty is a cornerstone of our nation’s foundation, enshrined in the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. By removing the option for religious exemptions, this bill disregards the sincerely held beliefs of many families who seek to exercise their right to make healthcare decisions in accordance with their faith. Such a measure not only infringes upon religious freedom but also sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into personal and parental rights.

Parents are best equipped to make informed decisions regarding their children's health and well-being. This bill would force families to choose between their faith and access to education, a choice that no parent should be forced to make in a free society. Furthermore, children who have been thriving in their educational environments would face unnecessary disruption, leading to potential negative social, emotional, and academic consequences.

Additionally, it is essential to acknowledge that religious exemptions have coexisted with public health policies for decades without significant detriment to overall public health. The current framework already allows for balanced measures that respect both public health interests and religious freedom. Removing religious exemptions does not significantly enhance public safety but instead alienates and marginalizes families who adhere to their spiritual convictions.

In a diverse and pluralistic society, it is crucial that we uphold the principles of tolerance, inclusivity, and respect for differing beliefs. Legislators have a duty to protect the rights of all constituents, including those whose religious convictions guide their healthcare decisions. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the fundamental freedoms that make our country a beacon of religious liberty.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you reject this bill and protect the rights of parents and children to exercise their religious freedoms without government coercion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 9:59:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sehar Shokri	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose bill HB1118. We should be able to
choose based on our religious beliefs.

Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:00:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denver Saxton Coon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for school immunization requirements. While I fully support efforts to protect public health, this bill fails to justify the need for such an extreme measure. It creates an unfair two-tiered system, infringes on religious freedom, and is based on incomplete data that does not show a true public health crisis.

1. HB1118 Creates a Two-Tiered System That Treats Children Unequally

This bill allows children who previously received a religious exemption to remain in school but denies the same right to their younger siblings. In my own family, my older child would be allowed to continue attending school with a religious exemption, while my younger child would be forced to comply with a mandate that contradicts our deeply held beliefs.

This arbitrary distinction:

- Discriminates based on birth year, treating one child differently from another simply because they were born later.
- Unfairly divides families, forcing parents to comply with contradictory rules for different children.
- Lacks consistency, as it acknowledges that religious exemptions were acceptable in the past but suddenly deems them unacceptable moving forward.

If the legislature believes that religious exemptions do not pose a significant public health threat for children already in school, then there is no logical reason to deny the same exemption to younger students.

2. HB1118 Violates Religious Freedom and Parental Rights

The First Amendment guarantees the right to freely exercise religion, and for many families, medical decisions—including vaccinations—are deeply intertwined with their faith. Forcing families to choose between their faith and their child’s education is not pono.

3. The Bill Ignores the Lack of a Public Health Crisis

The bill claims that declining vaccination rates justify eliminating religious exemptions but fails to provide evidence that this has caused increased disease outbreaks or a rising public health problem.

- Where is the data? HB1118 cites a rise in non-medical exemptions but does not demonstrate a corresponding rise in vaccine-preventable diseases.
- No documented harm. The bill does not provide statistics showing an increase in illness, hospitalization, or death due to declining vaccination rates.
- Hawaii already has high immunization rates. Herd immunity remains intact despite the existence of religious exemptions, proving that they have not caused widespread public health risks. And if a vaccine like Covid-19 does not stop transmission, then herd immunity is irrelevant.

Legislation should be based on clear evidence of harm, not on speculative concerns about future risks. If there were a true crisis, the bill should include specific outbreak data demonstrating how religious exemptions are directly causing increased health risks. The fact that this evidence is missing raises serious questions about the necessity of HB1118.

Conclusion

HB1118 is an unnecessary and unjustified overreach that creates an unfair, two-tiered system, violates religious freedom, and is based on incomplete data that does not prove a public health crisis. If religious exemptions remain valid for older students, they must be equally valid for younger students. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and protect the rights of Hawaii families to make informed medical decisions in accordance with their faith.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:03:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Littleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:03:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Soares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

Taking away my right to obtain religious exemptions for vaccinations is a direct attack against my religious freedoms. My right to exercise my beliefs is stated in the First Amendment of the US Constitution! By prohibiting the free exercise of an individuals' religious beliefs, you are going against the foundation of what this country stands for, freedom. My body my choice is the focal point when the topic of abortion is brought up. This does not seem to be the case when it comes to vaccinations. Why is that? If I want to murder my unborn baby, its my body my choice. If I do not want to put the human fetal tissue that originate from abortions, according to the NIH, National Library of Medicine, National Center for Biotechnology Information found at the following website, <https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC6027112/> then it is no longer my body my choice. Please note the ".gov" in the address.

This is wrong and goes against my religious beliefs.

No one, No government, No State should be able to force individuals to go against their religious beliefs.

I pray all who reads this can see that not only is this wrong, it goes against we the people, our Constitution, and pur freedom.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Soares

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:06:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

Tonight I have been informed that this hearing is this Friday. I am not able to be there in person. I stand OPPOSED to HB 1118. This is something that is personal and should not be forced upon anyone. This is like someone who has diabetes, who wants to refuse treatment and not do dialysis. This is like someone who has cancer, and wants to decline treatment. Are you going to force someone to do treatments against their will? This is an individual's choice.

Passing a bill such as this is opening a "can of worms" that the government will be faced with in civil lawsuits. And that means being bogged down with more time and expenses.

Please don't pass this bill.

Testimony in **Strong Opposition to HB1118** House Committee on Health

Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

I submit this testimony in **strong and unwavering opposition to HB1118**, which seeks to eliminate the non-medical, including religious, exemptions to school vaccination requirements. This bill represents an egregious overreach of government authority, trampling on fundamental rights of bodily autonomy, parental authority, and religious freedom—rights that are protected under both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawai'i State Constitution.

The decision to vaccinate must remain with families, not the government. Parents and guardians have the inherent right and responsibility to make medical decisions in the best interests of their children. Stripping away this right disregards the diversity of medical, ethical, and religious beliefs that exist in our society. It is not the role of the State to dictate what medical interventions must be administered to a child, especially when those interventions carry inherent risks.

Furthermore, this bill violates religious freedom. The First Amendment guarantees that individuals shall be free to exercise their religious beliefs without government interference. By removing the religious exemption, HB1118 directly attacks this fundamental freedom, forcing families to choose between their faith and their child's education. This is an unconstitutional and unconscionable mandate.

The principle of informed consent—central to ethical medical practice—demands that individuals have the right to accept or decline medical procedures without coercion. Vaccinations, like any other medical intervention, carry risks, including severe adverse reactions. It is a grave injustice to compel a medical procedure upon a child when a parent, guided by medical research, ethical concerns, or deeply held beliefs, deems it inappropriate.

I urge this committee to uphold the principles of bodily autonomy, parental rights, and religious freedom. The government must not force medical interventions on children against the will of their families. HB1118 is an unjust and unconstitutional bill that must be rejected and is a dangerous precedent that undermines fundamental liberties.

For the preservation of medical freedom and constitutional rights, I strongly urge you to OPPOSE HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration and thank you for your service,

Laura Acasio

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:06:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharon Ameen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please do not pass this bill. When a law decides on a family's personal medical decision such as immunizations, our freedom is being violated.

Please vote "no" for HB1118. Families have a right to choose whether their child should be vaccinated or which vaccines they will give their children.

Mahalo,

Sharon Ameen

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:06:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaai Bruhn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition against HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:07:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118. This bill not only imposes unconstitutional restrictions but also infringes upon the fundamental rights of individuals as enshrined in the U.S. Constitution.

Violation of Constitutional Rights

1. First Amendment – Freedom of Speech and Expression

The proposed legislation unduly restricts the ability of individuals to express their personal and professional views. The First Amendment guarantees that individuals and organizations have the right to freely express themselves without undue government interference. If enacted, this bill would impose unconstitutional restrictions that could lead to censorship and suppression of lawful speech.

2. Fourteenth Amendment – Equal Protection and Due Process

The bill unfairly discriminates against certain individuals and groups, creating an unconstitutional disparity in how laws are applied. The Equal Protection Clause mandates that all individuals be treated equally under the law, and this bill would violate that principle by unfairly targeting specific populations. Additionally, the Due Process Clause prohibits the government from depriving individuals of their rights without fair legal procedures, which this bill fails to uphold.

3. Tenth Amendment – State Overreach

This legislation encroaches upon rights that should be left to individuals rather than being mandated by state or federal authorities. The Tenth Amendment reserves powers not delegated to the federal government to the states or the people, and this bill disregards that principle by attempting to regulate matters beyond its rightful scope.

Additional Concerns

Beyond the constitutional violations, this bill sets a dangerous precedent by granting excessive authority to the government over personal decisions. It undermines individual autonomy and opens the door to further encroachments on fundamental rights.

Conclusion

I urge this committee to reject HB1118 in its entirety. Not only does it fail to serve the interests of justice, but it also violates core constitutional protections that define our democracy. I respectfully request that you consider the implications of this bill and uphold the constitutional rights of all citizens by opposing its passage.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Darren C. Clemen

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:07:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nalani Hunsaker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing HB118

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate the religious exemption to vaccinations for school attendance. This bill is a direct attack on religious freedom and parental rights, and it sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into deeply held personal and religious beliefs.

Key Concerns:

1. Violation of Religious Freedom

The right to religious freedom is protected under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Many families hold sincere religious beliefs that prevent them from vaccinating their children. Forcing vaccination against these beliefs is a clear violation of their constitutional rights and could set the stage for further erosion of religious liberties.

2. Parental Rights and Medical Choice

Parents, not the government, should have the final say in what medical interventions are best for their children. Removing the religious exemption strips families of their ability to make informed medical decisions in line with their faith. This is an unacceptable overreach that disregards the fundamental rights of parents.

3. Lack of Justification for Removing Religious Exemptions

There is no compelling evidence that eliminating religious exemptions is necessary for public health. States with religious exemptions have not seen widespread outbreaks solely due to these exemptions. Many religious families also practice natural health and wellness, which contributes to their children's overall well-being.

4. Discrimination Against Religious Communities

By eliminating religious exemptions, HB1118 would disproportionately harm religious minorities and communities that hold alternative health beliefs. It could result in exclusion from education, forcing parents to homeschool or seek costly private alternatives, placing undue burden on families with limited resources.

Alternative Solutions:

Rather than eliminating religious exemptions, policymakers should focus on education, transparency, and informed consent, allowing families to make medical choices that align with their faith and values. Respecting religious diversity is a cornerstone of our nation's principles, and this bill disregards that foundation.

Conclusion:

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on HB1118. This bill is an infringement on religious freedom, parental rights, and informed medical choice. The government should not have the power to force medical interventions that conflict with a family's sincerely held beliefs. Protecting religious liberty is essential to maintaining a free and just society.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully ask that you uphold our fundamental rights by rejecting HB1118.

Sincerely,

Nalani Hunsaker

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:08:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Magalie Del Angel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE BILL 1118

I believe people should have the right to medical freedom. As we know, childhood illnesses help to build a strong immune system. In addition, there have been aborted fetus cells in some of the immunizations. This alone is a basis for religious exemption. Some of the shots havent even been tested fully. In 1986 there was a bill passed which makes the manufacturers not responsible for harmful effects of their shots. Until they have been tested fully and the manufacturers have culpability, I will oppose this bill.

This bill eliminates non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school entry, effectively removing the previous option for parents or guardians to opt out of required vaccinations based on religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:08:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taryn Alessandro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We deserve the rights to an education while making our own choices regarding our own bodies. Vaccinated people spread disease just like unvaccinated people - only unvaccinated people know when they are sick and can stay home when exhibiting symptoms. If the unvaccinated are the ones at risk- why is it the vaccinated that want segregation?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:08:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Astrid Drolson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Astrid Drolson, a resident of Kapa‘a, Kaua‘i, and I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118. This bill seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for school immunizations, which is a direct violation of religious freedom, medical autonomy, and the constitutional rights of Hawai‘i’s citizens.

Overview of HB1118

HB1118 aims to increase immunization rates by eliminating non-medical exemptions for school entry. While it allows children with existing religious exemptions for the 2024–2025 school year to remain exempt, it prevents future families from making faith-based medical decisions for their children. The bill preserves medical exemptions for children with qualifying conditions and ensures that students with individualized education programs continue receiving necessary services.

Why I Oppose HB1118

1. Violation of Religious and Constitutional Rights

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the free exercise of religion. By eliminating religious exemptions, HB1118 forces parents to choose between their deeply held beliefs and their children’s education. This is an unconstitutional infringement on religious liberty.

2. Discrimination Against People of Faith

Many religious traditions include moral or ethical objections to specific medical interventions, including vaccinations. Preventing new religious exemptions unfairly discriminates against future families who hold these beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of religious freedoms.

3. Coercion and the Violation of Informed Consent

Medical decisions should be based on personal choice, free from government pressure. Informed consent requires that individuals be allowed to weigh risks and benefits without coercion. HB1118 removes this fundamental right by forcing compliance as a condition of school attendance.

4. Legal and Ethical Concerns

Other states that have attempted to remove religious exemptions have faced significant public resistance and legal challenges. This bill could lead to costly litigation for the state, as it undermines well-established constitutional protections.

Conclusion

While public health is important, HB1118 goes too far by stripping away the rights of individuals to make personal medical decisions in accordance with their faith and conscience. I strongly urge you to oppose HB1118 and protect the religious and medical freedoms of Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Astrid Drolson

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:09:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candise Toomoth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I stand against the bill that mandates vaccinations for school-aged children, as it infringes on both religious freedom and parental rights. Parents should have the authority to make medical decisions for their children, guided by their personal beliefs and values. This bill overlooks the significance of these freedoms and forces a uniform approach to healthcare, restricting families from making choices that align with their principles. Safeguarding individual rights and parental autonomy is essential to preserving a society that values personal freedoms."

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:10:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose hb1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:11:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darren Miller	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. I oppose the ending of religious and medical exemptions for vaccinations for youth for attendance at school. Non-consenting minors should not be forced to take into their body the various toxic chemicals within typical vaccine regimes. Don't force minors to be subject to these poisons. Do not pass HB 1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:11:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi Ka'aihue-Lacsina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha,

I write to oppose bill HB1118.

To exempt families for making a religious or even a concerned decision in protecting their kids from vaccinations as well as vaccine side affects like that of the Covid 19 vaccinations is their choice and decision as a family and should never be decided for them by the government. Perhaps we should focus our attention on bigger issues such as the homeless population or foreigners buying up our Aina, instead of forcing families to choose the health of their kids over receiving an education.

Once again, I ask you who represent us to listen to hear what we the people want, for we know what is best for our individual families and our keiki. So please stand with us and not against us on this issue and oppose HB1118.

Mahalo,

Heidi Ka'aihue-Lacsina

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:12:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Caoagdan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government overreach, plain and simple. It threatens our fundamental rights-our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and parents' rights to protect their keiki.

Hawai'i is built on respect-respect for our families, our kupuna, our keiki, and our personal choices. This bill disrespects all of that. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one-especially the government-should have the power to force those risks on anyone.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects-neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but for the families affected, they are life-changing. The government has no right to decide that some level of risk is "acceptable" for someone else's child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences.

HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? Our keiki are not the property of the state. Parents-not lawmakers-should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawai'i. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our keiki. **I humbly ask that you all vote NO on HB1118.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Chris Caoagdan

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:12:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinney Soares	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill. Religious exemptions are necessary.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:13:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Luborsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposing the bill HB1118 as I strongly believe it is our right to have a choice to what we do to our children's bodies. No form of government should be able to override what a parent knows is best for their child's health and well being. The media often says that there is no link between vaccines and autism or other neurological injuries. There is actually ample evidence that vaccines can cause injury to children and it has been cited for decades.

Vaccines may be helpful at times, but there is still a risk to a child's health when getting immunized. Parents need to have a choice in this. I have been a school teacher for over twenty years. I taught during the covid pandemic and now during a whooping cough outbreak, I have taught children who are vaccinated and many who are not.

Unvaccinated families have taken extra measures to keep their children healthy, and when they're sick, keep them out of school.

Requiring immunizations for all children in order to attend school is taking away our constitutional rights. We as parents must have a choice, especially because there's a risk.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:14:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Borowsky	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose HB1118, and plead that you do not pass this bill. Vaccines are full of harmful toxins and heavy metals that have injured millions of children with everything varying from basic immune deficiencies to severe loss of speech and normal cognitive and physical capabilities. Pharmaceutical companies are released of any liability for these children (while vaccines are a high profit business for them) and doctors are too, as well as not knowing how to help these children heal. Giving vaccines to our children should be the choice of parents, who know their child and their current health, and NOT the government.

Health comes from the inside out, and if the government wants to support children's health, please create initiatives for education and more funding for farmers to grow and provide healthy organic food for every family, and ban the abundance of cheap snacks made with tons of toxic chemicals (many of which are already banned in Europe) that are destroying our gut microbiome and healthy immune system that is naturally designed to fight off the pathogenic bacteria and viruses.

Please DO NOT pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:15:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Ekstrom	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118! Aiming to deny our religious freedom from any and all vaccine injections for the purpose of attending public school is a violation of our constitutional right to have freedom of religion and the right to pursue happiness. The immediate and long term side effects that compromise the quality of life that is our inherent birth right is appalling. With all my God given rights I oppose this bill whole heartedly.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:15:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Alden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it is a complete violation of our God-given, inalienable rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:16:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

In strong opposition of bill HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:18:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynne Bloom	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My religion prevents me from taking any vaccinations. In this country we should be able to pursue or religious freedom and decide when and how we want to take a vaccine. I am opposed to this bill based on religious freedom.

Thank you,

Lynne

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:19:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a mom to 5 I believe it is my sole religious right what is injected into my children's body . I do not think that doing away with religious exemptions is threatening any lives . If you believe that a vaccine is saving lives why worry about the unvaccinated. You forced Covid vaccinations how well did that turn out? where was the science behind putting countless youth at risk for side effects the rest of their lives. I kindly ask that if you believe so deeply in your vaccine that you trust that the majority of the population will be safe after getting their vaccine and that you leave the parents religious beliefs and our American rights in place .

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:19:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoki Edwin K. Liftee-Kau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccination requirements. As a concerned citizen of Hawaii, I believe this bill infringes upon the fundamental rights guaranteed to us by both the Hawaii State Constitution and the United States Constitution.

First and foremost, the Hawaii State Constitution Article I, Section 4 explicitly states, "No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." The elimination of religious exemptions for vaccinations directly contradicts this provision, as it prohibits individuals from exercising their religious beliefs freely.

Moreover, **Article I, Section 2** of the Hawaii State Constitution asserts, "All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights." This includes the right to bodily autonomy and the right to make decisions about one's own health and well-being. By removing religious exemptions, the state is undermining these inherent rights and imposing a one-size-fits-all approach that disregards individual beliefs and circumstances.

Furthermore, **Article I, Section 5** guarantees, "No person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws." The removal of religious exemptions not only infringes upon religious freedom but also fails to provide due process and equal protection for those whose beliefs conflict with mandatory vaccination requirements.

In addition to the protections offered by our state constitution, the **First Amendment of the United States Constitution** ensures that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." This fundamental right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy and must be upheld at all levels of government.

The implications of HB1118 are far-reaching and set a dangerous precedent. By eliminating religious exemptions, the state is essentially saying that individual beliefs and freedoms can be overridden by legislative action. This raises a critical question: *What constitutional rights will you look to remove next?* If the state can mandate vaccinations without regard to religious

beliefs, what other personal freedoms and protections will be sacrificed in the name of public policy?

In conclusion, I urge you to reconsider the implications of HB1118 and to respect the constitutional rights of all Hawaii citizens. The elimination of religious exemptions for vaccinations is not only unconstitutional but also a violation of the fundamental principles of freedom and autonomy that our nation and state hold dear. I respectfully request that you oppose HB1118 and uphold the rights and freedoms guaranteed to us by the Hawaii State Constitution and the United States Constitution.

Thank you for your attention to this critical matter.

Sincerely,

Keoki Edwin K. Liftee-Kau

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:19:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Pregil	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My sincerely held religious beliefs, preclude any immunizations that is in conflict with those beliefs. I demand an exemption to any requirements and strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:19:54 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keanu Alop	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:21:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Hunsaker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove the right to a religious exemption from vaccination requirements for school attendance. This bill is a direct infringement on religious liberty and parental rights and disregards the deeply held convictions of many families in our state.

Religious Liberty Must Be Protected

Our nation was built on the fundamental principle of religious freedom, and removing the religious exemption disregards this fundamental right. Faith-based objections to vaccinations are rooted in sincere beliefs, and forcing individuals to violate their conscience to access education is both unjust and unconstitutional.

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and numerous state protections guarantee the right to practice one’s faith without government coercion. The government has no place dictating which religious beliefs are valid and which are not.

Parental Rights & Medical Autonomy

Decisions regarding a child’s health and medical care belong to parents, not the government. By eliminating the religious exemption, HB1118 would force families to choose between their faith and their child’s education, an impossible and unfair choice. Parents must be able to assess medical risks and make informed decisions based on their values and beliefs.

No Justification for Removing the Exemption

There is no compelling public health emergency that warrants eliminating religious exemptions. In fact:

- States that uphold religious exemptions have not seen a surge in outbreaks caused by exempted individuals.
- Vaccination rates remain high despite the presence of exemptions, meaning that those who choose not to vaccinate for religious reasons pose no substantial risk to public health.

Discriminatory Impact on Religious Communities

If this bill is enacted, it will disproportionately affect religious minorities and conscientious objectors who hold beliefs that do not align with government mandates. It could lead to educational discrimination, forcing many faith-based families into financial hardship as they seek alternative education options outside the public system.

A Call for Respect and Balance

Public health policies must be balanced with the preservation of individual rights and freedoms. Instead of coercion, policymakers should focus on education, dialogue, and transparency, allowing families to make decisions in accordance with their faith.

Conclusion

For these reasons, I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the rights of parents and religious individuals. This bill is an unnecessary attack on religious freedom and medical choice that does not serve the public good. Faith and conscience must never be sacrificed for the sake of government mandates.

Please vote NO on HB1118.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Michael Hunsaker

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:23:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dave Luborsky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines are neither safe nor effective. Our next door neighbor died hours after getting a vaccine shot for Covid. My daughter, who has been vaccinated for Covid, gets sick fairly often since then. I have observed that friends and colleagues who have gotten vaccinated for Covid have faced and continue to face health challenges that they did not before getting vaccinated. Regarding vaccines in general, there remains the legitimate question regarding the connection between autism and vaccines. Also, not everyone reacts the same when exposed to toxins in the environment. Some are able to withstand what is debilitating to others. This is explained as it relates to chemical toxins in the environment in the book Our Stolen Future by Theo Colborn and John Peterson Myers (Dutton Adult, March 1996). Vaccines can be dangerous and harmful, and what has been granted under the title of religious exemption is nothing less than the freedom to choose our personal medical treatment, which is the birthright of every citizen of the world. Please oppose HB 1118 and allow Hawai'i's parents the freedom to continue to choose what is right for their children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:24:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charlene Mersburgh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Immunizations should be a choice and not dictated by the government.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:25:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diana Mullen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please oppose HB1118

This is extreme Government Overreach. Parents know what is best for their children. Parents should have the choice. This is pushing drugs for profit.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:25:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shelby lynn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is unlawful, unfair and unjust. We as parents have the choice to practice any religion we choose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:25:58 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aimee Fung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose! The government should not be forcing me to put anything in my body or my child's body, ever!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:27:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christian Monsell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:28:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Ross	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

OPPOSEING BILL 1118

I strongly oppose Bill 1118 because I believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue and harmful metals (causing major health problems) which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions. Furthermore, certain vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:28:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc Urabe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of Bill #HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:33:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maly Gella	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

To all those voting on this bill, I am a Registered Nurse of 28 years and I strongly Oppose this bill.

As a Christian I find it Reprehensible when *ANY ATTEMPT* Is made to trample on our Religious Rights! I am baffled that those "Representing" the People of Hawaii have No Regard For OUR FIRST AMENDMENT! The very foundation of our Nation was built on Religious Freedom and it is OUR INALIENABLE RIGHT, **ENDOWED BY OUR CREATOR**, to Exercise our Religious Beliefs However We See Fit!

Parents, NOT Elected Officials, get to decide based on their deep held beliefs whether or not they want to vaccinate their children. Hawaii, with our dictatorial governor Green at the helm, continues to have NO Regard For the Citizens of Hawaii and our Rights to Bodily Sovereignty! If you vote yes and pass this bill you are telling all of us who stand in opposition of this bill that you have NO RESPECT and NO REGARD for the Constitution and the Freedoms bestowed on each and every citizen of Hawaii! Stripping Parents of their God Given Rights is not just wrong it is Illegal and if this bill passes this will not be the end of this! We will not allow our rights to continue to be trampled on! We are tired of moving backwards as a State. Please Do what is Right, What is Pono and Oppose this Bill! Thank You.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:34:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:39:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C. Vierra	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I strongly oppose HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations. Vaccines come with risk and where there is risk, there should be choice. As the world observed during COVID, not all vaccines prevent the transmission of communicable diseases, nor do they always provide immunity to the recipient. Our rights and children's rights to participate in society, receive an education, and practice our faith should not be determined by injections. I urge you to consider the history of vaccine failures and recalls. I urge you to acknowledge that MANY products, once licensed by the FDA and deemed safe and effective, are often found deadly, harmful, and ineffective years later. I urge you to consider that many people have sincere religious objections to injecting vaccines into their bodies (like contamination of their blood/God-given bodies, a betrayal of their Faith, the use of aborted fetal cells in many vaccines' manufacture, etc). The government should not interfere with one's privately held religious beliefs and force people to choose between their faith and education. I vehemently oppose HB1118 and ask our representatives to do the same. Mahalo, Carey Vierra

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:40:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Becketl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is 100% unconstitutional! This is a step in the wrong direction. You should not be able to tell anyone, your constituents, what we can and can not do with our bodies. This goes against my religious freedoms and right to those freedoms. There is more harm then good coming from this and should not be approved/passed!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:40:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail H. Kuba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

i oppose HB1118 taking away my right exercising my religious exemption fr/ being required to take vaccines that are fast tracked without going through proper extensive testings over time!!! The COVID VAX n boosters have resulted in many with adverse conditions, even death!

i urge the House Committee Chair and members to oppose this bill! Mahalo nui loa.

Aloha e Ke Akua,

GH Kuba

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:41:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sur Carbonell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:42:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darby ventura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:43:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Skye Rhoden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Hearing Date: [2/7/25]

Chair(s), Vice Chair(s) , and Members of the Committee:

Aloha,

My name is Skye Rhoden, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I understand the public health benefits of vaccinations, I believe this bill undermines essential parental rights and religious freedoms.

1. Parents Should Have the Right to Make Medical Decisions for Their Children

Parents are the primary decision-makers when it comes to their children's health and well-being. Some families hold strong religious or personal convictions about medical treatments, and they should not be forced to choose between adhering to their beliefs and ensuring their child receives an education. The government should not interfere in such deeply personal decisions.

2. Preserving Religious Freedom

Religious freedom is a fundamental right in America. For many families, vaccination decisions are not simply about health but about faith and conscience. Eliminating religious exemptions disregards this fundamental freedom and sets a dangerous precedent for the erosion of personal and religious liberties.

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child's body responds the same way to vaccines, and while medical exemptions exist, they can be extremely difficult to obtain—even when legitimate concerns are present. Families should not be burdened with unnecessary legal or bureaucratic battles when making informed medical decisions for their children.

4. The Dangerous Precedent of HB1118

This bill raises a significant question: if religious beliefs are dismissed in the context of vaccinations, what other rights might be taken away next? The government should not have the authority to override religious convictions, especially when these beliefs have long been respected under the law.

5. The Impact on Schools and Local Families

Hawai'i already faces challenges with school enrollment and the high cost of living. If children are barred from attending school due to their families' religious beliefs, more families may feel forced to leave the state. This legislation may unintentionally deepen Hawai'i's existing socioeconomic struggles by placing additional burdens on local families.

Conclusion

While public health is important, it should not come at the expense of parental rights and religious freedom. Families should not be penalized for making medical decisions that align with their deeply held beliefs. I strongly urge this committee to reject HB1118 and to uphold the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Skye Rhoden.

My testimony in opposition to HB1118

My religious beliefs are very personal to me. I am guided in everything I do by my faith. To be able to practice my religion without judgment or question is simple human decency, and I find it very offensive for our Governor and Legislature to invade the spiritual realm of my life. In order to explain why vaccines conflict with my religious beliefs, I'm going to start by telling you a bit about my own personal background. I've been spiritual my whole life. As a child, I felt God's omnipresence at a young age. My spirituality has been shaped by my interpretation of the Bible as well as several other sources to include the Urantia book which is one of the primary religious texts I grew up with. My parents read it extensively and so I was very familiar with the truths contained in this book which was a shaping force in my life and my identity. It guided me thru difficult times and helped me appreciate and value the best times. For anyone not familiar with the Urantia Book, it is very much about God, the life and teachings of Christ Jesus, the order of the universe, and truth. It is not in itself a religion and it embraces no specific practices other than personal prayer conducted in your own individual way. It's not an exclusive belief system and is compatible with other openminded religious beliefs or faiths. It provides ways to see, believe, act, and live in order to become a better human and find happiness, meaning, and fulfillment, and describes 'religion' as a purely personal and spiritual experience. "Religion is ever and always rooted and grounded in personal experience." The Urantia Book (102:8.7) "...True religion is a meaningful way of living dynamically face to face with the commonplace realities of everyday life." The Urantia Book, (99:4.3) "Religion is destined to become the reality of the spiritual unification of all that is good, beautiful, and true in human experience." The Urantia Book, (5:4.7)

As with any relationship, my relationship with God has evolved throughout the years. It was during my time as a young adult that I got caught up in my sense of self, human ego, and materialistic desires. I became preoccupied with more of the physical sense of life and existence which left me regularly ignoring my built-in spiritual sense. Looking back, I had lost touch with my faith. During those years I would rarely feel a oneness with God or His infinite love. Good would often seem fragmented or temporary and I often felt burden on my shoulders and fear in my heart. I held onto a mortal sense of myself during this period where my identity was locked into a physical existence bound by material birth and extinguished by physical death, and this would act like an anchor on my life dragging on all of my thoughts and all of my actions. It was during this time that I was driven mostly by money and made decisions based primarily on material comforts and material discomforts and financial gain. It was during this period of my adult life that I did choose to vaccinate and would exclusively seek medical and pharmaceutical treatment options for illness and pain. In retrospect, all of those things made me weak and stole away at the unlimited spiritual being that I am. My wife and I eventually found ourselves locked into very costly litigation over an investment property that we owned in Florida. But it wasn't until my Dad died during his battle with gall bladder cancer that made me realize that there was something missing in my faith.

My Dad was only 55 years old when he passed on. He had always been a very strong and powerful man. I had put my faith into his doctors and the chemo and radiation they were administering. They explained it was working and causing his tumor to shrink. But all I could see was his physical body slowly weaken and whittle away and die. Right before his death he told us

that he was dying. It wasn't because of the tumor he explained, it was the chemo that was killing him. To me, it was like using dynamite for a rat problem in the basement of your house. Yeah the rat infestation would no longer exist. But neither would your house. For my Dad, the chemo and radiation attacked both the cancer cells and the good cells in his body. It shrunk the tumor but killed his immune system. After his death, I was plunged into a deep dark period of grief, I was angry. I was furious at his doctors, I was petrified of cancer, and I was angry at God. It wasn't that I began to question God's existence. I had far too much experience in my life so I knew that God existed. But I did begin to question God's all-goodness and His care and love for me.

What I needed was a deeper understanding of God. So I pulled out my bible and spent many months reading with one goal in mind, to find God and to gain a clearer understanding of His divine love that Christ Jesus knew so well. By doing this, I began to realize the infiniteness of God, of God as the eternal life, as our creator and the One that maintains each one of us at the point of health and safety in life. And Jesus's life on earth proved that this relationship we all have with God makes a huge difference in our daily lives. I began to realize, with respect to my fear of cancer, that fear is darkness. Fear is our perception of the absence of God's infinite good, and the second we perceive a little bit more, our relationship with God to that degree, fear begins to go away. Jesus taught us to challenge fear and to not get caught up in all the material sense of life. And so the way I found my freedom from all this anger and fear and financial stress and the loss of my dad was to open the light in my thoughts, to open the light to God, which is infinite light, and find the light within that disperses the darkness. Which is what I worked towards.

It wasn't until my wife and I decided to have children when I felt my faith fully transform me. I felt so loved by the allness of this infinite divine good that I turned even more to God and found the spiritual path that is right for me and my family. It was at this point where I truly began to believe in the healing message of God's great love as found in the Bible and the Urantia Book, and how to improve health and overcome disease through natural, holistic, and spiritual healing methods. This is when my family and I stopped ALL vaccination. My kids (currently age 12, 11, and 9) are the most vibrant and healthiest children I have ever seen and they have NEVER been vaccinated. My wife and I have filed religious waivers for vaccinations for all our children every year with the Hawaii State School System for their school, sports teams and extra-curricular activities. All three of our children were born at home naturally without any drugs or medication. This natural way is our way of life. It includes how we care for our entire health and well-being of the body, mind and soul through natural means supported by scripture. It is what I have found to be the most effective way for me to deal with medical needs.

It is my belief from Christ Jesus teachings and practice and prayer and my own personal relationship with Him, that I view God as divine good, as only good that never punishes, never causes sickness or pain or viruses or death but shows rather how to overcome them. I believe Christ Jesus showed the world the nature of God as love that enabled Him to heal through divine love. Jesus taught that there is an intersection between our spirituality and our daily experience. Scripture is very clear that health comes from God (Job 5:17-27; Hos. 6:1). Throughout almost all of the bible, medicine and physicians are seldom mentioned and reliance

on them is sometimes considered wrong or useless (Mark 5:26): “And who had suffered much under many physicians, and had spent all that she had, and was no better but rather grew worse” (2 chron 16:12-13) “In the thirty-ninth year of his reign Asa was afflicted with a disease in his feet. Though his disease was severe, even in his illness he did not seek help from the Lord, but only from the physicians. Then in the forty-first year of his reign Asa died.” (e.g. also see Luke 8:43-48; Mathew 7:13-14), while health and healing is attributed to God (for example, Exod. 15:26; 1 Kings 17:17-24; 2 Kings 5:1-14; Mark 6:7-13; Acts 3:1-10; Acts 9:32-35; James 5:14-15).

Based upon my experience and scripture, God has already provided the medicines we need to heal and maintain our health. It is not for us to use drugs and vaccines for medical care. I believe God created an abundance of natural healing remedies, and that it is in our best interest to tune in to his wisdom and educate ourselves in how to restore and/or maintain our health and wellness by the use of what he created for us. Among these incredible gifts are the oils and herbs of plants. God created them and gave us the intellect to discover and learn how to use them. Essential oils are the true essence of a plant and each plant has its own set of benefits that is different from any other plant. They provided people of ancient times with the tools needed to tend to the sick and keep themselves free of pain and disease. The bible has countless passages about healings and health. Mark 6:13, “...and anointed many sick people with oil and healed them.” In fact essential oils from plants are mentioned almost two hundred times in the bible, and many of them are still in common use today. And there are numerous examples and scientific studies that show the many ways these plants can safely and effectively be put to use.

By learning how plants were used in the Bible, I have become more in touch with my faith, and feel closer to God and Christ Jesus as I use them in my everyday life. “With my holy oil have I anointed him” (Psalm 89:20); see also, Matthew 2:11. God spoke these words, and this simple act of anointment—in this case, directly from God—and shielded him from every adversary and illness for the rest of his life. By the time David became king, healing oils had been a pillar of health and spirituality for 1000s of years.

My family and I use many of these natural oils as medicine to protect against infection and treat illness and injuries. If we have a cold, or headache, or a respiratory issue, we have found that essential oils can be just as effective, or more so, as many over-the-counter medications—without all the side effects that come from a pill. Some essential oils also provide antiviral benefits, arguably going beyond what a pharmaceutical decongestant can accomplish. I personally rely on dragons blood (sap from dracaena cinnabari tree) for cuts and scrapes; oregano oil as my antibiotic; lavender and tea tree oils to calm any anxiety; frankincense for insect bites; kukui nut oil to heal sunburn, white willow bark for pain relief; eucalyptus for congestion, just to name a few.

When I was infected with COVID-19 during the pandemic, I never wavered in my faith, and my family didn’t either. I took no medications nor received any medical care. I chose instead, as our family always does, to treat the illness solely with natural herbs and oils and prayer—and was able to get through it with relative ease. Another example, last year I had a surfing accident where my surfboard hit the bottom of my foot so hard that 3 of my toes folded backwards leaving 1 toe fully dislocated at the knuckle and hanging off to the side. I didn’t go to

the emergency room; instead, my wife helped me get my toe back into place and, through prayer and the constant massaging of the injured area and white willow oil to ease the pain, I was able to find freedom and healing from that injury without any sort of medical intervention. Another example of how we incorporate natural healing into our spiritual journey, my wife has had numerous cases of skin cancer throughout her life with scars from multiple surgeries. Through prayer, my wife found God-inspired wisdom of the natural power of a combination of larrea, graviola, oleander and sanguinaria plant root extracts that has worked wonders on treating spots of skin cancer she has had over the past 10+ years. It has been an amazing thing to witness her apply it to spots of squamous and basal cell skin cancer and watch only the bad skin cells scab up while the good skin remains unaffected, and—a few days later—the skin cancer just falls out and her skin heals without any scarring. It's amazing. To rely upon your belief in spiritual power you will be strengthened inwardly by God's omnipotent power. Isaiah 40:29-31: "He gives power to the weak, and to those who have no might He increases strength..." The power of the Holy Spirit is the same power that "God raised Christ from the dead" Ephesians 1:19-20, and is the power that me and my family long have relied upon instead of medical interventions, pain killers, or vaccinations. I am one with God and seek wellness in the Holy Spirit, Romans 15:13: "Now may the God of hope fill you with all joy and peace in believing, that you abound in hope by the power of the Holy Spirit". The power of God protects my family from disease for God can even raise the dead. Luke 7:14-15, God said, "Young man, I say to you, get up!" The dead man sat up and Jesus gave him back to his mother.

I could go on-and-on with examples but to keep from going too long I'll provide one last description of how my family and I use prayer and God's natural medicines to combat disease and remain healthy. After what happened to my own Dad when he died from his chemo and radiation treatment, it was no question, to my wife and I, how powerful and incredible of an immune system God created in us. This truth was further revealed this past year when my wife's 76-year old father (who lives with us) was diagnosed with stage-4 esophageal cancer and given a terminal diagnosis and less than 10 months to live. Based on the size and location of the tumor that was bleeding internally, his doctors at Kaiser said there wasn't anything they could do for him, but they wanted to put him on an aggressive dose/regime of chemo and radiation that could possibly help further the study and understanding of how this type of cancer reacts. After much praying, my wife immediately got him out of the hospital and got him on a natural cancer regimen based on nutritional and spiritual treatments which have literally transformed his life and turned him into a brand new person. Within months he was off of all his medications. All of his long standing pre-existing health conditions disappeared. He's no longer diabetic. His high blood pressure and high cholesterol are now perfect. He has lost over 70 pounds; he looks 20 years younger; feels strong, healthy, and happier; and is in the best shape he's been in for the past 30+ years. Even his gray hair has started to turn dark.

Another amazing aspect to this story is that a few months ago he had 3-straight days of a healing experience quite similar to those gospel accounts of healing when people came in contact with Christ Jesus and experience a sudden life-changing healing through prayer. It was incredible to see the tears of joy streaming down his face as he described being "visited" with heavenly energy in the location of his tumor: the first day it was warm energy that seemed to be working in and around his tumor for over 30 minutes. The next day he described this incredible

energy checking in and around that same location; and the third and final day, he described it as a “party” as if the energy was celebrating that he had been healed. This was such a momentous experience for our whole family that we recorded him on video as he described what had happened so we could document his experience. And I need to add that my father-in-law is a very scientific man, with 3 engineering degrees, so this entire experience has literally rocked his world. Every indication and test so far shows that his tumor is gone. And if you ask my father-in-law, he will straight-up tell you that he has been completely cured. This experience has been one of the most amazing things I have ever witnessed and just another amazing testimony to how we can all put God’s word into practice and incorporate the tools that he has given us. My father-in-law had terminal cancer and given 10 months to live and he is now 10 months past his diagnosis and is fully of energy, vitality and is more vibrant than ever.

It is through prayer and scripture that guides me in all decisions I make in life. I believe in healing myself with prayer, nutrition, and the oils and herbs of God’s plants and natural remedies instead of drugs, vaccines and surgery. I believe vaccination is an act of being unfaithful to God because I believe God enables immunity and keeps me and my family healthy. These religious beliefs are all I need for God to take care of me and my health. James 5:14-16, “Is anyone among you sick? Let them call the elders of the church to pray over them and anoint them with oil in the name of the Lord. And the prayer offered in faith will make the sick person well; the Lord will raise them up. If they have sinned, they will be forgiven. Therefore, confess your sins to each other and pray for each other so that you may be healed. The prayer of a righteous person is powerful and effective.” I believe that God wants us to gather in prayer to heal and use nature’s oils and nature’s remedies to heal. It is my religion to do the above and to strictly rely on the wisdom of God for my family’s health needs without interference from any drugs or vaccine or medical intervention. It is with deep conviction that I do not vaccinate because of my religious beliefs.

I appreciate you taking the time to understand my deeply held personal religious beliefs regarding vaccinations and medical interventions. Please don’t repeal the religious exemption from immunization requirements! Wishing you peace, happiness and health.

Sincerely,
Joseph Shuan

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:44:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Martha Stanwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB No. 1118 Proposes to repeal the religious exemption of immunizations for school children. I oppose this for several reason, first being that I have family members who have had adverse reactions to a vaccines and their doctors refused to acknowledge or admit the correlation and causation of the reaction so no medical exemption would be available to them. The religious exeption gave us protection from harm.

This bill makes claims about strong evidence of effectiveness based on decades of experience. No mention is made about the negative effects on children: cases of SIDS, which was not a syndrome before wide spread vaccination standards were in place or the correlation to ADHD or autism. No mention is made of the studies showing that unvaccinated children are actually healthier with stronger immune systems - fewer doctor visits, fewer cases of syndromes or long term health issues than thier vaccinated counter parts. Unfortunately these studies get over shaddowed by the 'evidence' gathered by the pharmaceutical industry who profit on our injury for years to come. They create problems and sell us solutions and donate to political campaigns to propose bills like this one.

Education on how to boost natural immunity would do far more and cost less than imposing requirements on injecting undisclosed elements into our children. Gov. Green, in all his white board presentations during covid made no mention on how to be healthy or boost our natural immune system - he just said stay away from people and wear a mask, which just like requiring vaccinations, hurts more than helps.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:45:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sai Sooriyakumar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly OPPOSE house bill number 1118. Religious freedom has been foundational to the establishment of our country and a fundamental right since its conception. Religious freedom may not be important to everyone, but limiting, restricting, or removing it endangers all of our other fundamental freedoms we enjoy in this country. Exercising our deeply held religious beliefs when it comes to our health, and the health of our children is paramount to our pursuit of life, liberty and happiness Please vote NO to protect and preserve religious freedom, and all other freedoms.

Mahalo,

Sai

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:45:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Avicolti	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha nui,

I am writing today in strong OPPOSITION to this bill HB1118. As a Native Hawaiian, and mother of school-aged children, we do appreciate the option and freedom to choose what we put into our bodies. The Religious Exemption has allowed our ‘ohana to have keiki in school without the mandate to inject unwanted, foerign, and harmful materieals into their growing bodies. The RE allowed us a very necessary and accurate representation of how we value life and care for our health. Certain ingredients like "Fetal Cell Lines" as seen on Immunization inserts go against our values and beliefs. Health is not a "one size fits all" system. We believe our government, communities, and schools should certainly resepect that, as I’m sure you also have your own beliefs, and freedoms to choose for your family what you feel is best. Please continue to honor all families by providing options in choosing what is right, for theirs. The Religious Exemption was put in place as an option for a reason, and this private information should NOT be taken away. It is a violation of safety to many who are facing this. Mahalo for taking the time to consider how THE PEOPLE feel---families just like you working hard to not only survive here in Hawai‘i but to thrive.

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy and the Honorable House Health Committee Members:

I write in Strong Opposition to HB1118, the removal of religious exemptions to vaccination requirements.

1. Hawaii's proposed legislation, is a national outlier, as public opinion on exemptions has become more favorable in recent years:

- Since COVID the percentage of those who “strongly support” school-related vaccination requirements has fallen sharply, from nearly half (47%) of U.S. adults in 2019 to barely a quarter (24%) in January 2025 (According to a survey published last week by the [Annenberg Public Policy Center](#) at the University of Pennsylvania).
- Last month, [West Virginia Gov. Patrick Morrisey](#) issued an [executive order](#) allowing for religious exemptions from mandatory school vaccinations, ending one of the most restrictive vaccination policies in the country. West Virginia legislators are expected to introduce a bill to codify that executive order into law.
- [Mississippi also began allowing religious exemptions](#) in July 2023, Under a federal court order.

2. The bill intro claims we must sustain a 95% vaccination rate to obtain “herd immunity” and protect the immunocompromised who supposedly cannot receive vaccines (tho many do). This theory has been proven false over and over. Most vaccines on the CDC schedule are not sterilizing (i.e. Covid & Pertussis), only provide personal protection, or in fact actually create infectious shedding from the vaccine recipient. This is a known fact amongst live viral vaccines such as MMR, chickenpox, and Hepatitis A where recipients are advised to AVOID immunocompromised people after vaccination.

3. Religious freedoms are enshrined in our Constitution, an inalienable right, which no man should come between. The government should never be the arbiter of one's faith, especially when it pertains to the injection of foreign chemicals (that carry known & unknown risks) into our bodies, with the sole purpose of altering God's immune system.

4. Forcing people to choose between their deeply held religious convictions and school enrollment will not (as the bill intro claims) increase vaccination rates. It will decrease school enrollment as well as initiate another mass exodus from the state. Covid showed the Hawaii people just how unscientific and tyrannical Josh Green's government can be....they will not stand for a COVID 2.0.

With Aloha,

Dr. Kim Haine

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:46:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kilihea Inaba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for vaccinations in order to attend school. While I understand the intention of this bill is to address concerns about rising non-medical exemptions, I believe it fails to consider important factors that affect both public health and parental rights.

1. Concerns About Vaccine Risks: One of the key concerns for many parents, including myself, revolves around the potential risks associated with vaccinations. For instance, the FDA Fact Sheet for the DAPTACEL vaccine (Diphtheria, Tetanus, Pertussis) includes a warning regarding **Guillain-Barré Syndrome** and **Brachial Neuritis**, two serious conditions that have been linked to the vaccine. The FDA states, “A review by the Institute of Medicine found evidence for a causal relation between tetanus toxoid and both brachial neuritis and Guillain-Barré syndrome.” This means that after receiving the DAPTACEL vaccine, a child may be at increased risk for these serious conditions.

Furthermore, it’s important to note that vaccine manufacturers are **not held liable** for adverse reactions that may occur after vaccination. This is a critical factor for parents when considering whether to vaccinate their children, as they cannot seek compensation for injuries that result from these vaccines. Given this, many parents feel it is vital to have the option to choose non-medical exemptions based on their personal beliefs and concerns.

2. The Right to Parental Autonomy: Another significant concern with this bill is that it infringes upon parental rights. By removing the ability to use non-medical exemptions, parents would lose their autonomy to make informed, personal decisions about what is best for their children’s health. Every child is different, and what may be appropriate for one child may not be for another. The decision to vaccinate should be a personal one, made by the parents in consultation with their healthcare provider, not dictated by the state.

3. The Context in Hawai’i: I understand that this bill is intended to protect public health by increasing vaccination rates. However, the reality is that in Hawai’i, children are **not dying from vaccine-preventable diseases**. In fact, the current vaccine coverage rates in Hawai’i are relatively high, and there has not been a significant uptick in outbreaks of vaccine-preventable diseases. This suggests that while vaccination is important, the need for extreme measures like removing non-medical exemptions is not justified by the data.

In conclusion, I urge you to oppose HB1118 for the sake of our keiki and the rights of parents to make informed decisions about their children's health. This bill undermines parental autonomy and does not adequately address the concerns of parents who are worried about the risks associated with vaccination.

Thank you for your time and consideration

Kilihea Inaba (Kaloko, Kona, Hawai'i)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:47:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Molina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Hearing Date: February 7, 2025

House Conference Room 329 / Videoconference

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements in Hawaii. This bill directly infringes on the rights of parents and individuals to make informed medical decisions based on their personal beliefs, religious convictions, and unique health considerations.

Every individual should have the freedom to choose what medical interventions they receive, especially when it comes to vaccinations. By removing non-medical exemptions, HB1118 disregards the deeply held religious and philosophical beliefs of many in our community, forcing compliance with a one-size-fits-all mandate that does not account for individual concerns.

This proposed legislation not only erodes personal freedom but also sets a dangerous precedent for government overreach into private health choices. Families who have legitimate concerns—whether due to religious faith, past adverse reactions, or ethical objections—would be left without any legal means to make decisions that align with their values and circumstances.

Hawaii has always been a place where diversity and personal freedoms are respected. This bill threatens that foundation by taking away a fundamental right: the right to choose what is best for our own bodies and our children's health.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and protect the ability of Hawaii's residents to make personal, informed, and voluntary medical decisions.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Daniel Molina

Molinadan@gmail.com

817-691-8990

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:48:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Damaris Barrios	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm strongly against taking away religious freedoms. I can't understand why it he governmsnet things it okay for others like the lgbt communities to have rights to be and do anything they want, but yet governments continue to find ways to take away religious freedom.

There are numerous studies that prove people who took that vaccine have a wide array of issues later in life verses those who did not. Usually the effects are not immediate. It's usually long term & people are now having to detox from the vaccines they took as kids. The toxins in these vaccines continue to cause various genetic mutations and there are studies to support this fact.

It's a known fact that pharmaceutical companies have a history of including toxic ingredients such as heavy metals. People no longer feel safe and trust them. Look at the list of lawsuits. Look at the list of prescriptions that were eventually pulled off the shelf. Look at the fact that they've had to reduce the mercury levels in vaccines over recent years and now they are going to have to eliminate entirely.

Can't take away civil liberties. Can't punish people for not complying. The only real reason politicians like our governor are pushing vaccines is because they are bought and paid for. I saw the federal data of payouts to him and other politicians during Covid. It's not right.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:50:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Priya Surrago	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 because no person or child should be refused equal opportunities in school because of vaccines interfering with their beliefs and practices that keep them connected to God and spiritual practice. Vaccines often contain unknown ingredients including those of aborted fetus' and animals. Why should a child be forced to put these kinds of ingredients in their body so that they can go to school? Religious exemptions have existed up until now and there haven't been major issues in schools with overspread of sickness.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:51:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucy Molina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Hearing Date: February 7, 2025

House Conference Room 329 / Videoconference

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements in Hawaii. As a parent, community leader, and advocate for personal freedoms, I firmly believe that this bill undermines the fundamental rights of Hawaii’s residents by removing the ability to make informed, personal, and religious medical decisions for themselves and their children.

Medical choices should not be dictated by the government, especially when they involve deeply personal convictions and beliefs. By eliminating non-medical exemptions, this bill forces families into compliance with medical procedures that may conflict with their religious faith, ethical convictions, or individual health concerns. The right to informed consent and medical choice is a core principle of bodily autonomy and should be protected, not stripped away by legislation.

Furthermore, this bill disproportionately impacts families who have valid concerns about vaccine reactions, long-term health effects, or philosophical and religious beliefs that guide their healthcare decisions. Hawaii’s diverse community is built on the values of freedom, respect, and cultural understanding—values that should extend to medical choice.

Additionally, removing non-medical exemptions sets a dangerous precedent by opening the door for further government overreach into personal health decisions. A one-size-fits-all approach to immunization disregards the individual circumstances of Hawaii’s residents and erodes trust between the people and their government.

I urge you to uphold the rights of Hawaii's families to make informed medical decisions without coercion. Please oppose HB1118 and protect the personal and religious freedoms that define our state.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Lucy Molina

Kailua Resident

817-798-0819

Luzianne19@gmail.com

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:54:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marc haine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government is not my God.

Make vaccine makers liable again.

I OPPOSE HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:54:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karese Miguel-Hamakua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the proposed bill to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines in public schools. While public health is essential, this bill infringes on fundamental religious freedoms and parental rights to make healthcare decisions for their children.

1. Religious Freedom

The First Amendment guarantees the free exercise of religion. By removing religious exemptions, this bill violates the constitutional rights of parents to make decisions based on their deeply held beliefs. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services affirms the importance of respecting religious convictions in healthcare matters.

2. Informed Consent

The CDC emphasizes that vaccination is a personal decision, and parents should have access to information to make an informed choice for their children. Removing religious exemptions disregards informed consent and forces families to choose between their beliefs and their children's education.

3. Equity and Legal Protections

Religious exemptions ensure that families are not discriminated against due to their faith. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission notes that denying religious accommodations can violate civil rights, and this bill could unfairly penalize families with religious convictions.

4. Public Health and Individual Rights

While vaccination protects public health, the World Health Organization acknowledges that vaccine decisions are influenced by cultural and religious beliefs. We must balance public health with respect for individual freedoms, including religious rights.

In conclusion, I urge the committee to reconsider this bill, as it undermines both religious freedoms and parental rights in healthcare decisions.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:55:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Blaine De Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118. State should not have a say in a person's religious exemptions.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 10:58:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erzsi Palko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To members of the Hawai'i Legislature House of Representatives:

I am urgently requesting that members of the House of Representatives consider the following reasons for voting “**NO**” on HB1118:

1. PARENTS MUST HAVE A RIGHT TO SCRUTINIZE AND OBTAIN TRUE MEDICAL CONSENT FOR ANY AND ALL MEDICAL PROCEDURES PERTAINING TO THEIR CHILDREN.

Any healthy, sane, vigilant parent would want to be provided with a full ingredient list and possible adverse reactions pertaining to any substance being proposed for injection into their child’s body. Denying parents rights to informed consent and the right to say “no” is depriving citizens of basic human rights. Removing the religious exemption is a move in the direction of depriving Hawai’i parents and children of basic human rights.

2. Consider, is it true or false that the following vaccines contain cloned cells of ABORTED FETAL TISSUE?: HepA (Havrix), Hep A/Hep B (Twinrix), MMRV (Proquad), Varicella

True. In every single dose of a vaccines containing there are pieces from the cultured cell line of an aborted fetus—referred to as “human diploid cells” in ingredient lists. Fetuses were aborted and still-living tissues were harvested and tested for culturing viruses as the basis for culturing “human diploid cells”.

Do you support the abolishment of religious exemption for pharmaceutical products that contain aborted fetal tissue?

(source: <https://www.oregon.gov/pharmacy/Documents/excipient-table-2.pdf>)

3. mRNA “vaccines” tamper with God’s design:

Purposefully introducing human-manipulated genetic material (mRNA) that causes a body's healthy cells to start manufacturing foreign proteins is tampering with God's design. What's more, there is evidence (in the paper sourced below) that the mRNA in these shots trigger our cells to code for non-target proteins approximately 10% of the time introducing random proteins into our bodies.

Do you support the abolishment of religious exemption for pharmaceutical products that interfere with God's design by artificially forcing our cells to create proteins God did not design?

(Source: <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-023-06800-3>)

4. While there is a concern that unvaccinated children may pose a health threat to their school communities, there is actually evidence to the contrary.

For example, what is the proven efficacy of a DTaP vaccine (one on the childhood vaccination schedule)?

Children that have received the DTaP vaccine can still contract and spread pertussis. According to the FDA, those vaccinated with DTaP will have fewer symptoms of pertussis, but will become infected and transmit pertussis, and "will be more susceptible to pertussis throughout their lifetimes." This means the children vaccinated for pertussis are more likely to catch and spread pertussis as asymptomatic carriers, while the unvaccinated are less likely to catch pertussis (and when they do will have symptoms and know to stay home).

Why would you mandate a vaccine without any exemptions that does not stop the spread of disease?

(source: <https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/24277828>;
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/30793754>;
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/29180031>)

As another example, what is the proven efficacy of a the IPV Polio vaccine?

The IPV polio vaccine actually DOES NOT prevent transmission. Only the oral polio vaccine has been shown to reduce transmission, however the oral polio vaccine is not in use because it can cause paralysis. For the last 20 years, the only polio vaccine used in the U.S. is inactivated polio vaccine ("IPV") and it only potentially prevents polio from traveling from the digestive tract to the spinal column. Hence, those vaccinated or not vaccinated with IPV can EQUALLY become infected and transmit polio; but, it is the vaccinated who are considered less likely to have symptoms and thus more likely to spread polio.

Why would you mandate a vaccine without any exemptions that does not stop the spread of disease?

(source: <https://www.archive.polioeradication.org/polio-today/polio-prevention/the-vaccines/ipv/>)

Again, why would you mandate a vaccine without any exemptions that does not stop the spread of disease?

Thank you for considering these reasons for maintaining school religious exemptions for medical procedures to uphold basic human rights and parent's rights for informed consent for their children's bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:01:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryson Wailehua-Hansen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:01:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cheryl Toyofuku	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. Non-medical exemptions to vaccines include philosophical, conscientious, religious or personal beliefs. These exemptions should be protected as a human and informed consent right to make voluntary vaccine decision making.

HB1118 would be a grievous violation of one's sincere religious or personal belief in opposing toxic vaccination if this exemption to vaccines is removed now or in the future. The constitutional right to have and exercise personal religious beliefs is an expectation that should be respected. Laws should not be passed that obstruct the exercise of this most fundamental of freedoms.

Do NOT pass HB1118 out of your Committee!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:04:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sandra Rivas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppsoe this bill. It is a violation of our constituional rights to have a choice when it comes to medical procedure to our body. One size does nto fiit all. Religious exemption is a right not a privelage and Gov Dr JOsh Green, is ovewr reaching and trying to violate our constituional right to practice our religious rights specifically when it involves children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:06:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Medley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE HB1118. STRONGLY OPPOSE!

Not only would this infringe on our 1st and 14th ammendment rights but it has been proven that vaccines do -in fact- cause injury and/or development delays!! At the core principal of FREEDOM, people should have a CHOICE to decide what is injected (or NOT injected) into their bodies. There are several reasons why religion plays a part into the decision of vaccines. Some are as simple as belief in a higher being and ability for bodies to self-heal or for Ke Akua to heal the body and illness. Some vaccines are created with living organisms derived from animals or human fetus. These are in direct violation of religious beliefs of many.

You cannot take away rights AND also deny responsibility for those actions if and when children will be harmed from severe side effects. Holding harmless the manufactures and administrators of such vaccines is a clear sign that these vaccines not passing clinical studies are truly harmful.

Religion is a protected right. The 14th ammendment prohibits states from infringing on rights from those with sincere religious beliefs.

Here is just ONE article and ONE study showing that YES, Vaccinated Children ARE at a HIGHER RISK of developmental delays, asthma, and ear infections than unvaccinated children. The study point blank says "longer-term health outcomes related to these vaccines and the vaccination schedule as a whole are LARGELY UNKNOWN"

A religious family, putting their trust and faith in a higher being, and in good conscious, cannot and willnot inject their dear and beloved child with such poison!

OPPOSE HB 1118.

This is government tyranical overreach into our protected freedoms! OPPOSE!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:08:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerry Deutsch	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

While the rest of the country is moving towards more religious and personal freedom in this area, and while "the science" has shown that 'mandates' in this area DO NOT WORK, Hawaii will remove remove freedom and become more totalitarian if this bill becomes law. I strongly implore the legislature to reject this overreach be Governor Green which is based on personal beliefs and his crusade to remove religious freedom from Hawaiians!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:17:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Kaea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please VOTE NO, OPPOSE HB1118 !!

government shall not infringe on protected religious beliefs!

1A and 14A protects our religious freedoms.

My body, my choice! Vaccines are not 100% safe and there is no liability against anyone if there is an injury! This cannot be mandated for everyone! This is tyrannical government overreach.
STOP!!

OPPOSE HB 1118 and NEVER again attempt to infringe on our religious freedoms!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:19:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clyde Carvalho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:21:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanda Ferge	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Chanda Ferge, and I strongly oppose the bill, HB1118. I believe that parents should have the ability to make medical decisions based on their religious beliefs, for their own children, without interference from the government. We all as Americans have a constitutional right to freedom of religious practices. Passing this bill would be violating our first ammendment right. It is unconstitutional.

Furthermore, this bill would create discrimination against children who would be grandfathered in (if they have already received a religious exemption) and those who would not be allowed to have a religious exemption. This is unjust.

Thank you for your time in reading my testimony. Again, I strongly oppose HB1118.

Mahalo,

Chanda Ferge

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:22:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristin Migita	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your willingness to serve as our representatives and being our voice in government.

With regard to HB1118 - To remove religious exemption from vaccination requirements in schools is, I believe, a violation of our first amendment rights as American citizens to have the free exercise of and the freedom to live out the different religious traditions, customs, and beliefs that exist in our country, state, and communities. With DEI being in the spotlight now in our country, I feel this bill will not be helpful in bringing reconciliation between the opposing views on this issue of diversity, equity, and inclusion. By removing religious exemption from vaccination requirements in schools, you will be excluding families of different religious beliefs from being able to participate in and receive a free and appropriate public education in our state.

I'm sure with the different views and ideas of the many people who work in the medical/health field we can come to common ground and a consensus on things that families, who would like religious exemptions, could do to protect themselves as well as the larger community. Are vaccines the ONLY thing that could help protect our community? What is recommended for those people that have a medical exemption? We were able to come up with ideas and things for those families to do to help protect themselves so that they are able to participate in and receive a free and appropriate public education, and I'm sure we can come up with ideas and things for the families wanting a religious exemption to do to help protect themselves and the larger community as well, and not exclude their participation in and receiving a free and appropriate public education.

Please do not pass HB1118.

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:25:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Abilla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Tiana Abilla. I am a mother of six keiki ages 22 through 2 years and I OPPOSE this bill. The vaccination schedule for newborns through age 18 have increased significantly over the last twenty years. As a parent who started out vaccinating my first child because of my own experience getting vaccinated and doctor recommendations I was ignorant to not question them and conduct my own research instead of blindly following suit with what is considered normal. Please OPPOSE this bill. We all deserve the right to choose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:25:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandra Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to eliminating religious exemptions to vaccines. Who is the government to tell private citizens how they must walk out their faith? Why should children be denied an education because of their parents' religious convictions? This measure is about pushing conformity and stomping on bodily autonomy and constitutionally protected rights to practice faith without government interference. The government's job isn't to micromanage our health or require we receive injections, many of which are inadequately safety tested, not that that should have any bearing on it anyway. Let the government focus on paving our roads and protecting us from criminals. We will manage our own health and matters of faith.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:25:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Hino-Agustin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the members of the Health Committee. I'm submitting this testimony in opposition to HB1118. I'm a parent to a child who currently attends a public school here in Hawaii, under a religious exemption from the vaccination requirement. I also have 2 younger children that are not of school age yet. If this measure were to pass, it would create a major conflict with my sincerely held religious beliefs and my ability to educate my children in the public school system. This measure would allow some of my children to receive a proper education, and exclude the others simply because the 1st child had an existing exemption. This proposal makes no practical sense, and it infringes upon my First Amendment right to practice my sincerely held religious beliefs. Furthermore, there appears to be no evidence that an increase to the number of religious exemptions has posed a threat to the community. Please consider how you will be effecting countless families if this bill becomes law.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:27:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayandra Nagun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 for the purpose of religious freedom and a right to education for all children. 1Corinthians 6:19-20 says "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies." We believe that Jesus Christ paid the ultimate price for us, so we teach our children to honor him, to honor God. Honoring our bodies is honoring him, and draws us close to him. So dishonoring our bodies by allowing foreign substances to be injected into our body, is dishonoring him, and separates us from Him. Those whom live a life separate from him, risk an eternity separate from him as well. It is our right to believe in this, our first amendment right to practice religion. According to the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, any agency is prohibited from burdening a person's exercise of religion. As taxpayers and constituents we have the right to practice our religion, to live according to our own beliefs, not to be hindered by an unconstitutional law. All children of Hawaii have a basic right to education, what will be done for those that are not allowed to enroll into school should religious exemptions be taken away? Every child of Hawaii deserves access to education, denying any child that is discrimination.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:29:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mika akamine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:32:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Cunningham	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Parents should have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children, including the choice of which vaccines—if any—their child receives. Medical freedom is a core principle of bodily autonomy and parental rights, and it must be preserved to ensure that children are not subjected to unnecessary medical risks without fully informed consent.

Vaccines, like any medical intervention, come with potential risks, including documented adverse effects and vaccine injuries. Many parents are concerned about the toxic adjuvants present in vaccines, such as aluminum and mercury-based compounds, which have been linked to neurological and immune system complications in some children. Given that each child is biologically unique, a one-size-fits-all vaccine schedule may not be appropriate for every child, and parents must be able to weigh the risks and benefits based on their child’s individual health needs.

Excluding children from school due to their parents’ informed medical decisions is a violation of their right to an education. Public health policies should not force parents into an ultimatum between education and medical freedom. Instead, schools should respect medical choice while implementing reasonable accommodations to protect public health, such as allowing exemptions and promoting natural immunity where applicable.

Ultimately, parental choice in medical decisions is essential to safeguarding children’s health. Coercing medical procedures through school mandates undermines informed consent and risks unnecessary harm to children who may be more susceptible to vaccine injuries. A truly ethical medical system must prioritize choice, transparency, and respect for individual health needs over blanket mandates.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:32:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

In STRONG OPPOSITION to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:33:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christina Jung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee on Health,

PLEASE VOTE NO ON SB1118 entitled, "RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB1118! I am a teacher and I will leave the state if this bill passes because vaccines violate my sincere religious beliefs. This bill is an attack on religious freedom, body autonomy, and the children of Hawaii.

Please represent your constituents by respecting the freedom to choose what is injected into our bodies and our children's bodies. Dangerous ingredients such as aluminum, mercury, formaldehyde, aborted fetal tissue, mRNA technology, fetal bovine serum (baby cow blood), dog kidney cells and more that can possibly cause DEATH OR INJURY should NEVER BE MANDATED without religious exemptions, especially in a country founded on the principles of religious freedom.

Thank you for your consideration. Please VOTE NO on SB1888!

Sincerely,

Concerned Hawaii resident, parent, and teacher

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:38:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamsie Raquedan-Poti	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee, Chair members, Lawmakers,

I am writing in regards to Bill HB1118. My name is Jamsie Raquedan-Poti. I oppose this Bill, I do not support the idea of having my rights as a parent stripped from me. I would like to continue to have the option for non-medical exemptions because I do not want to be forced to vaccinate my children. This will impact and contradict our religious beliefs. Thank you for your time. My name is James Raquedan-Poti and I oppose Bill HB1118. Thank you for your time, and opportunity for me to testify.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:41:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aurora Rosin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha My name is Aurora

A resident of Kaua‘i, and I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118. This bill seeks to remove non-medical exemptions for school immunizations, which is a direct violation of religious freedom, medical autonomy, and the constitutional rights of Hawai‘i’s citizens.

Overview of HB1118

HB1118 aims to increase immunization rates by eliminating non-medical exemptions for school entry. While it allows children with existing religious exemptions for the 2024–2025 school year to remain exempt, it prevents future families from making faith-based medical decisions for their children. The bill preserves medical exemptions for children with qualifying conditions and ensures that students with individualized education programs continue receiving necessary services.

Why I Oppose HB1118

1. Violation of Religious and Constitutional Rights

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the free exercise of religion. By eliminating religious exemptions, HB1118 forces parents to choose between their deeply held beliefs and their children’s education. This is an unconstitutional infringement on religious liberty.

2. Discrimination Against People of Faith

Many religious traditions include moral or ethical objections to specific medical interventions, including vaccinations. Preventing new religious exemptions unfairly discriminates against

future families who hold these beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for further erosion of religious freedoms.

3. Coercion and the Violation of Informed Consent

Medical decisions should be based on personal choice, free from government pressure. Informed consent requires that individuals be allowed to weigh risks and benefits without coercion. HB1118 removes this fundamental right by forcing compliance as a condition of school attendance.

4. Legal and Ethical Concerns

Other states that have attempted to remove religious exemptions have faced significant public resistance and legal challenges. This bill could lead to costly litigation for the state, as it undermines well-established constitutional protections.

Conclusion

While public health is important, HB1118 goes too far by stripping away the rights of individuals to make personal medical decisions in accordance with their faith and conscience. I strongly urge you to oppose HB1118 and protect the religious and medical freedoms of Hawai'i's residents.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Aurora Rosin

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:44:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! I pray you will oppose it too! God bless you!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:46:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carrae Shea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carrae Shea and I oppose bill # HB1118. I do not think it is right to not allow someone to use their religious exemption in regard to a vaccination. We all have the freedom and right to choose and that should never change.

Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:48:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Torey Jenkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose bill HB 1118 on the grounds of religious freedom as well as the right for citizens of the U.S.A. to engage in informed consent for any medical interventions. I myself have had vaccinations, but I would like to advocate for any and all Hawai'i residents that choose not to take vaccines on religious grounds.

-Torey Jenkins

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:50:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Travis Agustin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118.

I am a father of a child who currently attends public school in the State of Hawaii with the religious exemption from the vaccine requirement due to our sincerely held religious beliefs. I also have two children who are not yet of school age that would be adversely affected by this proposed law. This proposal would create an inconsistent result within our household where one child would be able to attend school due to an existing exemption and the younger siblings would be prevented from attending school simply because of this measure. This measure would infringe upon my first amendment right to practice my religious beliefs and also affect my ability to educate my children.

Furthermore, there is a constitutional issue. There is no evidence to support the claim that there is a compelling state interest to remove religious exemptions based upon the theoretical perceived danger that the increase in the number of religious exemptions granted in the State of Hawaii poses to the community. There is no evidence that there has been an increase in the number of transmitted diseases or deaths within the school community as a result of this trend. In my opinion this measure would fail to meet the definition of a compelling state interest to withstand strict scrutiny.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:51:34 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsie Settlemier	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislators,

I OPPOSE THE BILL 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. Allowing this bill to pass would be a violation of our freedom. Everyone deserves the right to choose what they do to their own body based on their beliefs, not from other's beliefs. Please consider my testimony to oppose this bill.

Thank you,

Chelsie Settlemier

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:51:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meissa Taeu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Members of the HLT Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118. As a person of faith, I am deeply concerned about the removal of religious exemptions.

Removing religious exemptions undermines the fundamental right to freedom of religion, which is guaranteed by the First Amendment of the US Constitution. It is essential to preserve this right, ensuring individuals and families can make decisions aligned with their deeply held beliefs.

I urge you to consider the potential consequences of this bill and the impact it may have on communities of faith. I respectfully request that you reject House Bill 1118.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Melissa Taeu

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:54:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
helen salvani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB118. We are a free country with rights to determine our own health and wellness. Freedom of religious rights are always at the forefront of this nation. You have no right to take away our religious rights under the guise of a health standard. As a natural health advocate and a person who has complete faith in our loving savior I have never taken a vaccine or shot in 25 years and I do not get sick. Stand by the will of the people and allow our freedom to choose how we live our lives.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/5/2025 11:59:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ihilani Buffett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118. This bill infringes our rights as citizens. If we exercise our rights as parents to choose to not immunize our children we will be punished. Not just the parents but our children will be punished. This violates so many of our basic human rights. What happened to our religious freedom? This bill cannot be legal. I am surprised that law makers have the audacity to force immunization on our innocent children or risk being denied an education. How does any part of this bill make sense? HB1118 crosses the line on so many levels. Hawaii law makers are now blatantly taking our constitutional rights away from us openly. If this bill passes I hope the state of Hawaii and the people in charge of spending our tax dollars are working law suits in to the budget.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:00:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crown Light	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is utterly ridiculous. I will by no means go by this, and if I have to take my remaining kids out of school and fully homeschool I will. How dare you try to push this mockery on us. You should be ashamed of yourself! Especially after all of that ccovid vaccine fiasco, with more and more of the lies we were told coming out every day. Just know you will reap what you sew!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:02:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Weintz	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Commitee,

I am a parent of 3 keiki, varying in ages, with our youngest about to enter the school system. I am writing in strong opposition to the removal of religious exemptions when it comes to vaccine requirements to attend public school in the state of Hawaii. Not only is this removing the right of medical freedom, but it is also in sincere strong opposition to our religious roots. I ask you humbly, to please be considerate of each persons backgrounds and capabilities. This is a non negotiable for us and many we know. Passing this bill will cause many to forego on attending public school all together, which means less educational opportunities for children and even affecting the potential for income opportunities of the parents. Many can not afford private or other school options and therefor may simply not send their children to school. Please take this side into account when making your decision. The freedom to practice all religions authenticy and for each to be respected is what makes America great. Thank you for your time. Jennifer

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:10:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Moku	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I strongly oppose hb1118!!!!

One of the greatest silver linings of the past Covid-19 era is that a tremendous amount of information & corruption has come to light!!!! We the people, based on the constitution with our God given rights, have then just freedom and ability to make decisions for ourselves & our children.

not one of these humans who are proposing this bill, have any responsibility or concern of any of my children or 'ohana. It is my responsibility as my children's parent, to protect, care & provide for them for the rest of my life.

I trust in the LORD. Ephesians 6:10-18 directs us to “put on the armor of God,” so that we can be equipped with truth, righteousness, peace, and faith. We are taught not to be afraid and that we have divine protection. In GOD and Jesus Christ, I Trust. I can certainly testify to this because as you are aware, throughout the whole plandemic, we have learned more & more about the political, medical & corporate agendas & greed!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:18:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alana Sooriyakumar	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

To my fellow citizens of Hawaii on the Health Committee –

I am writing to give testimony in strong opposition to HB1118.

There are a number of reasons to oppose this bill, but I suppose the strongest would be as it relates to religious freedom. Religious freedom is foundational to what it means to live in or be an American. It has been a fundamental right since our country’s conception. It is what shaped and continues to uphold every other right given to us in the Constitution. Having the ability to exercise one’s deeply held religious beliefs is vital to the pursuit of life, liberty, and happiness. Impeding on this right will open the door for any other right we have to be limited, restricted, or removed.

Your duty is to represent the will of the people, not your own opinion or that of the Governor.

In the bill’s writeup, there are statistics showing that over the last 10 years the trend is for more people desiring to opt-out of immunizations. In fact it clearly states on page 2 that it has doubled. If that is true, then the logical conclusion would be that the will of the people is the opposite of what this bill proposes. We do not want a blanket mandate obliging us to get unwanted health procedures for our children, we want the freedom to choose. This trend is not unique to Hawaii, but rather is consistent with what we are seeing around the country as a whole. A recently conducted survey through the Annenberg Public Policy Center at the University of Pennsylvania found that public support for policies that allow parents of schoolchildren to opt out of vaccinating their kids for medical, religious and personal or philosophical reasons has grown substantially since 2019. In addition to this, there are only 4 states left who do not allow for religious or philosophical exemptions. Almost every other state in the nation has laws protecting those exemptions or are currently introducing bills to allow for them. The national trend and federal precedent is to allow for medical, religious, and philosophical exemptions to these school vaccine requirements. Do not send us backwards by eliminating religious exemptions.

I urge you to consider what the people want and what the trend of your constituents shows...the people do not want you to create a medical dictatorship by allowing the government to remove our parental & religious freedom rights. HB1118 would do this by eliminating our choice for us to decide what is best for ourselves, our families, our children, and our communities as it relates

to individual health matters. Healthcare is not a one size fits all, it is to be individualized and as such, you cannot in good faith vote yes to any legislature/bill seeking to make a blanket healthcare directive for all. Religious freedom is paramount to our right to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness; you cannot in good faith vote yes to any legislature/bill seeking to remove such freedom.

HB1118 is a direct violation of our constitutional right to religious freedom.

HB1118 is directly going against the trend of the will of the people as shown on Page 2.

Voting yes on HB1118 would be a direct violation of your duty to represent the will of the people and protect our constitutional rights.

Please **vote NO** on HB1118.

Mahalo,

Alana

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:35:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Smith IV George F	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:37:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lawrence DeCosta III	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Very Strong Opposition

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:40:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Stoltzman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:41:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Wayne Satele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:45:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracey Beaudry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. There should always be freedom of choice for your body. This is government overreach. No more mandates or coerced vaccinations!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:49:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Calvert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairman Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for considering my testimony.

I am strongly opposed to this bill.

The people of Hawaii, of all ages, and especially the parents of children, need to be given full respect for making decisions for what is best for them, and informed consent is the truthful, just way to provide that. Informed consent regarding medical procedures and interventions is a basic right. There are now myriad unbiased, scientific evaluations of the safety and efficacy of various vaccines. The people need a balanced view, including understanding risks, before consenting to any medical procedure or intervention, such as vaccines or mRNA-based injections.

Not all vaccines are created equal, and we have seen from the Covid mRNA injections that some vaccines and vaccine-like products are indeed very unsafe and far from effective. The power of Big Pharma needs to be checked, because at the end of the day, they are most concerned with their profits, not with the health and well being of the people.

To all members of the Hawaii state legislature and all officials in the Hawaii state government: If you are influenced by the power and/or money of Big Pharma, you need to stop. If you don't stop, you will eventually be investigated and face accountability for your actions, and you will be voted out by the people.

Our nation is changing for the better. The childhood vaccine schedule is beyond out of control—it's a moral stain on our society.

Please do the right thing—vote against this bill.

thank you,

John Calvert
Puna District, Big Island

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:51:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am expressing my opposition to HB1118. This bill would violate religious freedoms protected by the United States Constitution. The government should never force a person to accept foreign substances into their body, especially as a condition of a universal right to education. In addition, neither the government nor the medical community has provided scientific evidence that the current vaccine requirements of over 60 doses by age 12 is the optimal schedule that will achieve the desired protection to medically fragile children that this bill claims as its purpose. In conclusion, I strongly oppose this bill because there is not enough evidence to compel those with religious beliefs to violate their beliefs and take away their religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:53:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pita Hiko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:59:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marissa Treskon	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Hello Health committee, I am a mother of 3 and wife of a 25 year navy veteran, and I strongly oppose HB1118 as it conflicts with my religious and moral beliefs.

Several vaccines on the childhood school schedule include aborted fetal cells and debris. Viruses can only multiply in live cells, so these aborted fetuses had their organs harvested while still alive. These organs included lungs, skin, hearts, and other body parts on fetuses aged 3 months or older. I have strong moral and religious convictions with the development and use of these fetal lines.

In addition, each vaccine includes cells and debris from various animals, chemical waste and carcinogens which is in direct violation of treating our bodies as temples in the very Spirit of God.

Lastly, my husband was born and raised in Hawaii, he served in multiple deployments in war zones directly fighting for our freedoms and as a result is deemed disabled after a 25 year career of sacrifice. We are deeply grieved that we now face our rights being stripped right before our eyes. We have children in the public school system and will have to remove them from their schools should this bill pass. Not only is it unconstitutional to deny our children education for a system that our taxes pay toward, but it is unconstitutional to punish us for our religious beliefs. I'd like to conclude my testimony with pointing out that the public school system is already struggling and we are seeing some schools facing possible closures as a result of lowered enrollment. If this bill passes it will only mean decreased funds for our schools, so all children in Hawaii will in fact suffer the consequences. Our children are not a threat, they are not spontaneously breaking out in disease, in fact they are healthy and thriving as we make exercise and food a priority.

I thank you for listening and respectfully ask that you oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:00:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dan Beaudry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is unconstitutional, right to freedom of religion is constitutional. You have no right to deny my right to what goes into my own body.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:09:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I absolutely oppose mandatory vaccinations!

My friends 1 year old Baby died 1 day after she got vaccinated, no doctor said it was from the vaccine but the doctors also couldn't deny it!

Another friends daughter got the HPV vaccine and was in the hospital for a few month with Epstein Barr syndrome.

NO VACCINE IS 100% safe.

You can't sue the vaccine manufacturer if something bad happens to your child. You can't sue Governor Green either. Or any of you that supports this bill.

Since the establishment of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund in 1986 it should be clear to all that vaccines are not safe for everyone.

"Subtitle 2: National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program - Part A: Program Requirements - Establishes the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program as an alternative remedy to judicial action for specified vaccine-related injuries.

Prescribes the contents of any petition for compensation.

Grants U.S. district courts authority to determine eligibility and compensation. Requires the district court in which the petition is filed to designate a special master to serve as an adjunct to the court. Sets forth the responsibilities of the court.

Lists factors to be considered when determining the amount of a compensation award. Sets forth a table of injuries deemed vaccine-related for compensation purposes. Permits the Secretary of Health and Human Services to: (1) promulgate regulations to revise such table; and (2) recommend changes to the vaccines covered by the table.

Provides that compensation awarded under the Program shall be paid out of the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Trust Fund. Limits awards for actual and projected pain and suffering and emotional distress to \$250,000. Prohibits awards for punitive damages."

I hope RFK jr gets elected so he can clean up vaccines

Marlies Lee

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:16:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
S Beth Crumrine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118, eliminating any non-medical exemptions for vaccines, which is egregious government overreach and a violation of civil liberties.

CITIZENS MUST HAVE THE RIGHT TO CHOOSE WHETHER OR NOT THEY WANT VACCINES, it is not the government's place to dictate how each individual will care for their own bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:32:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephen Baughn	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Stephen Baughn and I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:34:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kainani Clark	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because individuals deserve the right to decline vaccinations based on religion/philosophy/as well as medical reasons. Body autonomy is a right for all humans. Choosing to receive or decline a vaccine is our right as individuals and should not be something we are pressured into "getting". If you take away the right to religious exemptions then you are coercing people to get vaccines when it is against our beliefs. There are Ingredients in vaccines that no human should inject into their bodies. It is unhealthy and most vaccines are NOT "life saving". We have God given immune systems for immunity to illness'.

Not to mention the roll out of the Covid vaccine was rushed and everyone who took it was a test subject. Now 4/5years later, it's known that mrna is damaging. That particular vaccine (Covid) as one example has done more harm than good. Many died from that shot & not the virus it was said to protect people from. And although it was repeated more times than I can count, IT IS NOT SAFE AND EFFECTIVE. as a matter of fact, it is very unsafe and very ineffective.

You know very well that we need jobs to provide an income so we can in turn provide for our families. The passing of this bill would be tyranny. As a mother and a woman who understands the risks of vaccinations, I whole heartedly oppose this bill. Everyone deserves the right to choose what they put into their bodies. Do not take this human right away. I pray you are given ears to hear, eyes to see, and a heart to understand and do what is morally right. God Bless you all in your decision making.

TESTIMONIAL SUBMISSION FOR: HB NO. 1118

NAME: Lani Poepoe

DATE: 02/06/2025

The U.S. Constitution identifies several constitutional provisions and legal precedents which protect individuals from unwanted medical procedures. The following are some of the most relevant sources:

1. The Fourteenth Amendment – Due Process Clause

- The **Substantive Due Process** doctrine under the **Fourteenth Amendment** protects individuals' bodily autonomy and personal liberty.
- The Supreme Court has ruled that individuals have a **constitutional right to refuse medical treatment** (e.g., *Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health*, 1990).

2. The Fourth Amendment – Protection Against Unreasonable Searches and Seizures

- The Fourth Amendment protects individuals from **unwarranted government intrusion** into their bodies.
- Courts have ruled that forced medical procedures, such as **mandatory blood tests or vaccinations**, constitute a **search** and require justification (*Missouri v. McNeely*, 2013).

3. The First Amendment – Religious Freedom

- The **Free Exercise Clause** protects individuals who refuse medical treatments based on religious beliefs.
- However, the government can override religious objections in cases where **public health is at risk** (*Jacobson v. Massachusetts*, 1905, upheld mandatory smallpox vaccinations).
- Yet, in this case, as a blanket Bill over the state of Hawaii public school system, with no probable cause or due process, the State cannot legally mandate vaccinations for all, nor unfairly target individuals with religious practices as it would negate the Constitutional rights of said individuals (*Roman Catholic Diocese of Brooklyn v. Cuomo* (2020)).

4. The Eighth Amendment – Protection Against Cruel and Unusual Punishment

- In the prison context, **forced medical treatment** may violate the Eighth Amendment if it constitutes **cruel and unusual punishment** (*Washington v. Harper*, 1990, ruled that forced medication of prisoners is only allowed under specific legal standards).

5. Legal Precedents & Right to Privacy

- The Supreme Court has recognized a **right to bodily integrity** in cases such as *Washington v. Glucksberg* (1997), which upheld a patient's right to refuse life-sustaining treatment.

- *Rochin v. California* (1952) ruled that forced stomach pumping violated **due process**, reinforcing the right against non-consensual medical procedures.

It is evident that the Governor, along with his colleagues, is seeking to minimize the number of **non-medical exemptions** from immunization that are accepted for enrollment in Hawaii's public and charter schools.

According to HB No. 1118, during the 2023-2024 school year, **296 students** received medical exemptions due to illnesses that could increase their risk of fatality in the event of a **disease outbreak**. The total student enrollment in Hawaii for that school year was **167,649**. This means that the **296 medically high-risk students** accounted for only **0.176%** of the total student population across **258 public schools** and **37 charter schools**. This percentage represents an extremely low level of risk, making it highly questionable as a justification for the **disapproval and elimination** of non-medical or religious exemptions to immunization requirements within the HIDOE.

It is also clear that, due to the **increase in non-medical immunization exemptions** noted in HB No. 1118 for the 2023-2024 school year, the Governor is placing greater emphasis on protecting the **0.176% (296 medically vulnerable students)** who, according to the bill, rely on **herd immunity**, rather than considering the **89.98%** of students who comply with immunization requirements and the approximately **10%** who exercise their **First and Fourteenth Amendment rights** to exemption. The reasoning behind HB No. 1118 is **unjustifiable** and attempts to **disregard** the unalienable rights of Hawaii's citizens—particularly parents, guardians, and students—and their right to education.

Furthermore, if the state of Hawaii and the HIDOE **require, enforce, or mandate** vaccinations for all students—**excluding only those with medical exemptions**—will the state be willing to sign a **legal contract** ensuring that, in the event a student suffers **adverse reactions, injuries, or even death** due to any mandated immunizations under state regulations, the state will assume full responsibility for such outcomes?

Lastly, according to the VAERS database—which is no longer accessible online—reports of **adverse reactions, injuries, and deaths** resulting from vaccinations have **significantly increased since 2021**. Parents and guardians are becoming more informed and aware of such cases, leading to a rise in **non-medical and religious exemptions** for student enrollment—and rightfully so. It is the **right and duty** of parents and guardians to prioritize the highest level of well-being for their children and as a result parents are turning to natural health over traditional pharmaceuticals and experiencing greater success.

I am a parent of an almost 19-year-old who has never been vaccinated or taken antibiotics or medication of any kind—and he is very healthy. He has never had an ear infection, unlike many children who experience chronic issues, nor has he had any serious medical conditions. He has rarely required medical care, aside from routine vision and dental check-ups. Therefore, he serves as a strong testament to the unnecessary emphasis placed on vaccination requirements and the fear they generate.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:16:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cary Kayama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am 100% against this bill, HB1118. The government has no right to force anyone to get vaccinated. That is so wrong. Please do not allow the government to do this for our children. shame on them.

Thank you,

cary

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:20:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Kim	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a community pediatrician with a moderate viewpoint, I do not want to force my patients to be vaccinated. I prefer an open and honest discussion with parents to address their fears and concerns while at the same time, safeguard their keiki's health. However, there is a perfect storm occurring on our island, falling vaccination rates in our schools to under herd immunity numbers, fear and misinformation thrown at our parents, and the global increased spread of the highly contagious virus, measles. Prior to the introduction of the vaccine in 1963, measles wiped out a quarter of the Native Hawaiian population after the first endemic. The number of mortalities weakened the country of Hawai'i and over the years continued to be beat down by numerous foreign infectious diseases and a repeated cycle of measles outbreaks every few years. Exposure-strengthened immunity and vaccinations have brought the measles cases down to near eradication in Hawai'i. But I see Hawai'i following in the footsteps of the island nation of Samoa. As you know, Samoa experienced the horrendous measles endemic resulting in 83 deaths of mostly children in the span of 4 months. I am sure we all want to prevent this from occurring here in Hawai'i as our resources to combat such a endemic is limited. Any endemic to our keiki would overwhelm our current medical infrastructure of only about 20 PICU beds for the whole state. And that is why I am leaning towards supporting HB 1118, even though I wish I did not have to. At this time, there seems to be no other choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:21:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Nunez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next? We need this right!**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child's body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children's health. There are also no allergy tests prior to vaccination and there is no doctor that can guarantee there won't be an allergic reaction or that an injury won't occur. There is no such thing as a vaccine that fits every body.

4. What's Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don't matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai‘i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more families may be forced to leave Hawai‘i**. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom**. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai‘i families and to protect our children.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Holly Nunez

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:30:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Roger Bolosan Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:35:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Edward C. Obert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition to HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:28:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
mary mcandrew	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm in opposition to removing the religious exemption from vaccination as this would violate the client's right of refusal to a medical procedure.

Specifically, the client must have the right of refusal to vaccination, be it for personal or religious reasons, as vaccinations may have contents which violate the client's personal or religious beliefs.

Not every vaccine or medical procedure is one size fits all; unintended and damaging consequences may occur which cause harm, be it physically or psychologically/spiritually. The client must have bodily autonomy in their health care choices. The client must have a religious right of refusal to vaccination and every other medical procedure without limitation. The client has rights in their choice of medical care and this is not negotiable.

People must be able to freely choose and refuse their medical procedures which includes vaccinations.

My training is in Nursing. I'm also a disabled person who was damaged in part via medical treatment.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:45:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara mckibbin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 6 2025

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118 – RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, as a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Vaccination defies God's perfect design of the human immune system, which was created to fight illness naturally. Psalm 139:14 affirms, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." It is my deeply held religious belief that artificially altering my immune system through vaccination goes against God's divine plan for human health and well-being.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous

precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,
Sara mckibbin

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:55:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bradd Haituka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to oppose this bill, citizens should have the freedom of choice for their health concerns.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:02:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Kaleiohi	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

2/06/25

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118 – RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

As a mother of four extremely healthy, unvaccinated children, I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, as a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Vaccination defies God's perfect design of the human immune system, which was created to fight illness naturally. Psalm 139:14 affirms, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." It is my deeply held religious belief that artificially altering my immune system through vaccination goes against God's divine plan for human health and well-being.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,

Andrea Kaleiohi

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:34:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leinani Hong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB118. As a devoted member of our church and a firm believer in the fundamental right to exercise religious freedom, I am deeply concerned about the impact this bill will have on families like mine.

I am a parent of two young children, both of whom have not yet required medical exemptions but will need them in the future. My oldest already holds an exemption, and my youngest will require one for the upcoming school year. Our decisions regarding their healthcare are rooted in our religious convictions and a thoughtful approach to their well-being Bill HB118 disregards parents' rights to make informed medical decisions based on their deeply held beliefs. Forcing families to comply with mandates that conflict with their religious values undermines the freedoms that our nation was founded upon.

Additionally, we are concerned about the lack of long-term safety data for certain medical interventions and the continued immunity granted to manufacturers from liability for potential vaccine-related injuries. Parents should have the right to exercise informed consent without being coerced into compromising their beliefs or concerns for their children's health.

I urge lawmakers to reject Bill HB118. Please protect parental rights and religious freedoms, allowing families to make healthcare decisions that are in the best interest of their 'ohana..

Mahalo for your consideration,

Leinani Hong

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:41:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hillary Sasaki	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a citizen of the United States of America, I oppose this bill.

I strongly oppose bill HB1118 because I believe that my body and my child's body is a temple that is a home to our spirit. I do not believe in putting harmful drugs and vaccinations - especially vaccinations that have not gone under long-term testing to fully assess its safety; into our temples aka bodies and that of my child's. Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for me. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions. As a parent, it is my right and sacred responsibility to uphold and care for my child according to my religious beliefs. This bill would strip me of that right and I disdain that the government is attempting to commit this most unconstitutional act.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:41:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly oppose HB1118, which removes religious exemptions for childhood vaccinations. This bill infringes on constitutional religious freedoms, forcing families to choose between their faith and their children’s education. Religious exemptions protect the rights of parents to make informed medical decisions based on their beliefs, a fundamental principle that should not be compromised.

Public health is important, but not at the cost of violating religious and personal freedoms. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and uphold the rights of Hawaii’s families.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:47:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
james wallace	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118. MY Body My Choice should work for this force vax so Gov, Green who supports abortion should stay out of this because hes getting money by phizer and is a puppet. We decide what can be in our body not the governmnet!!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:52:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fetalaiga Tyrell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because of the many testimonies of how many heathy children that were born normal. After taking all kinds of immunizations, they inherited HDHD, asthma or worse autism. There are more children with autisms than ever before.

I have two grandchildren. One who never got immunized and one who got all his immunizations. The one without any vaccines is the most healthiest one. The other one is the opposite.

if you need to see the documentary about the many children who were vaccinated whose lives turned upside down, I'll be more than happy to provide. It's on our ministry website. Pastor Chris Library or PCDL They are all there.

if you vote for it, you will be held responsible with destroying the lives of many generations of children. Maybe not here on earth, but it will surely come. Pls do you due diligence and check the website. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:03:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Payomo-Sofa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose to HB1118, we as parents need to have our children's rights protected. It should not be mandatory for them to get vaccinated in order to go to school. Why would you get rid of a religious exemption and force these parents to get their children vaccinated? More people are choosing to not vaccinate their kids for many reasons, and we don't need to tell you why. That's taking away our right to be able to choose. Also that means HB1118 doesn't care about a child's education because if you say that a child cannot attend school without getting vaccinated then what happens to the child? Since they aren't able to go to school what would they be doing? Some parents work a full time job or multiple jobs just to be able to survive so they can't homeschool their kids. So again I'm asking what happens to the child at that point? How do you expect them to learn, grow, and thrive and be a functioning member of society because they wouldn't be able to get an education at school because you didn't allow them to have a choice to not get vaccinated. Make it make sense. We need to have a say in how we want to raise our children and not conform just because someone thinks that being vaccinated is the only way to go. That is unacceptable that someone would even think HB1118 is a good idea. We need to stand up and oppose bills like this that take away from our first ammendment rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:05:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teshalynn Murphy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE, OPPOSE, OPPOSE!

This is unbiblical and unethical. There is many studies that explain why vaccinations are harmful & yet you want to keep pushing this agenda "for the safety of kids".

Where is freedom of choice?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:07:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this draconian, tyrannical piece of legislation! I am appalled that this is even being proposed! This is so illegal and unconstitutional that it defies logic! Stop this madness! Stop it dead in it's tracks!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:26:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Foyle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill on the grounds that this violates my constitutional rights for religious freedom. I had to battle this same fight during the pandemic and now your trying to force me again to inject a foreign material into my body. This bill is illegal and is not for the greater good of society but for profit and control. I pray you come to your senses and oppose this bill. God bless you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:29:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tashya Whitehead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:34:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Samanta Juan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:34:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shyla Moon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing free will is not what our constitution is based on. Please oppose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:36:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Healy	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I oppose this bill and will deliver testimony via zoom

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:44:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Hester	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm opposed to this bill. This is government overreach. It's also unconstitutional and violates individual rights. How dare those responsible for this bill attempt this heinous act to harm our children and attempt these crimes against humanity. Stop the vax bs. Stay out of our personal medical autonomy to make our own choices and decisions! This is outrageous. We are watching you!

Signed, Jackie Hester / Hawaii big island resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:45:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose repealing religious exemptions. Both my girls are unvaccinated and have always been the healthiest kids in their class. We need freedom to choose what gets inputted into our bodies. The government should not be able to make this choice for us or our children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:49:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alfonso Pitolo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:49:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Domingo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118.

my body my choice. Keep the state and church separate.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:53:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bailey	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No way Jose! I completely oppose this bill and will not stand for our rights being taken away like this.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:58:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adriana E. Duerr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill which is an assault to our God given unalienable rights.

By the protection of the Nuremberg Code, we have the right of informed consent. My body, my choice.

Thank you for your attention,

Adriana E. Duerr

Hilo, Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:58:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Hall	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Our children do not need Covid vaccine to attend school.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:00:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Millicent Cummings	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha! To repeal your constituents' right to either accept or refuse medical interventions, particularly experimental vaccines, gene therapies or other experiments with “Proprietary” ingredients is unconscionable and has the verifiable potential to endanger our health and safety. As millions of people have been verifiably harmed by this human experimentation with no long term safety data, it is shocking to mandate said experimentation in order to work, attend school or any other basic and constitutionally protected right. To even suggest such a government overreach as this, based on incomplete science, conflicts of interest with pharmaceutical companies who have paid out billions in both medical Injury and medical Fraud is in exceedingly bad faith and stands in full breach of the public trust. Mahalo for taking this into account for the health and safety of all. Aloha.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:01:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:09:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Kim	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Religious freedom is not a state issue, it's a constitution issue. We get religious freedom to deny anyone from putting anything inside of our bodies if we pray and Jesus tells us not to. That's between me and God. Not me and government!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:09:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is protected on a federal level for a reason. You can not pass this bill or lawsuits will be levied against the state, and against the person responsible for submission. This is an overstep of your duties as steward and voice for your constituents. Oppose this bill now! Your community does not want this!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:18:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cory Wilson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is unconstitutional. It limits a family's freedom to follow their chosen religion and their preferred medical philosophy.

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:22:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Mosk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118."

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:28:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsey Heathcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:32:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Allen Heathcock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:32:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Ciarleglio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill as it infringes on our rights as parents regarding our religious beliefs. This is a government overreach.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:33:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
julie schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb1118

the dictators of this corrupt government have no right to force a religious citizen to endure a toxic shot. We are sovereign over our own body. .ALL exemptions must remain in place.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:34:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:36:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kalei Wodehouse	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children’s health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens’ ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

Kalei Wodehouse

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:38:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sam schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118

all exemptions must remain in place

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:38:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jamianne Nailiili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! My name is Jamianne Nailiili, a mother of 3 and I oppose Bill HB1118 as it violates my parental rights and freedom of religion when it comes to managing the health decisions of my child. It goes against my beliefs and as a parent, I should be allowed the freedom to choose. By passing this bill, you are taking away my rights as a parent. Please oppose Bill HB1118.

Mahalo,

Jamianne Nailiili

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:39:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Fujioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Esteemed Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to House Bill 1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements. This bill represents a significant overreach by the government, infringing upon our fundamental rights to make personal medical decisions for ourselves and our children.

Every medical intervention, including vaccinations, carries inherent risks. It is imperative that individuals retain the autonomy to assess these risks and make informed choices without coercion. Mandating vaccinations by eliminating non-medical exemptions disregards personal beliefs and undermines individual freedoms.

Furthermore, denying children access to public education based on their vaccination status is both unjust and counterproductive. Education is a fundamental right, and withholding it as a means of enforcing medical compliance is an inappropriate strategy that could have long-term negative societal impacts.

I urge the legislature to respect individual liberties and parental rights by rejecting HB 1118. It is crucial to uphold the principles of personal choice and informed consent in healthcare decisions.

Sincerely,

Rachel Fujioka

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:41:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:44:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Wallace	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118.

Our religious liberties are protected under the first amendment of the U.S. Constitution. This liberty cannot be overridden by state law. Americans have the right to refuse any order, medicine and procedure that violates their religious beliefs or anything that is deemed immoral or unethical according to their formed conscience. This bill is unlawful and immoral. According to SB1246 “The legislature finds the people of Hawaii have a long tradition of, and more broadly than, the federal constitution.” You cannot have it both ways. In addition to upholding the Constitution, this bill is in straight opposition to the Nuremberg Code starting with number one of the code: Voluntary informed consent. Allow parents to make the best decision for their children in accordance to their moral compass.

The best part about the last five years is that many of us have woken up to the lack of transparency by our government and the level of corruption by the State of Hawaii. Our children are not medical experiments. The 72 vaccinations on the current schedule are far too many. Vaccinations are not a one size fits all. Edward Jenner would be appalled at the number of vaccinations that are pushed on parents to give to their children, especially right out of the womb, such as Hep B. We are not passive participants. We are educating ourselves and taking a common-sense approach.

You say that the health and safety of Hawaii's keiki are paramount. This is a lie. The draconian measures that you have taken to push an agenda is not for the overall health and well-being of our children. The state of Hawaii cares more about control, money and power.

Vote no on HB1118 and similar bills, including SB1437.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:45:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halona Brooks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I submit testimony to OPPOSE HB1118. Had my children been FORCED to have a Covid vaccination one of my immune compromised children would have surely died or possibly severely injured like the thousands of cases and millions of deaths around the world. In our personal circle, my step father had a STROKE shortly after taking the shot: my very healthy friend who unexpectedly DROPPED DEAD after taking hers; my sister who is a nurse forced to vaccinate is young, was healthy and now has HEART complications. GOD has given us an incredible immune system and my instructions come from Him, not the State. Religious Exemptions are a constitutional right.

We should look to the health and studies of our fellow Amish people who do NOT vaccinate and have no autism or auto immune conditions in their communities. Simply look at all of the COVID-19 vaccine injuries and all the PEER REVIEWED published reports on MRNA vaccines that Josh Green told everyone was safe. We know this to be false. Josh Green has BLOOD on his hands for everyone who suffered greatly in our state because of a vaccine that was forced upon them.

I OPPOSE HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:47:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katja Bajema	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Chair, vice Chair and committee members,

My name is Katja Bajema, I am a mother of 3 and practising Christian. I strongly oppose this bill as it is aiming to take away our RIGHTS. We have freedom of religion under the constitution.

I can debate here why certain vaccines are against my religion (use of aborted fetal cells) however, it is not even about that. It is about our RIGHTS under the CONSTITUTION and you can not take those away.

Please, stick to the law, listen to the people who you represent. You work for the people and many of us do not want this bill to pass.

Thank you,

Katja Bajema

Thank you for you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:51:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kenny Wusstig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We should be given the right to opt out of vaccinations regardless of religious or political views. This is supposed to be a Constitutional Republic country, not a socialist one !!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:51:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Misha kassel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a physician and a parent this is an important topic.

The national childhood vaccine injury act of 1986 minimized and limited vaccine makers from liability. Since then they have increased the number of recommended vaccines dramatically without studying them combined or having any true control studies (where control does not have the adjuvants), thus creating legitimate concerns.

Vaccines when looked at individually for that specific illness has helped decrease their numbers and that should not be discounted.

There are risks to vaccines just like any medicine and are risks to not vaccinating. Weighing the potential risks and benefits and deciding regular schedule, delayed schedule or not at all should be a parents decision after weighing those risks and benefits. Forced vaccinations should not occur. Forcing people to use products that that can cause serious injury or death should never be something we do. Unfortunately people are labeled as "anti-vaxxers" and uneducated if they bring up legitimate concerns. I discuss the potential risks of vaccines and risks of not getting in the emergency department when it comes up and let patient decide, that's what informed consent is about and removing that element of the patient physician relationship through legislation and mandatory vaccines is wrong. **Our Governor and fellow colleague Dr Joish Green when it comes to women's reproductive rights stated "As a physician and a Governor, I feel strongly about health care, including reproductive health care and a woman's right to make health care decisions that affect her." It would be hypocritical to then only allow a woman to choose what to do with her body when it comes to reproductive rights but not about vaccines.**

Hawaii revised statutes 671.3 talks about informed consent, discussing what the condition to be treated, proposed treatment, anticipated results, material risks of procedure and alternative treatments including not providing these treatments. Having right to informed consent is critical part of physician patient relationship. There are clearly risks to vaccinating and to not vaccinating, and it should be up to parents along with input from their health care provider to make that decision. If you want to get yourself or your kids vaccinated after going over pros and cons, then you should be able to just like the opposite. If you truly believe that vaccines work so well then you should not be threatened or worry about those that are not (except in rare case of immunocompromised individuals and in those circumstances there are risks of disease even around immunized individuals). Those that are that medically vulnerable should be wearing n95 protective masks as vaccines to not prevent transmission in all cases like we saw in covid 19 pandemic. We should be worrying about lack of true promotion of key health issues such as lack of healthy foods in school, clean water to many parts of the US, exercise in our kids.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:51:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Pualani Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose this bill 1118!!! I believe in natural immunity over children and all human life. It is our God given right to have natural immunity. We the people of Hawaii choose FREEDOM!!!

I know of many friends and family that has past away due to the Pfizer vaccine. All vaccines have many side effects as well as death. I don't want that for the children of Hawaii.

Aloha,
Pualani

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:54:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
GEORGE ROSS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as a concerned citizen and Hawaii physician in support of HB 1118 to repeal the nonmedical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to keep our children healthy and safe. It is important that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:56:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Harada	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

The CDC Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices (ACIP) recommends hepatitis B (HepB) vaccination among all infants at birth.

HepB is transmitted through sharing of needles, syringes, or through sex.

If the mother is hepB positive, which can be tested before hand, then the child is at higher risk which would create an extenuating circumstance. For mothers and all those that are hepB negative, please explain to me why you believe a NEW BORN needs this vaccine? Are you expecting transmission to your new child? I would sure hope not.

Did you know that around the world, vaccinations don't start until the baby has had years to develop? But surely America knows better? So why do we have something called SIDS, aka sudden infant death syndrome, and doctors have no idea what the cause is?

Why has autism rates skyrocketed over the last 30 years, but doctors have no explanation for this?

But we should trust these doctors?

Why do we blindly ignore what the rest of the world is doing that is working? Are we so smart that we refuse to observe and learn from others? Surely that is a sign of great intelligence.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:57:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camlyn Pola	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!

This nation was founded under God, and I firmly oppose this bill. Governor Green is overstepping his authority, and it is unconstitutional for him to mandate anything regarding our personal health decisions. My daughter suffered a vaccine injury, and I will never allow anyone to administer another shot to her. Government overreach of this magnitude is deeply concerning and unacceptable. As citizens, we have the fundamental right to make informed choices about our own health and well-being.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:00:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karli Miyata	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a lifelong resident of Oahu, I am strongly OPPOSED to this bill. Please protect our Constitutional freedoms and rights of this country.

I urge you to uphold your responsibilities as public servants who were voted to listen to the people and not ignore our voices, as has been done so in the past.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:01:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeremy treskon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Hawaii Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines in schools. This bill is a direct assault on personal freedom and religious liberty. As an individual, I believe that parents should have the right to make health decisions for their children based on their deeply held religious beliefs.

By removing these exemptions, the state is essentially telling families that their faith is of lesser importance than government mandates. This is not only unconstitutional but also sets a dangerous precedent where the government can overstep into personal and religious domains.

Every child's health profile is unique, and religious beliefs often guide how families approach medical interventions, including vaccinations. Forcing vaccinations without regard for these beliefs undermines the diversity and pluralism that our society should cherish. It's about more than just vaccine safety; it's about respecting and upholding the constitutional right to freedom of religion.

Moreover, this bill could lead to further erosion of parental rights in other medical decisions. It sends a message that the state knows better than parents about what is best for their children, which is both arrogant and misguided. I urge lawmakers to reconsider this bill and to protect the fundamental rights of families to follow their faith in making health choices for their children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:01:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Coleman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is sad! Josh please change your ways, mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:01:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Greg schaus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose hb1118

i do not want aborted baby cells, monkey cells and toxic ingredients in my or my families body.
The religious exemption must be honored and remain.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:02:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lani Salas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Comimittee,

I am writing to oppose HB1118, which proposes to remove religious exepmptions for school immunizations in Hawaii.

This bill proposes factors that are unconstitutional and contradictory to Hawaii's public education laws.

Foremost, everyone should have the right to his or her own medical decisions. How would you like it if you had no choice regarding a medical procedure but felt coerced to do so because it was a law? Do you have children? What if you were unsure of potential immunization risks for your child but was told that your child couldn't attend public education unless all immunizations were recieved. How would that make you feel?

As a parent, this bill scares me. It scares me because it proposes taking away my rights as a caregiver; the person solely responsible for my child. As a parent, I want my child to have access to public education just as children with disabilities have access to it. FAPE is the right of all students with disabilities to receive an education that meets their needs. There should not be a difference when it comes to religious beliefs and religious exemptions. A religious belief should not be discriminated and should be acknowledged; therefore allowing access to public education for those who have different religious beliefs.

HB1118 contradicts Hawaii's Public Education Laws: Adoption of Chapter 8-89 (a), "The department is committed to making all schools safe, inclusive, respectful, and supportive of all students by eliminating all discrimination, harassment, and bullying and providng a non-discriminatory learning environment that provides equal access to public education for all students and embraces the values of dignity and respect for one another".

If HB1118 is approved, it would be unlawful and contradict the law stated above.

One of the reasons for HB1118 is due to immunization rates declining. What does that data even present? Does that mean illnesses and have increasingly doubled? There is no data that supports that declining immunization rates in schools caused a significant increase in illnesses or immunization-preventable illnesses. The reason of immunization rates declining does not provide substantial rationale to propose a bill like HBIII8.

Another reason for HB1118 states that high immunization rates help protect kids who can't get vaccinated for medical reasons by creating herd immunity. There is research that states not all immunizations are 100% effective with preventing and/or spreading disease/illnesses. So if we know this, then we know herd immunity is not guaranteed. For instance, we know the COVID-19 vaccination does not provide 100% immunity and we know individuals who received that vaccine can still get COVID-19 illness as well as spread it! So why propose a law when knowing that all immunizations will not protect other nor provide herd immunity? If those individuals with medical exemptions can't receive a vaccine, then this point proves that there is no substantial rationale for HB1118.

Another important reason why I oppose this bill is because not all individuals have the same reaction to immunizations and there have been presentable data-based studies on if and how immunizations pose a risk for cancer. For reference, on of the pamphlet for the vaccine ActHIB states, under NON-CLINICAL TOXICOLOGY 13.1, "ActHIB vaccine has not been evaluated for its carcinogenic or mutagenic potential or impairment of male fertility". Also under ADVERSE REACTIONS 6.1 Clinical Trials Experience, "More than 7,000 infants and young children have received at least one dose of ActHIB vaccine during US clinical trials. Of these, 1,064 subjects who received ActHIB vaccine alone reported no serious or life threatening adverse reactions". So does that mean that 75% of those other children had serious and/or life threatening adverse reactions? If my religious beliefs include not subjecting my child to harm or potential substances that have not been studied for carcinogen effects, then that is my belief and it should be acknowledged in regards to access to public education.

My point is that there is a lack of safety and efficacy with immunizations. If bill HB1118 is approved, it would not increase vaccination rates in public schools. It would only significantly decrease the rates of enrollment in the public education system because it would be discriminating against religious beliefs.

Please continue to allow for religious exemptions in public schools.

Lani Salas

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:03:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Miranda Bacon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Thank you,

Miranda Bacon, DO

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:03:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

To refuse religious exemption for school vaccinations can affect our kids health and safety. There data on vaccination injury and incomplete scientific data on experimental vaccines.Please consider the health and safety for our children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:05:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn Kimura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Do not take away our rights to choose the medical path for our children! I oppose this bill!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:05:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Celeste Mandala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing Bill HB1118

Honorable Members of the Committee,

My name is Celeste Mandala, and I am writing to express my opposition to Bill HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations. While I understand and respect the importance of vaccination in protecting public health, I strongly believe that this bill infringes on fundamental rights, including the freedom of religion and parental choice.

As a parent, I recognize the crucial role vaccines play in reducing the spread of disease and safeguarding vulnerable populations. However, this bill proposes to deny individuals and families the right to make decisions based on their deeply held religious beliefs. For many, religious convictions are a core part of their identity, and the ability to make health decisions in alignment with those beliefs is a vital expression of their personal freedom. Removing religious exemptions does not take into account the diverse and deeply personal reasons that individuals and families may have for their refusal to vaccinate on religious grounds. These beliefs are often formed by faith, personal conscience, and philosophical principles, and no government should have the authority to override such fundamental rights. Forcing families to comply with medical mandates that violate their religious views could lead to unnecessary harm, both in terms of the emotional and psychological toll on the affected individuals, as well as a loss of trust in the healthcare system.

In closing, I urge the committee to reject HB1118. We must work toward solutions that respect both public health and the right of individuals to make personal and religious decisions about their health care. I believe that a more compassionate and thoughtful approach can be found that allows us to protect public health without sacrificing the rights that form the foundation of our democracy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Celeste Mandala

808-280-9933

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:05:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kourtney Auelua	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not believe that we should change the requirements regarding non medical exemptions for immunizations. I oppose this bill. I am a religious person that does not believe immunizations and I am healthy. I believe God is my protector and I am going against him by getting immunizations. This is taking away the freedom for the American people. You must allow non-medical exemptions for immunizations. It is unfair to do this as it is our freedom of speech.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:06:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gina French, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity, which is necessary for vaccines to be their most effective, for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that children are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death. We must do everything we can to protect our community from the devastating events that our sister polynesians went through in Samoa.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:07:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amanda Wehrly	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

I am submitting a testimony on HB1118. I am opposed to this bill. This bill should not pass.

Vaccines should be parents choice. Not government choice. Governor Josh Green is pushing his medical field into the polictial field. He knows this is not right. We have our first amendment which prevents congress from making laws respecting an establishment of religion, prohibiting the free exercise of religion....

Ever wonder why they changed the laws about vaccines injury back in the late 1980's. We are held accountable as citizens if we hurt somebody by laws so why isn't our government or pharma held accountable.

Please also take in consideration that many people are allergic to medicines, or don't trust Big Pharma. Haven't you seen all the side effects that our listed on our medicines.

My body my choice. Govenor Josh Green belives in this for abortion so why can't we apply the same thing to vaccines.

Please stop this bill from passing.

Amanda Wehrly

Kauai, Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:08:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I first want to thank each of you for how you serve our community, thank you. Secondly, I wanted to share with you why I believe it is so important that this bill is opposed. I have been living with injuries that seem to have a direct connection to a vaccine I received on May 19, 2021. Prior to receiving this vaccine, I had never questioned the importance or safety of vaccines. This experience has helped me to understand the importance of choice when it comes to vaccinations. This choice should be protected from a medical as well as a religious standpoint.

I have always been extremely athletic and active and was a former competitive swimmer. Since the vaccine I have been battling extensive side effects that boil down to symptoms of Mast Cell Activation Syndrome (meaning I have lost the ability to eat a host of foods that I never seemed to have a problem with prior to the vaccine including: citrus, dairy, soy, wheat, sugar, spinach, tofu, anything cooked slowly, many spices, walnuts, most nuts, papaya, avocado, coffee, most teas, and more), Postural Tachycardia Syndrome (POTS), and a nervous system injury. I was left with symptoms that include or have included extreme (and I do mean extreme cellular fatigue) fatigue, vertigo with the inability at first and now remaining difficulty: laying down, bending over, looking up or down, turning my head to the right or left, watching anything that spins, anything with bright lights particularly if they blink, looking at screens (this means I can typically no longer watch television or movies without pain or disorientation). I still struggle with tolerating the motion of planes, boats, escalators, elevators and the like. I also have and often still experience extreme eye pain, feelings of brain swelling and heat. I cannot even watch my children play basketball or people's facial expressions without those things often bringing on eye pain and or nausea. I have endured migraines and what seems to be a radically more intense procession feminine hormonal shifts and pain through the month which can include symptoms like: heart palpitations, chills, body aches, muscle pain, wrestles leg syndrome and now some neuropathy.

Along this journey I have met and heard about many others who are battling very similar side effects. Nothing medically has seemed simple, and I am a fairly young woman still and had spent most of my life swimming, running, jumping, climbing, hiking, surfing – and most of these things were stripped from me. I will continue to work at healing, and I am so thankful for the doctors I have had on my journey thus far. I have had to battle to regain every inch of health that I can and while I have received and a great amount of healing over the past few years, I still

battle limitations I could never have expected to have to endure. This kind of unexpected hardship I would not wish upon anyone. With these kinds of medical difficulties potentially resulting how can anyone remove the right from a parent to shield their child from ever enduring this kind of challenge and pain. While vaccines do indeed help protect some, they may also be harming others – others who do not necessarily have a specific medical condition that can be easily identified – other than a potential for a genetic similarity to a parent who has had an adverse reaction. Parents must maintain the right to evaluate the risk for their loved ones based on their family medical history. And I'd venture to say that anyone who has walked through a crisis as I have, would then have a very real religious and moral objection to their loved one having to risk a similar medical emergency to be allowed the right to participate in a school environment.

Thank you for your time,

Shayna Fuller

Ewa Beach, Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:11:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Betty P Ross	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:12:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emily Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

My name is Emily, I am from the island of O'ahu and I am a mother of two young school-aged children. I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, as this bill poses a direct threat to our constitutionally protected right to religious freedom. The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees that no law shall infringe upon the free exercise of religion, and HB1118 encroaches upon this fundamental liberty.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of both American and Hawaiian values. Any legislation that seeks to limit, restrict, or dictate how individuals or religious institutions practice their faith sets a dangerous precedent that erodes our rights. The implications of HB1118 extend far beyond a single issue; it establishes government overreach into personal and spiritual convictions, an overreach that is wholly unacceptable in a society founded on principles of freedom and respect.

Furthermore, HB1118 does not adequately consider the cultural and spiritual diversity that exists within Hawai'i. Our islands are home to a rich array of beliefs and traditions, and any legislation that disregards this diversity undermines the very fabric of our community. The ability to freely practice one's faith without government interference is not just a constitutional right—it is a vital component of our way of life.

I urge you to stand in defense of religious liberties and vote against HB1118. Protecting our rights must remain a top priority, and this bill is a step in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Emily

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:13:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracie Ann M Tjapkes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:16:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
joe kassel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Physician, I am committed to the concept of informed consent, the right of every person to choose what therapeutic or preventative interventions they receive. It seems to me that it is a fundamental human right. In the controversies that swirl around vaccination, both polarized sides contend to have the whole incontrovertible truth. In reality, vaccines each have a unique risk benefit profile which is actually inadequately documented due to numerous factors within our approval and monitoring processes. Please vote no on this proposal to protect the human right to choose. my body, my choice as they say.

Dr. Joseph Kassel N.D.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:18:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehau Llanos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha mai,

I am a teacher and I oppose this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Kehau Llanos

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:18:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it is an infringement on my right as a religious person and citizen.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:18:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Mochida-Meek	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1118. Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:19:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bobbie Owens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one should tell anyone what their children should do with their bodies. Vaccines amcausw severe damage and are dangerous.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:20:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my **strong OPPOSITION** to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements for school attendance. While I fully respect and support public health initiatives that seek to protect the well-being of our community, I believe this bill raises significant concerns regarding personal freedoms, parental rights, and legal precedent.

1. Infringement on Personal and Religious Freedoms

HB1118 directly challenges the fundamental rights of individuals to make personal and religious decisions regarding medical interventions. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects religious freedom, and for many families, immunization decisions are deeply rooted in their faith and personal convictions. Removing the right to a religious exemption undermines this essential constitutional protection.

2. Parental Autonomy and Medical Decision-Making

Parents, not the government, should have the authority to make medical decisions for their children. Each child is unique, and medical choices, including vaccinations, should be made based on personal medical history, family beliefs, and informed consent. HB1118 disregards the right of parents to weigh the risks and benefits of vaccinations and make decisions that align with their child’s specific needs.

3. Concerns Over Vaccine Safety and Efficacy

While vaccinations have played a vital role in disease prevention, there are documented cases of adverse reactions and contraindications that must be taken seriously. Families should not be forced into a one-size-fits-all medical mandate that does not account for individual health risks. Instead, the state should focus on ensuring that parents have access to balanced information and the ability to make informed choices.

4. Legal and Ethical Considerations

HB1118 raises significant legal questions about bodily autonomy and constitutional rights. Court challenges in other states have demonstrated that restricting religious or philosophical exemptions can lead to lengthy legal battles, placing an additional burden on taxpayers. Furthermore, ethical considerations regarding medical mandates must be carefully weighed, as forcing medical procedures without consent sets a dangerous precedent.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote **NO** on HB1118. Instead of removing exemptions, I encourage the legislature to engage in further dialogue with families, medical professionals, and legal experts to find balanced solutions that respect public health while upholding personal rights.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:20:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Maxym	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:20:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen de Carvalho	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. This Bill will make it so vaccine companies are not accountable if there were to be a vaccine injury. As a parent, I have done my own personal research and have made the best decision based off of what I believe. I will not allow my right as a parent to be taken away. My children are healthy and I want to keep them that way.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:21:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Forced vaccination is not humane and should be left into the hands of the parents involved. Taking away our religious accommodation would be the same that Hawaiian airlines did to me for not getting the covid vaccine which does not stop a person from getting covid. I held true to my religious exemption and was terminated over this matter. Should this pass, my children will be homeschooled along with many others and then, who will fill these seats in the public school system? If Hawaii supports moms with abortion, "my body my choice" then support our religious freedom and bodily autonomy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:21:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mavaeao Voa-Lepaga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Mavaeao Voa-Lepaga, a citizen of the US and a resident of the state of Hawai'i am in opposition of HB1118. Why? Because what goes in my child's body, should be up to me and not someone who doesn't know them. Am I a Parent? NO. So you may ask why am I in opposition of this bill? Simple, the term that was used... "HERD Immunity". This term makes it seem like our children in school are animals. HERD?! some may say, "Really? That's why your in opposition?". That's just the start. When I become a parent, I don't want my religious beliefs stomped on and ignored by those who don't know my child. My brother and his wife regretted getting the COVID vaccination for them and their family? Why? Because it didn't work. They still got COVID and isn't that what the vaccination SUPPOSED to do, prevent them from getting it? My nephews were basically forced to take it if they wanted to play sports. The doctors didn't care about their beliefs, the school didn't care about their religious beliefs. What they really cared about was lining their pockets. Just as we respect those who have different opinions on discussions, we as people should have respect for those who refuse the jab because of religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:21:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
april plackett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We mustn't let ourselves give away our powers in the name of protection. I understand how scary the world can get. Our precious children are possibly at risk, those with immunodeficiency especially, and we want to go to great lengths to protect them. But getting rid of religious exemption is not the way. These statistics in the proposed Bill paint a false picture of future not on its way. We all know the reason behind these statistics and regardless of your stance on Covid-19, you cannot ignore the facts. The facts being that since the beginning, they said in the news to the public, that vaccination did not stop transmission. This stance was later changed and then changed back. Perhaps you have different statistics, something that shows that other vaccinations have dropped in recent years which is the reasoning behind this measure. But you have to understand human nature. Parents and public found out they were lied to, so the over-correction is the response of "What else have they lied about?". This will balance itself out. We cannot take power away from parents to make informed decisions about their children and lives on the assumption that they're ignorant sheep to be lead astray by a few 30 second clips on the internet. These are your constituents, your neighbors, your friends, your loved ones. Don't strip away their powers in the name of a greater good. As they saying goes, "the road to hell is paved with good intentions "

Think about rights before you vote. Let knowledge and informed consent reign.
"Those who would give up essential Liberty, to purchase a little temporary Safety, deserve neither Liberty nor Safety"

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:22:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maureen Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death. As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Thank you and sincerely,

Maureen Chang MD

John A Burns Associate Professor of Pediatrics

Kapiolani Medical Center Community Pediatric Division

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:23:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyle Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to anything that will force me to take something that which my consent it's not into consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:23:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristyn Nishimoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician and parent, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai‘i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai‘i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:24:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorene Ulangca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing bill HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:25:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christie Nemoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: As a pharmacist who works with pediatricians and a concerned parent, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:25:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill and think people should be able to give religious exemptions. This actions seem more to spite the current administrations secretary of state health choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:25:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marisa Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines save lives and the more people opt out, they less effective they are at protecting our citizens.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:29:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lionel Delos Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha lawmaker i oppose this bill hb1118 because nobody should mandate any vaccines that nobody wants and force oppond

thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:29:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

Bill hb1118 goes against the nuremberg code. You cannot vaccinate without consent. It is unconstitutional.

Mahalo,

Miles k

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:29:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Yamanaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:29:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not approve of any state government bill that legislates this type of overreach into anyone's ability to decide for themselves or their children to go against their deeply held religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:30:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Kitahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Where there is risk there must be choice!! Keep medical freedom for our local families. I do not agree with injecting my children with such ingredients (in vaccines): formaldehyde, aborted fetal cells, aluminum, etc.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:30:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jaimee Sarsona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I very strongly oppose this bill, because parents should be free to choose what they believe is best for their children. I personally know of children who were vaccine injured, so as I parent, I should be free to choose if and when and how I want to vaccinate my children.

Thank you for your time,

Jaimee Sarsona

A very concerned parent.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:31:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Phelps Nishiguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a developmental behavioral pediatrician and parent, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. In my subspecialty, I care for children with Autism Spectrum Disorder and rare genetic disorders. These children are especially vulnerable to the complications from vaccine-preventable diseases, and yet are also uniquely targeted by anti-vaccine propaganda which has no basis in scientific evidence. I am spending increasing amounts of my clinical time helping parents understand fact from fiction as it relates to their children. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong health consequences or even death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:31:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Wickes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill represents a gross proposal by the government to stomp on parental rights and the sovereignty of Hawaii's parents to be the ultimate decision-makers for what is good and necessary for our own children. This right to make decisions that are best for our own children, and to make those decisions based on our own convictions of faith, is a God-given right that the government has no constitutional grounds for overstepping.

IF YOU ARE TRULY FOR THE KEIKI IN HAWAII, THEN SUPPORT PARENTAL RIGHTS.

A community is only as strong as the family unit. The family unit is the building block of communities.

THE EVIDENCE FOR THIS BILL IS WEAK. The number of non-medical exemptions may have doubled from one year to the next, but at 5.3% the "herd immunity factor" for the schoolchildren of Hawaii is certainly not being threatened. Data from one year to the next is hardly worth making policy over as it does not cover enough years to show an actual trend. Government should certainly use better scientific methods to back policy proposals.

Sincerely, a very concerned Hawaii parent,

Rachel Wickes

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:32:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
samantha duff	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill for various personal rights violations including religious, body autonomy, right to make our own medical decisions for ourselves and our children, etc. The bill is blatant government overreach that treats everyone as objects in the eyes of power and money hungry politicians who are in the pockets of pharmaceutical corporation pockets. No two people are the same and their health care decisions should be looked at that way. This tramples of religious freedom and our constitutional rights. This isn't about just one bill. The government should never have this much power over individual rights and we are not the property of the government. The politicians who put this bill together should be ashamed of themselves.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:32:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Keoni Sarsona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aooaha Members of the Hawaii State Legislation.

I oppose HB1118. A‘ole. Not helpful for me and my ohana.

Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:33:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tihane Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill to remove religious exemptions. This is violates our 1st Amendment right. Furthermore, many of us find our faith at different times in life. It is not fair to the ones who discover their faith later in life (or after 2024-2025) to not have these exemptions available to them. Vaccines work and they are effective? If that is the belief, then those who are vaccinated are in fact protected and safe from those who are not. I support everyone's right to choose what goes into their bodies and what doesn't. No government should ever legislate that!

Mahalo!

Tihane

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:33:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Kitahara	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a fundamental right to medical freedom! Where there is risk there must be choice. There obviously is risk because no one is allowed to sue vaccine manufacturers since the 1980s and everyone with injury or death from vaccines must go through a government vaccine court. The VAERS website is where people can submit their experience with death or injury from vaccines and it happens all the time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:35:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yolanda Wu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Sincerely

Yolanda Wu, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:36:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a mom of 3 healthy babies I strongly oppose HB1118 this is against our constitutional rights as American Citizens, and religion should always be considered. Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:38:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Teresa Chao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:38:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janean Abbott	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed this.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:39:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ariel Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing this testimony to disagree with our children having to be vaccinated to attend school. Mandating covid for our children to receive an education should not even be an option. I will object this bill. I would have never thought we would have such corrupt leaders to lead our state and attack innocent children and their education with this vaccination that does nothing but harm you and has so many side effects. There is no legitimate reason why this bill should even be discussion as the children have been attending school for many years without this vaccination. If Josh Green passes this bill you do not care for the people and children and should not be leading hawaii. So many children will be affected by this decision and removed from school not by choice and that's not fair to them. All These innocent children will suffer on your behalf. Hawai'i needs to stand up and fight as this is not right! My children will NEVER receive that vaccination.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:39:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randal Wada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric oncologist, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications, especially for the immunocompromized children I care for. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Thank you,

Randal Wada, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:39:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kyra Len	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Kyra Len

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:39:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nathalie Champion	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:42:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Poulos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:44:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
nancy wood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is an infringement on human rights. No one can be forced to be injected if they believe it is not safe and interferes with their spiritual beliefs

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:44:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chloe Pestana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have 4 children two of which are in highschool. We have excercised our right religious rights their ENTIRE life. This bill would have us as parents have to choose between following our religion or going to school. Goverment is not GOD. my oldest is going to be a senior next year. I pray you rethink what ia being proposed. NONE of my children have been vaccinated: they have been really healthy aside from the notmal cold, we have traveled internationally multiple times. Please reconsider: as a Kama'aina and 3 generation family this would pish us out of Hawai'i all together. I really hope that everyone voting for and against this takes into account the profound effects it will have on many and the freedoms it will restrict for so many of us that honor our beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:46:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mako Ikemiyagi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I am a concerned citizen and a nurse, and I write to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill to remove religious and medical exemptions for vaccines. While I understand the importance of public health, I believe this bill represents a dangerous overreach that threatens individual freedom and ignores the complexity of human biology.

We are allowing pharmaceutical companies increasing access to our children at an earlier age without sufficient emphasis on alternative, natural measures like proper nutrition and physical exercise. Instead of promoting holistic health practices that can strengthen immune systems, this bill pushes for mandatory chemical injections. This is deeply concerning, especially when the unique biological makeup of each individual means that some may respond to vaccines differently than others.

As a nurse, I know that medicine is essential in certain situations, but it must be based on a patient's individual needs, not a one-size-fits-all approach. People react to chemicals in vaccines in different ways—some may experience severe side effects, while others have immune systems that cannot tolerate the ingredients within vaccines. A blanket mandate for everyone to receive the same treatment ignores the diversity of our bodies and personal health conditions.

Additionally, this bill is an infringement on our freedom of choice. We live in a society that values personal autonomy, including the right to make informed decisions about our health and the health of our children. This measure, if passed, would further erode these freedoms and set a dangerous precedent for government overreach.

We cannot allow our freedoms to be stripped away in the name of public health when there are other, less intrusive ways to address health concerns. This bill is not just an attack on personal liberty—it is a moral and ethical violation that disregards the rights of individuals to make their own healthcare decisions.

I urge you to reconsider this bill and protect the rights of all citizens to make informed decisions about their own health.

Sincerely,
Mako Ikemiyagi, RN

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:47:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joslyn Hanson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill which discriminates against peoples who do not vaccinate themselves or responsible persons solely based on religious beliefs. This bill is directly targeting children within the Hawaii public school system. Healthy children do not need to be vaccinated based on anticipated diseases, weaponized bio chemical warfare, or paranoia spread through misinformation. Unnecessary vaccines lead to a variety of health issues including autism, autoimmune diseases, heavy metals poisoning, and neurological disfunction. No physician I have taken my children to has been able to confirm if such vaccines were created without the use of aborted fetal cells or tissues. In my religion, such practices are considered unclean and an abomination to our God. I strongly oppose this bill as it infriges upon our freedom of religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:48:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
courtney o'kief	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chairs, vice chairs and all members of the committee,

I am writing in opposition of HB1118 which removes religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawaii. I believe this bill takes away important rights away from the parents.

It is the parents choice to decide what is best for thier child and they should. not be forced to have to decide between follwoing their beliefs and sending thier kids to school.

We have a right to practice our religion freely. This bill takes that religious freedom away.

If this bill is passed it will set a dangeroud precedent. If the government takes this away, what else will they take away. This is a choice the parents need to make, not the government. We cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom. I stronly urge you to reject HB1118 and protect the rights of Hawaii families

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Courtney O'Kief

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:49:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Maaza Christos Mekuria	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, Esteemed Legislators:

The proverb that i learned as a child comes to mind when reading this legislation, "For a person who has only only a hammer, everything is a nail!" Yes, the Governor is an "MD" and partly that could just be his problem, he has one tool and it seems to me it is the needle! He is only satisfied by sticking his needle in everyone's arms regardless of the situation to feel he has done something regardless of the benefit to the individual he is targeting! This is not only wrong but is unscientific and foolish! The claim to have only "medical Exemption" which the government seems to have control over by the threat of license revocation on the medical doctors is a real power mongering as everyone who in Hawaii who stood against the mass vaccination regardless of the outcome was dismissed yet we have COVID still running back and forth because of lack of Hwerd Immunity! The public health impact of the total shutdown that harmed thousands of lives and especially the poor and the most vulnerable! Please read <https://gbdeclaration.org> from the most respected public health experts who spoke in August , 2020 to keep the country safe, and healthy and prosperous in body, mind and spirit. Yet there was no one listening but to the big-pharma-agents!

Please reject this power play by Pharmaceutical companies and their cronies that may inspire Governor Green more than the real science and move this elected Governor to pushing an injection on all of Hawaiians, especially on those most vulnerable children. My brother's family has two boys damaged by Autism in America, the vaccines hurt more minorities (i am african american) than others and more boys are harmed than gilrs , Please listen to the cry of peolpe and don't let big-pharma get exemptions and more funding to harm children and adults! My bropther and his kids lives are never be the easy and the same as my childhood, while I being born in Africa was one of ten and none of us have any autism even though I am number nine born very late in my parents life and no sign of this affliction in our genetic background! Why have 20 or more vaccines before the age of one year old! Due to my past exeperience, I refused the COVID vaccine and I am more healthier and safer than many of my friends and colleagues at work who call in sick for repiratorial challenges and cold related sysmptoms as they were coerced to take vaccines, since the Natural Immunity that I acquired appears to br more wholesome in combating COVID than the "injection"! Please read again the Great Barrington Declaration at <https://gbdeclaration.org> to find what the NHI and CDC got wrong with respect to COVI and caused many other ailments to increase (cancer, heart attack, and many other diseases have increase in every control group since the introduction of mass COVID vaccines!) The VAERS data at <https://vaers.hhs.gov> on what havoc vaccines have since done. And now the

respected Governor , who was the lieutenant at the time of the COVID deliemma, would even more poeer to perform something that could harm even more people in Hawaii Nei!

Please for God's sake reject this bill!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:49:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Taylor Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118!! Us parents should be able to make our decisions with what we put into our kids. Why do you have the right to do that for us? Stop this bill we don't want it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:49:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Iwamoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. We have been seeing increasing examples of what happens when herd immunity is weakened. History also has shown us what happens when diseases like measles enters into a community without immunity as what happened to the native Hawaiian population in 1848.

Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would not only benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death; but also protect our community from long-lasting complications and devastation of preventable epidemics.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:49:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla G	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it may concern,

I respectfully submit this testimony in strong opposition of Hb 1118. Please keep these discriminatory bills off our Constitutionally protected religious rights against mandated injections / medical procedures.

We shouldn't be forced to choose between our sincerely held religious beliefs and sending our children to school.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:50:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a pediatric sports medicine physician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. We have completely eradicated devastating diseases that used to commonly occur in our Keiki. When I was in training and saw international patients, the outcomes of polio and measles are devastating and I was proud that in the US, those diseases just didn't occur. Over recent years, there have been increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:51:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Starmana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose the HB1118 as it should be every human and every family's choice what they put into their bodies. The government should not govern our bodies.

Sincerely,

Lauren Starmana

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:51:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelin Hee-Liu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose mandatory vaccination for kids, I strongly oppose the ignoring & bypassing of religious exemptions ! Let the parents choose what they want for their children!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:52:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brenda Nishikawa, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose exemption of vaccine for non-medical reasons

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:52:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melody Kilcommons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:53:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Isaac-Magdalene	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALOHA

I'm strongly opposed to this bill. It's clear overreach and it's a concerning sign to me and others I speak to on a daily basis that there is too much influence of pharmaceutical corporations. Those who support this legislation will be exposed for having received contributions from pharmaceutical companies.

Now is most certainly not the time to be imposing these vaccines on people with any kind of religious objection.

The truth about the cell lines being used in the vaccines will be exposed very soon and the public you are supposed to represent is going to be very upset to learn about these and it will certainly appear to violate basic ethical standards for most sincere people in our community. Religious exemptions must be honored for this reason.

The truth in general about the ingredients in vaccines and the harm they are causing will also be exposed.

I reject this bill . I oppose it. I call down the loving light of the Divine spirits of Mary and Jesus and of our Creator and I ask divine blessings on the House of the legislatures so that all of this darkness we are seeing shall not prevail.

Megan Frances Isaac

Hilo Resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:53:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
oilipua sekona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next?**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child’s body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children’s health.

4. What’s Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don’t matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai‘i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more**

families may be forced to leave Hawai‘i. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom.** Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai‘i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:53:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carie Kwan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118 because it is a God given right to chose what we put in our children's bodies, not the government's decision. God has given us completely capable bodies, so why poison it with toxic chemicals that MAY or may not provide protection. There are far more negative consequences for many children who receive 80+ vaccines within the first 18 years of life than positive effects. Vaccine companies have no liability for any damage they cause. If they did, then they'd be sued continuously. We need accountability and responsibility from vaccine companies in order to feel comfortable with vaccinating our children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:55:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Strider Didymus	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HB1118 - RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

The proposed bill is an outright violation of the following and I whole heartedly OPPOSE such as a lifelong citizen, a former law enforcement officer, and true man of God.

- The Kingdom of Hawaii Constitution - Kamehameha III (Kekauluohi) October 8, 1840.

https://www.hawaiiankingdom.org/pdf/1840_Constitution.pdf

- The Constitution of the State of Hawaii, Bill of Rights

RIGHTS OF INDIVIDUALS

Section 2. All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights. Among these rights are the enjoyment of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, and the acquiring and possessing of property. These rights cannot endure unless the people recognize their corresponding obligations and responsibilities. [Am Const Con 1978 and election Nov 7, 1978]

- Declaration of Independence (1776) | National Archives

<https://www.archives.gov/milestone-documents/declaration-of-independence>

- The United States Constitution, 1st Amendment, Rights to Assemble, Rights to Freedom of Speech, Rights to Religious Expression

<https://constitutioncenter.org/learn/educational-resources/historical-documents/bill-of-rights>

Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of RELIGION, OR PROHIBITING THE FREE EXERCISE THEREOF; OR ABRIDGING THE FREEDOM OF SPEECH (emphasis added), or of the press; or the right of the people peaceably to assemble, and to petition the Government for a redress of grievances.

- eCFR :: 21 CFR Part 50 -- Protection of Human Subjects

<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-21/chapter-I/subchapter-A/part-50>

- 18 U.S. Code § 241 - Conspiracy against rights | U.S. Code | US Law | LII / Legal Information Institute

<https://www.law.cornell.edu/uscode/text/18/241>

- Religious Freedom

<https://www.justice.gov/file/1298191/download>

- Religious Freedom Restoration Act (Federal)

<https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/IF/IF11490>

- Presidential Executive Order Promoting Free Speech and Religious Liberty – The White House

<https://trumpwhitehouse.archives.gov/presidential-actions/presidential-executive-order-promoting-free-speech-religious-liberty/>

- Department of Justice On Religious Freedom

<https://www.justice.gov/file/1298191/download>

- H.R.1308 - 103rd Congress (1993-1994): Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 | [Congress.gov](https://www.congress.gov) | Library of Congress

<https://www.congress.gov/bill/103rd-congress/house-bill/1308>

- Covid Restrictions and Mandates Imposed by "the Whims of Public Health Bureaucrats" are Illegal, Missouri Court Rules ★ Brownstone Institute

<https://brownstone.org/articles/covid-restrictions-and-mandates-imposed-by-the-whims-of-public-health-bureaucrats-are-illegal-missouri-court-rules/>

- For Our Rights Federal Lawsuit - File Stamped Complaint.pdf

https://drive.google.com/file/d/1fNbYmFOIzBWprIufcAps_gKnx02h1L5/view

- Supreme Court Ruling - Marbury vs Madison, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137 (1803)

<https://tile.loc.gov/storage-services/service/ll/usrep/usrep005/usrep005137/usrep005137.pdf>

The designation of general public laws that are equally binding on all members of the community.

The law of the land, embodied in the U.S. Constitution as Due Process of Law, includes all legal and equitable rules defining Human Rights and duties and providing for their protection and enforcement, both between the state and its citizens and between citizens.

- Living Man Document

https://www.aaas.org/sites/default/files/American_Declaration_Rights_and_Duties_Man_Eng.pdf

- Natural Law - Definition, Meaning, Examples, and Theory

<https://legaldictionary.net/natural-law/>

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights | United Nations

<https://www.un.org/en/about-us/universal-declaration-of-human-rights>

- Declaration of Helsinki

[https://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/79\(4\)373.pdf](https://www.who.int/bulletin/archives/79(4)373.pdf)

- The Nuremberg Code - "Trials of War Criminals before the Nuremberg Military Tribunals under Control Council Law No. 10", Vol. 2, pp. 181-182. Washington, D.C.: U.S. Government Printing Office, 1949.]

<https://history.nih.gov/download/attachments/1016866/nuremberg.pdf?version=1&modificationDate=1589152811742&api=v2>

- The Warrenton Declaration on Medical Mandates, Biblical Ethics, & Authority - The Warrenton Declaration

<https://warrentondeclaration.com/>

“We must obey God rather than human beings!” (Acts 5:29)

Having cited all of the above, do you know why “We The People” are exercising our rights here and why many are not getting their children vaccinated?

The confirmed facts are that our government (especially the Green snake), the medical fields and media continue to lie to us about the benefits of a “safe and effective vaccine” (actually a confirmed biological weapon created by DARPA for depopulation) during the PLANdemic and that’s no conspiracy theory.

Its confirmed active ingredients are now used in other so called “vaccines” (including the flu shot) which contain graphene oxide, 21 toxins (snakes, shell fish), the HIV virus, cancer causing agents, and mRNA DNA gene altering nanotechnology for tracking and control by people who have sold their souls and playing God.

- Pfizer COVERUP EXPOSED! - Caught RED HANDED Bribing Governments & Media! - FDA Hiding Information! <https://www.bitchute.com/video/>
- Interview With Dr. David Martin Where He Makes Explosive Claims Of ‘Patented Genocide’

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/6MS6wiOFb3dI/>

- Dr. Reiner Fuellmich - Summary of findings of the Corona Investigative Committee. 15 September 2021 - YouTube

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=V2YZAnKeGmM>

- PROOF THAT FAKE GOVERNMENTS ARE HACKING HUMANS - TODD CALLENDER on ZEEE MEDIA

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/K9B31ALO09EH/>

- Homo Borg-genesis/Borgiensis - Canada Health Alliance

<https://canadahealthalliance.org/homo-borg-genesis-borgiensis/>

- BREAKING! 45,000 Vaccine Deaths! Whistleblower Expert Insider Testimony! People Need To Go To Jail! (4 Years Ago)

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/g5xBksq90RzG/>

- WHAT IS THE PUNISHMENT FOR GENOCIDE AND TREASON?

<https://www.bitchute.com/video/qdi9qAxsM1Jy/>

That's what this is all about and you want to force it more upon the children? Think twice as your eternal destiny is on the line.

The Holy Bible

Yeshua (Jesus) said,

“If anyone causes one of these little ones—those who believe in me—to stumble, it would be better for them to have a large millstone hung around their neck and to be drowned in the depths of the sea.” (Matthew 18:6)

“But the cowardly, the unbelieving, the vile, the murderers, the sexually immoral, those who practice magic arts [“pharmakeia” (drugs)], the idolaters and all liars—they will be consigned to the fiery lake of burning sulfur. This is the second death.” (Revelation 21:7)

“But unless you repent, you too will all perish.” (Luke 13:3)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:57:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Flack	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The proposal to eliminate exemptions to medical treatment represents a dangerous overreach of government authority and a direct violation of personal autonomy. The same political factions that champion the slogan “my body, my choice” when it comes to abortion rights now seek to strip individuals of their ability to make informed medical decisions for themselves and their families. This blatant hypocrisy exposes a selective approach to bodily autonomy, where personal choice is respected only when it aligns with a particular political agenda.

The political left has long argued that individuals have an absolute right to control their own bodies, particularly in the context of abortion. However, when it comes to vaccines and other medical treatments, this principle is conveniently abandoned in favor of government mandates and coercion.

1. Selective Bodily Autonomy

- If the government can mandate medical treatment under the guise of public health, then the concept of bodily autonomy is rendered meaningless.
- The same people who fought against restrictions on abortion access now seek to eliminate personal choice in other medical decisions, revealing a clear double standard.

2. The COVID-19 Vaccine Precedent

- During the COVID-19 pandemic, the political left pushed for vaccine mandates despite growing evidence that the vaccines did not prevent transmission as originally promised.
- Many individuals were forced to comply with vaccine mandates or face job loss, exclusion from public spaces, and other severe consequences—all under the pretext of public health.
- Now, the same logic is being extended to other medical treatments, setting a dangerous precedent where individuals lose the right to make their own medical decisions.

History has shown that government-mandated medical interventions are not always in the best interest of the public. The COVID-19 vaccine rollout demonstrated the risks of forcing medical decisions on people without full transparency or long-term data.

1. COVID-19 Vaccines and the Failure of Mandates

- Initial claims that COVID-19 vaccines would prevent infection and transmission were later proven false, yet mandates remained in place.
- Adverse reactions, including myocarditis in young people, were downplayed while the government insisted on compliance.
- The rushed implementation of mandates created unnecessary distrust in public health institutions, yet this proposal seeks to double down on the same flawed approach.

2. Erosion of Medical Freedom

- Eliminating medical exemptions opens the door to a future where individuals are forced to undergo medical treatments against their will.
- This sets a dangerous precedent where the government, rather than individuals or their doctors, determines what medical treatments are necessary.

Conclusion

This proposal is an outright attack on individual liberties and medical freedom. The hypocrisy of advocating “my body, my choice” while simultaneously stripping away medical exemptions cannot be ignored. The failures of vaccine mandates during the pandemic should serve as a warning against further government overreach in personal medical decisions. If bodily autonomy is a fundamental right, it must apply consistently, not just when it aligns with a particular political ideology. Lawmakers should reject this proposal and uphold the right of individuals to make their own medical choices.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:58:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ricardo Molero Bravo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:59:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support this bill which would increase the protection that our children have against vaccine preventable diseases. We are below herd immunity in several of our areas in the state and this is dangerous for the health of children and the public. Thank you for your consideration for passing this bill.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Di Rocco

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:59:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ROBERT DUERR	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The drug industry knows that vaccines are not 100% safe. Why else would there be legal protection from suit for vaccines. What other product or industry has a blanket no sue policy? If my dog bites a person I can be sued. If a vaccine is unsafe the public should have recourse.

If Governor Green is pro vaccine he should be vaccinated. If his vaccine does not protect him from illness he should sue the drug industry for a faulty product. Gov Green should not make his neighbors and fellow citizens be subjected to his medical choice.

Our body is a gift from God. We are intrusted to keep it healthy to the best of our ability. Freedom of choice. Stop the onslaught of drugs as a solution for life.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:59:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shilpa Patel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:00:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vince Yamashiroya, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:00:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victoria Latenser	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Forcing vaccines on children so they can attend public school will just promote more private and home schooling.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:00:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:01:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abigail Hamman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Exemptions for vaccinations is a must. It is a violation of an individual's rights to be forced to take a shot for which the manufacturer can't be held liable. If another person takes a shot that is supposed to make them "immune" then why should another person's medical and spiritual sovereignty be infringed upon. Freedom includes freedom of bodily autonomy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:01:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patricia Beekman	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly oppose Hawaii House Bill 1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements. If enacted, this legislation would mandate that all individuals, regardless of personal or religious beliefs, adhere to state vaccination protocols. If we citizens don't have control over our bodies and those of our children, we are no longer a free people.

Eliminating non-medical exemptions forces individuals to comply with government-mandated medical procedures. Ever since the National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act of 1986, pharmaceutical companies have been immune from liability over any of their products that they label vaccines. It was passed back then because Big Pharma alleged it was losing so much money in vaccine injury cases that it was not economically feasible to manufacture them. What does that tell you about those so-called vaccines being "safe and effective"? No liability and guaranteed profits from mandated vaccines. What could possibly go wrong?

Past dictators could only dream of such blanket control over their citizens. Yet here in Hawaii we have a governor and legislators ready to take away this most fundamental of freedoms. And see nothing wrong with that. Auwe!

Parents, not the government, should have the final say in their children's medical care. HB1118 strips parents of their ability to protect their children's health, instead granting the state that authority. Does that seriously sound right to you? And who suffers the consequences when people suffer injury or die from those shots? Not the pharmaceutical companies, not the governor, not the legislators. It's the people themselves. Does that sound pono to *you*?

But, all too many say, doctors are the *experts*: with this bill, a child or adult can still receive a medical exemption. What, they continue, does a parent (who has lived with and loved their child 24/7 for all the child's life) know compared to a doctor after an exam of a few minutes? No, they state with firm conviction, the doctor is much wiser than the child's parents and must overrule what the parent knows to be right for their child.

Really? Such faith in doctors is unjustified, particularly in light of the fact that they have typically only studied vaccines for half a day during their medical education, with much of that time spent teaching them how to overcome patient objections to vaccines.

Save your faith for the almighty. We flawed humans, which includes doctors and Gov. Josh Green, the originator of this Faustian bill, must be verified by *real* science, not *politicized* science.

Ever since the 1986 federal law, doctors, nurses, and pharmaceutical companies have *not* been liable for injuries caused by vaccines that they administered or produced. A search by competent lawyers turns up no other pharmaceutical products that are protected from the legal consequences of harms caused by their products.

No liability and guaranteed obscene profits from mandated vaccines. What could possibly go wrong?

During the recent Covid years, doctors were widely known to be subject to disciplinary action for providing medical exemptions to COVID-19 vaccines, regardless of whether or not they had valid concerns for their patients' health. The sanctions included loss of the ability to practice medicine, effectively pressuring them to follow mandates rather than prioritize what *should be* their priority, their *patient's health*.

Heavy-handed, unscientific mandates over the Covid period has significantly eroded trust in medical professionals and public health institutions, leading to greater resistance to vaccination programs and medical recommendations. Who do *you* want to rule your body, you or the government of Hawaii? Sadly, all too many Hawaii legislators are saying, "the government."

In conclusion, I strongly support the values our country was founded upon: American *freedom* and *choice* for each and every citizen. Vote "no" to HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:01:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas pestana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't not support this bill taking my freedom to take away my children's right to exercise their religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:02:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Muensterman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the government forcing families to vaccinate their children and not providing the option for a religious exemption. This is unconstitutional. I highly encourage everyone with a vote on this matter to first read the Moth in the Iron Lung and then Dissolving Illusions before voting. There is a strong history in this country of forcing vaccinations and those forced vaccinations have resulted in many injuries and deaths that were avoidable and in many cases the . It simply does not make sense to force **every** child to take a risk in order to *potentially* protect the few. The decision to take that risk should be left to the families not politicians. In particular the government should have no say in forcing the Gardasil vaccination for 7th graders, this vaccine does not protect against a viral illness, it is for sexually transmitted diseases and only protects against some potential forms of cancers linked to HPV not to mention it requires an additional booster to remain effective. The risk profile for this vaccine is too high and it should not be forced. Again, before voting on this matter the panel should really consider learning more about the history of vaccinating in this county and around the world. Thank you for your consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:02:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MICHAEL WEHRLY	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

I strongly oppose Bill HB1118 relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

Our country's 1st Ammendment gives us religious protection from legislation like this.

The argument for abortion is often "my body, my choice" and so why not the same argument for so called vaccines.

Mandating vaccines for all assumes we are all the same and "one size fits all". This assumption is false.

Mahalo,

Michael Wehrly

Kauai, Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:06:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Bizik	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:06:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lindsay Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:07:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Peterson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is horrific that you are forcing our children to get vaccinated to get an education!!!
children have extreme allergies and reactions and even death to these vaccines !
This cannot happen !!!!!
it is impossible to say one vaccine can work for every single child without reaction.

they don't ! And we all know it

please do not let this go threw so many families and children will suffer from this!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:07:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eugene Lehano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha

I do not support this bill. I oppose it. People should be able to choose if they want to be vaccinated or not to be vaccinated.

Mahalo,

Eugene Lehano

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:07:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julika Kaplan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring they are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:07:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daisy Tim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. We should have a CHOICE and not be forced to take any more vaccines in our bodies. There are reports coming out of the TRUTHS that vaccines are hurting, damaging and killing healthy people. And who's making a killing on the costs for these vaccines? Doctors, hospitals, pharmacies, politicians pushing it on the masses???

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:07:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heidi M Kaumaka Wong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118! No medical freedom equals NO FREEDOM! This is one of the largest government overreaches and needs to end here at this committee hearing! Everyone of you is supposed to be there representing the people of Hawaii. It is clear that we are tired of the government over reach telling us we should give up this freedom and that freedom because Josh Green says so! That is not how the Constitution and Bill of Rights was set up or works!!! Hawaii afterall is the 50th state and should comply with amendment number one, FREEDOM of religion!!! Covid ushered in all these tyrannical government overreaches. Please do not continue to fan the flames for Josh Greens greedy control. He is not for the people of Hawaii and therefore should not be allowed to push this bill any further.

Please vote no to HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:08:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Loren Yamamoto, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines (immunizations) are very important for the overall health of our children. Due to vaccine misinformation that is spread by social media, many people believe that vaccines are dangerous and harmful. Vaccines are extremely safe and extremely effective. They are cost effective and prevent devastating brain infections, birth defects, among their many benefits. Supporting vaccines is one of the smartest ways to maintain the health and well-being of our children. Preventing these serious cases is most beneficial. Being normal versus having a devastating brain condition is what these vaccines do. Reducing these unnecessary harms to our children is what responsible and well informed adults need to do to optimize the health care of our children. Sincerely, Loren Yamamoto, MD, MPH, MBA (pediatrician)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:09:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamala	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This Bill removes ‘non-medical exemptions’ from vaccine requirements. Let’s start by calling these exemptions by their proper name – religious exemptions. This Bill is not removing philosophical exemptions, which we do not currently have in the State of Hawaii. This Bill is removing the right to opt out of vaccinations , based on a family’s religious beliefs. This is a constitutionally protected right and this Bill is a clear and direct infringement of mine and my family’s constitutional right to practice our religious beliefs.

In addition to the Bill being clearly unconstitutional, it’s foundation and purported purpose factually rests on extremely shaky ground.

The Bill’s apparent concern is to protect children from ‘an increasing trend in non-medical immunization exemptions.’ Yet despite the rate of non-medical exemptions nearly doubling there has **not** been an increase ‘in vaccine preventable diseases’, but in many cases there has in fact been a decrease in disease. Here are a few examples:

- Pertussis: In 2014, Hawaii reported a total of 28 pertussis (whooping cough) cases. In 2024, the Hawaii Department of Health reported 27 pertussis cases statewide. Notably, 13 (48%) of these cases occurred in individuals who were up to date on their pertussis vaccinations.
- Measles: In 2014, Hawaii reported a total of 15 measles cases. In 2024, there were 0 measles cases

(Source : Hawaii Department of Health , Disease Outbreak Control Division)

In addition , the current religious exemption, which the Bill seeks to remove, is practiced by parents by submitting a form to the school entitled ‘REQUEST FOR EXEMPTION FROM VACCINATION ON RELIGIOUS GROUNDS’ . This form is provided by the Hawaii State Department of Health and has a clause in in that states the following

‘I understand that if at any time there is, in the opinion of the Department of Health, danger of an outbreak or epidemic from any communicable disease for which immunization is required, this exemption from immunization shall not be recognized and my child will be excluded from school or his/her child care facility until the threat of an epidemic is over or he/she receives the proper immunization.’

This clause provides strong powers to the Department of Health to squash a parent's religious right in the event of what the Department deems a danger and gives full authority to the Department to make that determination.

In balancing the public interest with an individual's right to freely practice their religion and to bodily autonomy, I humbly ask that you consider the fact that (i) disease rates have not increased (but actually decreased), despite an increase in exemptions **and** (ii) we already have this clause available for the Department of Health to invoke if necessary, should the disease rates suddenly increase.

The Bill also seeks to protect 'medically fragile children' (at line 14) from exposure to vaccine preventable diseases.

There is however science that shows the opposite – that those who get vaccinated can actually be more of a potential threat to these medically fragile children. Why?

Most of these vaccinations are very effective at reducing symptoms, but a lot less effective at reducing transmission and the spread of the disease. For example in a JAMA 2016 study, first author is Phadke and colleagues, looked at all the US pertussis outbreaks after January of 2000, so in the modern era and found that 65 to 76% of everybody who got pertussis in the United States was fully or partially vaccinated against pertussis. A study by FDA scientists entitled 'Acellular pertussis vaccines protect against disease but fail to prevent infection and transmission in nonhuman primate model' was pivotal in showing that the pertussis bacteria still circulates despite vaccination and that those vaccinated were actually contagious for longer than those that weren't.

So, because the vaccinations are so effective at reducing symptoms, children that get the vaccination, and still get the disease won't feel as sick and will return to school much quicker, spreading the disease while still contagious. Versus an unvaccinated child who due to symptoms being much more pronounced will need to stay at home, meaning they will be less likely to spread the disease.

Another example, is this CDC study:

"Diphtheria toxoid helps prevent symptomatic disease, but does **not** prevent the carrier state nor stop the spread of infection ... [T]he known importance of carrier in the spread of diphtheria, and the demonstrated failure of toxoid to prevent the carrier state lead us to conclude that the concept of herd immunity is not applicable in the prevention of diphtheria.'

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pubmed/5026197>

So, for diphtheria disease it's the same as with pertussis– less symptoms when vaccinated, yet can still spread the infection.

For Tetanus, The CDC's website states that: 'Tetanus doesn't spread from person to person'
<https://www.cdc.gov/tetanus/causes/index.html>

The CDC also says 'IPV protects people against all three types of poliovirus. IPV does not contain live virus and cannot cause disease. It protects people from polio disease but does not stop transmission of the virus.'

In addition , some vaccines such as Varivax (chickenpox) actually say in their insert to avoid contact with vulnerable individuals for 6 weeks after vaccinations. Do we exclude these vaccinated children from school?

I understand that it is generally accepted by the public that these childhood vaccines stop the spread of infection and that it is in the public interest to be up to date with these vaccines. But, in fact the CDC and FDA's own studies and websites indicate that although these vaccines stop the symptomatic disease, they do not stop the spread. For that reason , the choice to get vaccines is for that of personal protection and not in fact public.

If you're interested, this video breaks this down more and goes through each of the vaccine preventable diseases mandated for school , starting at 2:52 heard in Arizona State Senate:
<https://thehighwire.com/ark-videos/safeguarding-vaccine-exemptions-aaron-siri-testifies-pt-2/>

In conclusion, not only does this Bill rest on shaky factual grounds, it rests on very shaky legal grounds , since it aims to remove a constitutionally protected right.

It is my deeply held belief that my body is the temple of my spirit. And that to force the injection of foreign materials, which include cells from aborted fetuses , is a complete violation of bodily autonomy and my personally held belief that God has given me the choice of what enters my body. I believe that we are made in the image of God and that to pollute our bodies with foreign DNA and other materials violates my interpretation of God's word. These are some of the religious beliefs that we have in our family and that extend to my young daughter.

(Reference : Stanly Plotin , MD deposition Jan 11, 2018 is at 37:20 of this video
<https://thehighwire.com/ark-videos/safeguarding-vaccine-exemptions-aaron-siri-testifies-pt-2/>
confirms that the use of fetal tissue from aborted fetuses used in vaccines.)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:11:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alaina Freels	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a new mother of a delightful 1 year old, I can attest firsthand that I desire and seek what is best for my child, and all children. I humbly hope to nurture in him a respect for humanity, the courage to think freely, and the curiosity to seek the Lord. I want him to grow up in a country where he has the freedom to follow his religious convictions insofar as they respect the rights of others, and the freedom to choose what to put in his body, rather than the state making those decisions for him.

Regardless of your personal views on immunizations, I think it is hard to deny that this bill is an attack on freedom of religion, as well as the freedom to make decisions for our the health of our families based on our unique needs. Religious freedom, and the right to make our own choices for what we believe is best our families, forms the backbone of this country. Freedom is a rare gift worth protecting. This freedom allows us to form a beautiful, diverse nation. If this bill passes we are handing over a freedom that should be reserved for the discretion of families into the hands of the state, and historically that loss of freedom has never been for the ultimate good of people in a society.

Please oppose this bill for the sake of protecting the freedom of religion, and the freedom for families to choose what they believe is best for those they love.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:12:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael H.T. Sia, MD, MPH, FAAP	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a independent community pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:12:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Lynch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, a sports medicine physician and a father, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:12:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laurie Saruwatari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent, grandparent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:12:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John Harrington, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a pediatric intensivist (ICU doc for non-neonates), I STRONGLY support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious morbidity, even mortality. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

I was the clinician from Hawaii who worked in the ICU in Samoa the longest trying to save as many children from dying during the Measles outbreak in 2019. Please work to help prevent me from having to hold the hands of any more parents losing their children from vaccine preventable illnesses. Thank you.

John (Jaime) Harrington, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:13:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott millies	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leave our religion exemptions for OUR children!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:14:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ian forester	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Legislators,

I strongly oppose HB1118 or any bill that suggests it. These are my reasons. 1. Big pharma can't be sued over vaccine injury. 2. The USA is in a health crisis and heavy vaccine injections maybe one of the biggest factors. 3. Big pharmaceutical is tied to close to politicians and decisions are compromised. 4. Religious freedoms and the right to choose our own health decisions are extremely important to freedom. 5. We already have heard imunity and the unvaccinated are not a dent in the overall health of the state. 6. The ADHD and autism crisis has been linked by many experts to vaccines. There needs to be more honest research on the subject. 7. The vaccinated should already be protected according to the honest science and the ones that can't get vaccinated because of medical reasons should already be taking there precautions. With that being said the risk of taking vaccines and getting a vaccine injury can be a medical reason not to take them. government need to stay out of this and let the people choose there own course of action.

Thank you

Ian Forester

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:14:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ALEX RIVERA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. After going through COVID-19 and seeing how the Government Handled this virus, I have very little faith that our government should be requiring anyone to be taking Vaccines. It should be a choice for the parents choice what they want to put into their kids. If University's are included then the individual adult (18 and over) should be able to make that choice. Our government is overreaching their position and needs to regain the trust of the people before moving forward with Bills like this. What Happened to "My Body, My Choice?" Our government officials are not trusted anymore.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:14:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LLOYD KEALOHA WAIALAE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1118!!!!!!! I BELIEVE IN NATURAL IMMUNITY AND MOST IMPORTANTLY IT IS OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO HAVE NATURAL IMMUNITY AND WHAT GETS PUT INTO OUR OWN BODY AS WELL AS OUR CHILDRENS!! WE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII CHOOSE FREEDOM!!!

I HAVE HAD MANY FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN GRAVELY AFFECTED AND SOME DEATH BY THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINES AND SADLY UNREVERSABLE!! EVERYONE'S BODY IS CREATED DIFFERENTLY , THEREFORE, AFFECTED DIFFERENTY AND I DO NOT WANT THAT FOR OUR CHILDREN OF HAWAII!!!!!!!!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:15:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Arrigoni	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:16:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marian Melish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been practicing medicine in the state of Hawaii as an Infectious Disease Specialist since 1972. During this period I have seen the near elimination many infectious diseases affecting children, life threatening and brain destroying diseases such as meningitis, childhood diseases such as Chicken pox and Measles, fatal conditions such as diphtheria and tetanus. I have seen all of these conditions in Hawaii before vaccination was available and now I see them only in children who were unvaccinated. Since 2020 we have seen an alarming DECLINE in the vaccination rate and are now very likely to have a measles outbreak in many parts of the state. I support this bill because it will protect our Keiki. California had a severe measles outbreak which spread to UNVACCINATED people from a single infected person visiting Disneyland. In response the California legislature passed a bill repealing non-medical exemptions to vaccines. As a result California has higher vaccine rates than we do. At present our vaccination rates against measles is low in many schools and neighborhoods that a measles outbreak is likely. All of my 50+ years of service to the children of this state informs me that the current vaccine recommendations are essential for child health.

Respectfully submitted,

Marian Melish, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:16:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katherine C. Morales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please stop this bill from passing. Every child has the right to education. If this bill goes into effect then you've taken that right away. Just like California, there will be a mass exodus from the school system. By forcing a parent's arm, you've taken away their rights. By forcing a vaccine (those in the current schedule and those that have not yet been made) you are forcing yourself on a child's autonomy. If this bill passes, our government had overreached their power in our keiki and ohanas.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:17:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Aea	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to oppose HB-1118.

Religious exemptions are necessary. Citizens with deeply held personal religious beliefs should not be forced to violate their bodies and go against principles laid out in their religion. The most stringent standard is that the government should not require people to violate their conscience or religion without a compelling reason.

In the State of Hawai'i, there are currently only 5.3% of all students utilizing the religious exemption. If 94.7% of students are currently fully vaccinated, this rate is HIGH ENOUGH. The current provisions of the religious exemption state that students must remain at home in the event of an outbreak. When was the last time this has happened? As studies have shown, no vaccine is 100% effective, meaning that there is no compelling reason.

According to the Public Health Policy Journal, "Hawaii's proposed legislation is a national outlier, as public opinion on exemptions has become more favorable in recent years". This is truly a regressive vaccination policy as we have seen more states reverse course and allow religious exemptions. I believe if this bill passes, we will see more parents remove their children from schools, resulting in a huge drop in enrollment. With numbers already declining due to fewer births and outward migration, is that what Gov. Josh Green really wants to see? Let's keep our religious exemptions and allow children to have the public education they have a right to receive.

Personally, I believe it is a God-given responsibility and requirement for me to protect the physical integrity of my body against unclean injections. Vaccines violate the sanctity of blood and life. I believe in and follow God and the principles laid out in His Word and I have a deeply held belief that vaccines violate them. Taking vaccines would betray my trust and faith in God. When I pray, I listen for promptings from the Holy Spirit. To ignore His voice and commands would be to commit sin. Requiring vaccines for my children to attend school is requiring me to act in direct opposition to my sincerely held religious beliefs.

I urge you to please oppose this bill, for Hawai'i's current families as well as future families. We should all be able to exercise our religious freedoms.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:18:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Liftee-Kau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118, as it infringes on our religious freedoms and imposes vaccine mandates on individuals, disregarding personal choice and medical autonomy. We've already witnessed the negative effects of rushed vaccine policies, particularly during COVID-19. If herd immunity is the goal, then shouldn't vaccinated children already be protected? This bill is not about public health—it's about government overreach, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:19:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill and we need to uphold our constitutional right by not discriminating our religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:19:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michale Sofer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric anesthesiologist, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Having cared for these children, I can tell you that the results can be devastating, especially when considering that they are also preventable. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:20:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Frank	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:20:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
KELVIN AWAYA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118.

Simply because this is flat out coercion. People have a right to choose. Nobody has the right to tell another individual what to put into, or do with their body. State lawmakers do not have the right to force parents, let alone anyone to do something they are not openly willing to do. That is a means of slavery. And if memory serves me correctly, slavery in the USA was abolished in 1865.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:20:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a Pediatric Hospitalist, I strongly support HB 1118. This bill would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. It is very simple- vaccines are effective and protect Hawaii's children. More and more parents are choosing non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawaii is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:20:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasha Bates	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it directly violates parents' constitutional right to make decisions on behalf of their children. It creates a system of coercion- forcing children to comply with government mandates in order to attend school. This infringes on religious freedoms, preventing parents from acting in alignment with their beliefs. Additionally, this bill disregards the fundamental principle of bodily autonomy- our body, our choice. While individuals may hold differing views from the government, no parent should be forced into a situation that could put their child at risk of harm.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:20:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Feng	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:22:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryan Mih	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Sincerely,

Bryan Mih, MD MPH FAAP

Pediatrician

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:24:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Hudson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly oppose HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions to vaccinations for entry to Hawaii schools. To force any parent to vaccinate their child against their beliefs in order to participate in a school is unconstitutional. Please do not vote for HB1118. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:25:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexandria A. Lum	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My Name is Alexandria Lum and I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118.

As a mother, to think that my local government would undermine not only a parent's right but a religious right (DOUBLE VIOLATION) by imposing a law that would force a parent to decide what's best for their child and to violate their conscience is HORRIFYING to me. This law would impose what YOU THINK is safe and best for my child...a'ole! Do not vote for this bill! This is purely unconstitutional and violates the rights of parents to do what's best for their child.

Mahalo!

Alexandria Lum (Constituent to Jenna Takenouchi and resident on Oahu)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:26:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118. My families beliefs and choice on whether or not we choose to have our children vaccinated should not be forced. The government should not be forcing any medical procedures or drugs on us, especially if they will not be held liable or responsible for any possible negative outcome that could happen. My children do not belong to the government, and thus should absolutely not be forced to inject anything into their bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:26:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reni Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a physician and as a mother of a child who was diagnosed with leukemia, I strongly support HB 1118. As a physician, I know that vaccines are well-studied, safe, effective, and one of the most economical interventions to keep children healthy. The medical community is seeing increasing numbers of parents who are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children so much so that Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles!!

As a mother of a child who had to undergo three years of chemotherapy and during that time was immunocompromised and dependent on herd immunity, this situation terrifies me. We must protect the health and safety of our keiki and families! Please pass HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:26:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bronwyn Leslie	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. Violates our constitutional right to practice our religious beliefs, parental rights and violates the universal human right to be free of coercion/punishment in our medical decisions. Informed consent is crucial to protect children. Denying children education is not in the best interest for society. People will remove their children from school or not enroll rather than violate their religious beliefs. Hundreds of thousands of people left California to preserve their ability to educate their children after SB277 was passed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:26:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tacquiya Harewood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Legislator/Committee Members,

My name is Tacquiya Harewood , and I am here today as a devoted parent and a person of deep religious conviction. I respectfully testify against the current mandatory vaccine bills, as they conflict with the spiritual principles and personal beliefs that guide the care of my family.

In our home, our faith teaches us that the human body is a sacred trust, and that healing and protection are blessings granted through divine providence and natural means rather than through medical interventions imposed by the state. I believe that true health and well-being are nurtured by spiritual practices such as prayer, meditation, and a conscientious reliance on the natural processes that God has instilled in us. For me and for others who share my beliefs, it is essential that we are allowed the freedom to follow these divinely inspired practices without interference.

I fully understand that public health policies aim to protect our community. However, the current mandatory vaccine bills do not provide for exemptions based on sincere religious or spiritual convictions. This omission forces families like mine into a position where our deeply held spiritual values are overlooked in favor of a one-size-fits-all approach. In doing so, it not only undermines our constitutional right to freely exercise our religion but also disregards the diverse ways in which families pursue health and healing.

I respectfully urge you to consider amending these bills to include provisions for religious or spiritual exemptions. Allowing for such exemptions would honor the principle of religious freedom and respect the diverse beliefs held by constituents across our community.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will carefully weigh the importance of protecting both public health and the constitutional rights of all citizens.

Sincerely,

Tacquiya Harewood

A Concerned Parent and Faithful Community Member

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:27:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Greenwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious exemptions to vaccines are an important aspect of respecting individual freedom and religious liberty. In many societies, personal beliefs—especially those rooted in faith—are deeply held and guide people's decisions about their health, body, and medical treatments. For some, vaccinations conflict with religious teachings, whether due to concerns about the ingredients used in vaccines, beliefs about bodily autonomy, or faith in divine healing over medical intervention.

Allowing religious exemptions ensures that governments uphold constitutional rights to freedom of religion and conscience. Without such exemptions, individuals may be forced to choose between violating their faith or facing societal consequences, such as exclusion from schools or workplaces. This is particularly significant in diverse societies where people adhere to different religious traditions with varying views on medicine and healthcare.

This bill will negatively affect me and others.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:27:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly oppose not having a religious exemption for my keiki. I am NOT anti-vaccination but would like to have the choice to do so or not. It is my body, it's my children's bodies and we should be allowed to decide what type of medications go into it. The fact that there are NO safety studies done on any of the 72 vaccines on the schedule should be a red flag. It is definitely NOT a one size fits all just like any medication, doctors need to know our weight and any other prior complications. It's common sense to have a choice whether or not to take medication just as it is common sense whether or not to receive a vaccine which ultimately is a medication. I am all for informed consent which parents are not receiving.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:27:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheila Rosete	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To the Honorable Hawaii House and the Honorable Chair and Members of the House Health Committee:

My 'ohana and I are in absolute OPPOSITION to HB118.

Regarding seeking wisdom and guidance to aid in upholding the health and best interest of the people of Hawai'i, HB1118 DO NOT support this bill.

To mandate and forcefully act upon oneself, whether by their own person or the will of a government on another human person's physical body is an act pure of evil.

WITHOUT the full educated consent of one person, and to impose or FORCE ANY type of impression upon another DOES NOT uphold the will of the people nor the law of the land.

A'OLE HB1118! It is your duty and your moral obligation to the people of Hawai'i.

I am a homeowner, a Hawai'i business owner and manager of 15 years, a wife, a mother of 7 keiki, a daughter, a sister, and a friend.

It is my responsibility and privilege to be the caretaker and good steward of what is entrusted to me and my 'ohana.

This is appalling obvious example of government overreach. Put people first and not money kickbacks. NO FORCEABLE act unto my own person or that of my 'ohana is ever pink. NO to HB1113. NO to playing GOD and forcei these UNLAWFUL RELIGIOUS MEDICAL MANDATE on the people.

Thank you for your service.

Mahalo nui loa,

Sheila Rosete

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:28:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
martha duerr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The drug industry knows that vaccines are not 100% safe. Why else would there be legal protection from suit for vaccines. What other product or industry has a blanket no sue policy? If my dog bites a person I can be sued. If a vaccine is unsafe the public should have recourse.

If Governor Green is pro vaccine he should be vaccinated. Gov Green should not make his neighbors and fellow citizens be subjected to his medical choice. We as Americans should have freedom of choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:28:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
BOBBIE KAIPOLANI WAIALAE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1118!!!!!!!!!!!! I BELIEVE IN NATURALY IMMUNITY FOR ALL HUMANITY AND IT IS OUR GOD GIVEN RIGHT TO HAVE THAT AND THE FREEDOM OF CHOICE TO WHAT WE WANT & PUT IN OUR BODIES AS WELL AS OUR CHILDRENS!!

WE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII CHOOSE FREEDOM!!SADLY, I HAVE HAD MANY FAMILY & FRIENDS WHO HAVE BEEN GRAVELY AFFECTED AND SOME DEATH BY THE SIDE EFFECTS OF VACCINES AND SADLY UNREVERSABLE!! GOD CREATED EACH OF US DIFFERENTLY, THEREFORE, AFFECTED DIFFERENTLY BY WHATS PUT INTO OUR BODIES!! II DO NOT WANT THAT FOR OUR CHILDREN!!!!

WE THE PEOPLE OF HAWAII CHOOSE FREEDOM!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:28:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Agustin	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

February 5, 2025

HB 1118 RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Dear Chair Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue Keohokapu-Lee and members of the House Committee on Health,

I submit my testimony in **STRONG OPPOSITION** to HB1118. I am a mother of two young children, whose wellbeing is my top priority. The current childhood immunization schedule amounts to 33+ immunization dosages from birth to the age of 18 excluding the annual recommended vaccinations and boosters for flu and covid. Parents are required to sign a form that they are aware of the risks of their child receiving an immunization, removing the responsibility of the potential harm from their child receiving medical provider.

I **OPPOSE** this repeal because it is a direct violation of our first amendment right that no law prohibit the free exercise of religion. Parents have the right to this decision as the primary caretakers, which should not prevent a child from enrollment into school. Don't make it even harder for families to decide between health and education. In other words, we are forced to decide if our children should be immunized and be allowed to attend school or not be immunized and denied admission to school.

I strongly **OPPOSE** and urge you to deny this bill to give the children of Hawai'i and their families the freedom of choice as it refers to religious exemptions for immunizations. Mahalo for your time and your continued efforts in regards to our health.

Malia Agustin

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:28:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Venkataraman Balaraman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a practicing pediatrician, I strongly support limiting or eliminating non medical exemptions to decline immunizations especially in the pediatric age group.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:29:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:29:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linh Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school.

Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:30:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Isaac kamai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly opposed HB1118. The government should not be able to force anyone to inject anything into their bodies they don't feel comfortable with, especially our children. Especially if the government will not be held liable for any possible side effects that may come after taking the vaccinations. The government also should not be allowed to violate a person's religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:31:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sreenandh Krishnagopalan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We are slipping below herd immunity - we are 1 outbreak away from lots of suffering for our keiki. If you don't want your children to get vaccinated and be part of civilized society, you should homeschool rather than threatening the health of all the children around you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:31:23 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:31:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Xuchyll Ann Roman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen and healthcare professional who works closely with pediatricians, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep Hawaii children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:31:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Champlin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a mother of 4 children. I oppose this bill HB1118 because I watched my oldest suffer from all the vaccines given to her. In her younger days we spent days in the hospital for her asthma and all they could give was steroids . I believe it was from the vaccines because she was perfectly fine before we gave her her 15 month shots.

Also watching my little cousin who is high functioning autism was hard. He loves his life and is happy but his younger days were hard.

I oppose this bill HB1118 because this goes against parental choice. We should be allowed to opt out of things we don't want for ourselves and our children. We shouldn't be forced to take something our beliefs and religion goes against. Can you guarentee the vaccines are SAFE, the vaccines are EFFECTIVE? Because studies show otherwise.

I stand with all the parents that oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:32:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erik Eck	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Chair et. Al,

I strongly oppose HB1118.

Mandates are the tools of bullies for products that can't stand on their own and must be forced upon people. This bill is government overreach. It tramples on religious freedom our country was founded upon.

This bill threatens our fundamental rights, our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions for ourselves and our children, and the right to protect our children. It spits in the face of my body, my choice.

This bill also goes against the right to informed consent. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects, neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long term health complications.

I am for religious freedom. I am for informed consent. I am for holding companies liable for the products they produce. This bill paves the wave for crooks and criminals and the accountability will fall upon you if you push this bill through.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:32:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle De Lima	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

To the Honorable Members of the HLT Committee,

My name is Danielle De Lima, and I am a concerned citizen born and raised on the west side, a homesteader in Kapolei, a mother and most of all a believer and follower of Jesus. I stand before you today to oppose the proposed bill that seeks to remove the religious exemption for vaccinations in children. I do so not only on religious grounds but also based on serious concerns regarding the ingredients and ethical considerations involved in some vaccines.

One of the primary reasons many of us object to certain vaccines is the use of aborted fetal cell lines in their development and production. These cell lines, derived from elective abortions that took place decades ago, are still used in the creation of vaccines today. For individuals who hold religious beliefs that affirm the sanctity of life and oppose the destruction of unborn children, it is deeply troubling to have no recourse in deciding whether to vaccinate their children using products that were developed through such methods. The conscience of many parents is burdened by the knowledge that their child’s immunization may be tied to the legacy of these morally reprehensible practices.

Additionally, there is mounting concern about the presence of heavy metals and other potentially harmful chemicals in some vaccines, such as mercury-based preservatives (thimerosal) and aluminum salts. These substances have been linked to adverse health effects, particularly in vulnerable populations such as young children. While proponents of vaccines may argue that these ingredients are present in minimal amounts, we must ask: how much is too much when it comes to the health and safety of our children? Parents deserve the right to make informed choices about what is injected into their children’s bodies, especially when the risks of these ingredients are not fully understood or disclosed.

Furthermore, the push to remove religious exemptions limits the fundamental rights of parents to make decisions for the wellbeing of their children. Religion is not just a set of beliefs; it is a way of life that shapes our values, actions, and decisions. Forcing parents to choose between complying with a mandate that violates their religious beliefs or losing access to education and other public services is an affront to their rights.

Removing religious exemptions creates an environment where personal autonomy is compromised and where medical mandates trump individual liberty. It also exacerbates societal

division and breeds distrust between the public and health authorities. The ethical concerns, the presence of controversial substances in vaccines, and the moral obligation to respect parental rights must be seriously considered before stripping away this vital exemption. While I have no specific evidence to present today regarding my next statement, it has been confirmed that many doctors and political figures are financially supported by these pharmaceutical companies or in other words, are bought out, hence the distrust in believing bills such as this are what's in our best interest. Perhaps more transparency in this area for those who support or draft such legislation to disclose whether or not they are being financed in some way may help.

In conclusion, I urge you to reject this bill and to preserve the religious exemption for vaccinations. This country was founded on Christian values and slowly, more and more laws seem to want to forget, remove, and disrespect our religious practices and beliefs. Parents should not be forced to choose between their children's health and their deeply held beliefs. I ask that you honor the sanctity of life, protect religious freedoms, and provide space for informed consent in medical decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Danielle De Lima

808 382 7995

Dkdelima808@gmail.com

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:34:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristyn Degracia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and it goes against my U.S. Constitutional Rights and the right to protect my bodily autonomy. We live in a country that gives us the freedom to choose and this bill takes away that choice for ourself and our family.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:34:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
marissa mckinney	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am totally against this bill, please protect our children, not hurt them.

Marissa

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:34:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leianne Kauwelo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition of Bill HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:35:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christopher Gouveia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. I do not support forcing our keiki to be vaccinated against their will and the will of their parents. It should be for the parents to decide what is best for their child's health, NOT the government's. Prohibiting religious exemptions is also a constitutional violation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:35:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Deziree Hayworth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write this today to express my deeply held religious convictions and to explain why these convictions compel me to oppose any law that forces individuals to be vaccinated without the possibility of exemption on religious grounds. In a free society, individuals should have the right to make informed choices about their bodies and medical care, particularly when those decisions are based on sincerely held religious convictions. Religious freedom is protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. It guarantees that individuals can practice their faith without government interference. This right includes the ability to make decisions in accordance with one's beliefs, whether it concerns education, health care, or any other aspect of life. While I fully acknowledge the importance of public health, the right to religious freedom should not be sacrificed in the name of that cause. Throughout history, governments have recognized the importance of religious freedom by allowing exemptions to medical mandates for individuals who have sincere religious objections. These exemptions have been upheld as vital to respecting the diversity of beliefs in a free society. To remove this option would be a step backward in protecting religious freedoms.

In conclusion, I urge you to consider the protection of religious freedom alongside public health concerns. Respecting an individual's right to make health decisions based on religious convictions ensures that our nation remains a place where freedom of conscience is safeguarded.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:36:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

How dare you try to make decisions for MY keiki?!!

If your poison darts are so effective give them to those who want them and leave the rest of us alone! You're gonna get a lot of lawsuits if you push this.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:36:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JEFFREY LIM, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Since the COVID epidemic in particular, I have notice a surge in the utilization of "religious exemption" to decline immunization for school attendance, putting the entire population of the State of Hawaii at risk for epidemics from vaccine preventable diseases. Media enhanced vaccine hesitancy and the wide availability of pseudo-scientific misinformation regarding vaccination has fueled a decline in immunization rates. Casual comments noted in the office like "I think I will use the religious exemption for my child" reinforces my belief that the exemption is being consistently abused and highly unlikely to be founded on valid religious tenets.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:36:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Quintin Leong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition of HB1118. This bill seeks to remove and violate my freedom to choose what is put into mine and my children's bodies. This is a violation of my freedom of religion! From a scientific standpoint, evidence has shown the vaccinations do not prevent infections or outbreaks. One only needs to look at the most recent Covid epidemic to see this.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:36:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily bauer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing a testimony to oppose the passing of the bill HB1118 which would remove the right for religious exemptions from vaccinations for my children who attend school. It is an infringement upon my human rights, under the US constitution, to practice religious freedom in this country. The freedom to act upon the religious beliefs that guide our family to live in accordance to the teachings of our faith are under threat by this bill HB1118 which would require my children to be vaccinated to attend school. I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:37:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank R Baum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I have been a pediatrician on Maui for 40 years. I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines have been proven to be one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death. I would also like to encourage you to consider programs like in California when a parent applies for a non-medical exemption from the immunization requirements they are mandated to take educational classes about the diseases and the vaccinations so the State can be assured that they have been fairly informed about the risks and benefits of the vaccinations. This method assures a certain level of medical understanding of the consequences of their decision. Also there needs to be more enforcement of the the State law requiring completed vaccinations for school entry. There is no sense have rules and laws without enforcement. There was a time when you could not graduate from high school if your vaccinations were not completed.

Thank you for your support of this legislation for the benefit of our children.

Regards,

Frank R. Baum MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:37:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Felicitas B. Livaudais MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I don't know of any religion that is opposed to getting children vaccinated. The lax law of allowing unvaccinated children to enter school is a slow moving train wreck. If one of them gets the disease, it can spread quickly. The most vulnerable children will be the most adversely affected. Gone are the days of gymnasiums filled with respirators with kids affected from polio. We used to be very good at spinal taps as pediatricians. When a baby came in with fever, we did spinal taps to make sure the babies did not have meningitis. Because of Hib, Prevnar and the Meningitis vaccines, I have not done a spinal tap in years, nor have I seen meningitis. Let's protect our keiki and our island. This is very important for the health of our people. Mahalo. Dr. Felicitas (Fely) Baja Livaudais - Maui Pediatrician

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:38:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessika Nunes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill opposes our first amendment right to religious freedom and as parents we have the right to make educated medical decisions for ourselves and our children that align with our spiritual beliefs. I strongly urge you to oppose bill HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:39:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cari Enesa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I'm a constituent of Nadines from Kauai and I'm writing to let it be known that I would like her to oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:39:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:39:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julliet Rhoden	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

Hearing Date: [2/7/25]

Chair(s), Vice Chair(s) , and Members of the Committee:

Aloha,

My name is Julliet Rhoden, and I am submitting testimony in strong opposition to HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand the public health benefits of vaccinations, I believe this bill undermines essential parental rights and religious freedoms.

1. Parents Should Have the Right to Make Medical Decisions for Their Children

Parents are the primary decision-makers when it comes to their children’s health and well-being. Some families hold strong religious or personal convictions about medical treatments, and they should not be forced to choose between adhering to their beliefs and ensuring their child receives an education. The government should not interfere in such deeply personal decisions.

2. Preserving Religious Freedom

Religious freedom is a fundamental right in America. For many families, vaccination decisions are not simply about health but about faith and conscience. Eliminating religious exemptions disregards this fundamental freedom and sets a dangerous precedent for the erosion of personal and religious liberties.

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child’s body responds the same way to vaccines, and while medical exemptions exist, they can be extremely difficult to obtain—even when legitimate concerns are present. Families should not be burdened with unnecessary legal or bureaucratic battles when making informed medical decisions for their children.

4. The Dangerous Precedent of HB1118

This bill raises a significant question: if religious beliefs are dismissed in the context of vaccinations, what other rights might be taken away next? Health freedom is just that. My body my boundary. The government should not have the authority to override religious convictions, especially when these beliefs have long been respected under the law.

5. The Impact on Schools and Local Families

Hawai'i already faces challenges with school enrollment, just look at Kaimuki High School, and the high cost of living. If children are barred from attending school due to their families' religious beliefs, more families may feel forced to homeschool. This legislation may unintentionally deepen Hawai'i's existing socioeconomic struggles by placing additional burdens on local families.

Conclusion

While public health is important, it should not come at the expense of parental rights and religious freedom. Families should not be penalized for making medical decisions that align with their deeply held beliefs. I strongly urge this committee to reject HB1118 and to uphold the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Julliet Rhoden

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:39:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
janelle ragusa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am aware that those ordering and/or administering vaccines have been granted immunity from liability should my [son or daughter] suffer from a vaccine caused injury or illness. Since the Supreme Court decision *Bruesewitz v. Wyeth* (Feb 22, 2011), drug companies are under no legal obligation to insure their vaccine products are either safe or effective. The same decision defined vaccines as unavoidably unsafe. Vaccine manufacturers pay nothing into the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, so it is not an acceptable alternative to me.

I am aware that vaccine schedules have been established by the CDC and are promoted by public health departments, the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS and other organizations. I do not accept CDC recommendations as science- based.

I do not recognize the CDC as a government health advocacy organization. It is a corporation listed on Dun and Bradstreet and headquartered in the STATE OF GEORGIA, with strong ties to the pharmaceutical industry through the CDC Foundation. Therefore, their recommendations are influenced by the fiscal health of their corporation.

I am aware that the STATE OF HAWAI'I DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH, a corporation headquartered in the STATE OF HAWAI'I and listed on Dun and Bradstreet, receives monetary compensation from the CDC to promote vaccines. Therefore, the state public health department's recommendations and actions are influenced by the fiscal health of their corporation.

I do not recognize the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF PEDIATRICS or the AMERICAN ACADEMY OF FAMILY PHYSICIANS as health advocacy organizations. They are both trade organizations and corporations (listed on Dun and Bradstreet) that are headquartered in the STATE OF ILLINOIS and the STATE OF KANSAS respectively, whose monetary compensation from vaccine manufacturers contributes to the fiscal health of their corporations.

I am aware that physicians and hospitals are paid higher reimbursement rates for administering vaccines.

I am aware of multiple scientific peer-reviewed papers that have exposed the dangers of many vaccines as well as the herd immunity through vaccination myth.

I am aware that the corporation HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES, UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF, listed on Dun and Bradstreet and headquartered in WASHINGTON DC,

profits from vaccines patents and determines claims paid from the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program via a secret administrative process.

I have concluded that following the CDC vaccination recommendations can endanger the health or life of my children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:39:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Malia Shimokawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Sincerely,
Malia Shimokawa, MD FAAP
Pediatrician
Aiea, HI

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:40:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Cabjuan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose this bill!! If this advances, you will lose many public school teachers!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:40:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Psillos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is gross government overreach! You have no right telling parents what they must inject into their children's bodies. There are droves of studies done that show that unvaccinated kids are far healthier than their vaccinated peers. But regardless, it is the family's choice, NOT the governments! Shame on anyone who votes for this!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:40:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristl Woo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu-Lee and Members of the Committee on Health.

Mahalo for your service.

I submit my written testimony now that I do not support this bill and it should not be passed. I only found out yesterday about this bill's existence and I am shocked that in Hawaii this law is trying to be passed and is taking our rights away to choose how we want our keiki to be raised. Government doesn't surpass or overrule my rights in my faith and belief in Jesus Christ and how we would like our keiki to be raised.

This kind of legislation will also gives precedence for more legislation of this type being forced upon all and ignoring our rights on whom we believe in and what we believe.

We saw in the covid shutdowns how forcing vaccinations on all and making it conditional for some to work have not only hurt our economy, hurt people but I believe it was done partly out of fear and not even looking at the research carefully or even considering other alternatives. I can understand if people are at high-risk but to make vaccinations to be forced upon all is not right especially when there are alternatives at times.

This law is not right and as a registered voter I do not agree with it and do not support it.

Mahalo & respectfully submitted,

Kristl Woo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:40:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Whitehead	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:41:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mio Osaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:42:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaytlen Kort	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose bill HB1118 to remove religious exemptions on vaccines for children to attend public schools. As a mother of 3, woman of faith and a proud American, this bill imposes on Americas values under the first amendment of our constitution; the freedom of belief, worship and religious exercise.

passing this bill will take away more choices from parents and leave it up to the government. Just like how the government doesn't belong in the doctors office when you're receiving an abortion it's the same thing when it comes to whether or not parents vaccinate their children.

thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:42:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachael Ziebold	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

In 2017, my four school age children were no longer able to attend school when their vaccine exemptions were revoked. At the time we lived in California, and SB277 had passed removing vaccine exemptions. Today you are considering passing a similar bill, and I testify of the harm caused by this discriminatory legislation. Our lives were totally disrupted when our kids had to leave their school and friends they loved and became homeschoolers almost overnight. When we decided after a year that homeschooling wasn't a good option for us, we were forced to leave the state and uproot our entire lives. You see, people of sincere faith and conviction will not just get their kids vaccinated because a legislator says so. Rather, they are targets of discriminatory practices that marginalize and demonize them needlessly. Thankfully, we were able to relocate to Hawai'i and for the past seven years my children have safely attended with vaccine exemptions.

The bill you have before you, HB1118, targets a very small number of children and is blatantly discriminatory against people of faith. In fact, by saying that a child who is born healthy and remains just as they are born, without modifying their body with pharmaceutical products, is unfit to associate in public spaces you are discriminating against human biology itself. There is no evidence that these children present any real threat to anyone; in fact several of the diseases on the childhood vaccine schedule could not be spread in a school setting at all.

As we enter a new era of MRNA where vaccines such as the new Covid-19 vaccine are designed to modify human biology itself, having freedom of choice is more important than ever. The Hawai'i Legislature should not have the freedom to force any kind of medical product into a child, or remove a child's right to attend school. I will not even let my children eat a genetically modified apple. Why would I ever allow a product intended to genetically modify their own biology be injected into their bloodstream?

Please reject this authoritarian, heavy handed bill and continue to allow children to attend school exactly the way that God created them.

Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:42:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Stern	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kelly Stern, and I am here to share my personal perspective on an issue that touches the very core of our freedoms. I strongly oppose any move to remove religious rights and religious exemptions for children’s vaccines. As someone who values the freedom to practice my faith and raise my family according to deeply held beliefs, I feel that this change would not only infringe on our religious liberty but also undermine the principle of personal conscience that has long been a cornerstone of our society.

Our nation was founded on the idea that individuals should be free to make decisions about their own lives and the upbringing of their children. By taking away the option for religious exemptions, we risk eroding a tradition of diversity and respect for differing beliefs—a tradition that has enriched our communities for generations. I believe that families should have the right to choose what aligns with their moral and religious convictions without fear of undue governmental pressure or interference.

In sharing my testimony, I respectfully urge our policymakers to consider the broader implications of such a policy change. Preserving religious rights is not just about protecting individual choices; it’s about honoring the pluralistic society we cherish—a society that values both public health and personal freedoms. I hope that a balanced approach can be found, one that safeguards the well-being of our community while upholding the fundamental right to religious expression.

Thank you for allowing me to share my views on this important matter.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sean Lopez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Inman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immunizations are a very personal choice and should be left up to the families to make.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Gary Dela Cruz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Akaka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to oppose HB-1118.

Religious exemptions are necessary. Citizens with deeply held personal religious beliefs should not be forced to violate their bodies and go against principles laid out in their religion. The most stringent standard is that the government should not require people to violate their conscience or religion without a compelling reason.

In the State of Hawai'i, there are currently only 5.3% of all students utilizing the religious exemption. If 94.7% of students are currently fully vaccinated, this rate is HIGH ENOUGH. The current provisions of the religious exemption state that students must remain at home in the event of an outbreak. When was the last time this has happened? As studies have shown, no vaccine is 100% effective, meaning that there is no compelling reason.

According to the Public Health Policy Journal, "Hawaii's proposed legislation is a national outlier, as public opinion on exemptions has become more favorable in recent years". This is truly a regressive vaccination policy as we have seen more states reverse course and allow religious exemptions. I believe if this bill passes, we will see more parents remove their children from schools, resulting in a huge drop in enrollment. With numbers already declining due to fewer births and outward migration, is that what Gov. Josh Green really wants to see? Let's keep our religious exemptions and allow children to have the public education they have a right to receive.

Personally, I believe it is a God-given responsibility and requirement for me to protect the physical integrity of my body against unclean injections. Vaccines violate the sanctity of blood and life. I believe in and follow God and the principles laid out in His Word and I have a deeply held belief that vaccines violate them. Taking vaccines would betray my trust and faith in God. When I pray, I listen for promptings from the Holy Spirit. To ignore His voice and commands would be to commit sin. Requiring vaccines for my children to attend school is requiring me to act in direct opposition to my sincerely held religious beliefs.

I urge you to please oppose this bill, for Hawai'i's current families as well as future families. We should all be able to exercise our religious freedoms.

Mahalo,

Mercedes W. Akaka

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charles Egesdal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 6 2025

Name: Charles Egesdal, MD

Dear Legislature,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Thank you for your time, I urge you to strongly support HB 1118.

Charles Egesdal, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Giavana Behnamian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill and respectfully urge all Health Committee members to vote against this bill. This bill disregards the numerous, legitimate, sincerely-held religious beliefs against immunization. This bill would wrongly and unjustly infringe upon the religious free exercise rights of numerous Hawaii residents who rely on religious exemptions to attend school.

I ask you to consider that any mandate must have exemptions available. And if a secular exemption is available (the medical exemption), a religious exemption must be offered as well.

Taking away Hawaii's religious exemption limits Hawaii residents' freedom of religion, and that is just wrong. Moreover, there is no science-based reason to take this exemption away.

In law school, I spent 9 months as a student attorney representing vaccine-injured plaintiffs in front of the national vaccine court. The U.S. government and numerous scientific studies acknowledge that vaccine injuries exist. To coerce someone to assume the risk of a vaccine injury against their will, as this bill would do, when vaccination is already against their sincerely-held religious belief, is just wrong.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:43:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Lacques	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Lee Loy, and Members of the Health Committee,

I am testifying in **STRONG OPPOSITION TO HB1118**, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

As legislators, it is important to note that currently, all U.S. states allow a religious exemption to vaccination except California, Maine, New York, and Connecticut, therefore the introduction of HB1118 is viewed as an anomaly, and more so, to the many parents that have done their due diligence researching the CDC's Childhood Vaccine Schedule, an affront to their family's rights to bodily autonomy.

There is a reason, as stated in the bill, that "non-medical exemption rates in Hawaii have grown over the last 10 years from 2.5% in the 2015-2016 school year to 5.3% in the 2023-2024 school year": Informed consent requires that individuals should be allowed to weight the risks and benefits of a medical procedure without coercion.

According to the National Vaccine Information Center, "A state must have a "compelling State interest" before this right can be taken away. Constitutionally, Americans have an expectation that their religious beliefs will be respected, and that government will not pass laws that obstruct the exercise of this most fundamental of freedoms."

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:44:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mandie Gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. Parents should have a freedom of choice. Freedom to live their faith in accordance to their belief. Freedom of the right to choose what is put into their child's bodies. Freedom to choose and to have the options of choosing vaccinations or religious exemption.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:44:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stacy diaz	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I, Stacy Diaz oppose bill HB1118 as it infringes on my Constitutional rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:44:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safiya "Dazele" Om	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawai'i State Legislature,

My name is Safiya "Dazele" Om. I grew up here in Hawai'i on the island of O'ahu and I oppose this bill as religious freedoms are an important part of the fabric of our country and we are a state of religious diversity which contribute to our cultural wealth and aloha spirit.

Sincerely,

Safiya "Dazele" Om

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:44:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leslie J.	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee members, please defer this measure. It unnecessarily limits the choices of Hawaii citizens, who may be opposed to immunizations on the basis of religious or other considerations. Let Hawaii citizens choose how best to protect themselves and their families. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:44:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasha Sanoy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To our elected officials,

I am submitting my testimony along with many others to oppose this draconian bill of removing religious exceptions. There is no reason that the government should have the authority to mandate medical interventions. We do not support this. Please vote no.

Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:45:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary John Kissinger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You have NO right to ban a religious exemption in this regard.

The vaccine was NOT proven effective and safe, as it turns out.

I am 100% opposed to this action and will vigorously seek to vote against any politician who supports this movement.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:45:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judy lapuebla	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:46:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Wang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician and concerned citizen, I strongly support HB1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective and most economical interventions to keep children and all members of society healthy. Recently, we have seen increasing numbers of parents choosing not to vaccinate their children and seeking medical vaccine exemptions for their children, which puts Hawaii below threshold for herd immunity for diseases such as measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications (as we saw in 2019 in Samoa's measles outbreak). Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawaii and protect them from these serious diseases that can potentially result in lifelong disability or death. Thank you.

Committee on Health

Representative Gregg Takayama, Chair
Representative Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

February 6, 2025

RE: House Bill 1118
Position: Oppose

Dear Chairs Takayama and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Keohokapu-Lee Loy and Poepoe, and Committee Members,

I am mom of six children on the Big Island of Hawaii and I strongly oppose this bill and am outraged at the sheer proposal of it. While this bill seeks to ensure the health and safety of all school-aged children in Hawaii, it forgets two fundamental truths.

First of all, it violates our first amendment rights to exercise our freedom of religion. A faith based community grounded on morals is crucial to the upholding of a civil society but we must be allowed to live according to the faith that we profess. A violation of our rights to practice our religion is an attack on our rights and the faith we hold so dear. This is a direct violation of the Constitution of the United States and should be dissolved immediately.

Secondly, it violates the right of parents to make decisions for their own children's health and appears to want to remove any ability for them to choose a different health path at all. Parents love their children more than the state and removing their ability to care for them according to their dictates and conscience is a violation of their parental rights.

For these reasons I urge to you to oppose HB1118.

Sincerely,

Anuhe Maeda

PO Box 4821

Hilo, Hi 96720

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:46:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irene Papaconstadopoulos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician in private practice on Maui, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. I am seeing concerning numbers of parents refusing vaccines on Maui and the numbers now place us in a very dangerous situation for an outbreak of preventable diseases and preventable deaths. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Also as a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:47:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Young, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric emergency physician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

I have already begun to see an increase in willfully unvaccinated children in the emergency department here in Honolulu, including recent cases of unvaccinated children with whooping cough (pertussis). This child's parent had been misled by anti-vaccination propoganda into thinking that she was protecting her children. You cannot imagine the guilt and shame she bore as she realized that her actions had actually resulted in all of her children suffering weeks of preventable illness. Look no further than Samoa to see a possible future for our own island if vaccination rates were to drop below the needed thresholds to maintain herd immunity. Such deaths and injuries are completely preventable. Vaccines are a victim of their own success: when the public does not see the devastation that these illnesses can cause, so they become "out of sight, out of mind."

As a pediatric emergency medicine physician, I have personally cared for numerous children who have been seriously disabled or died from vaccine preventable illnesses, including bacterial meningitis, measles, pertussis, and tetanus. Every single one of these patients were unvaccinated, and every single parent wished they had done so, but they wished too late. Please, protect our keiki!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:47:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alexis Caramonte	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. A parent should decide for their child not the government or anyone else.

Mahalo for you time

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:47:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
tiana lolotai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"My body, my choice" what happened to that? It's our given right to be able to have a say in any medical advice or mandates. There should be a freedom of choice to choose what is best for our families. Please stop this bill!

mahalo!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:47:45 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jill Axelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an means of keeping our children, families, and community healthy. Each person's health matters in regard to total public health and well being. In effort for teachers and schools to focus on their primary task of caring for and education our children, children should receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Thereby ensuring a more healthy school environment where minds and hearts are ready to engage and learn and have fun! Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:48:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Kahele	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This bill is 100% unconstitutional. How is it possible to preach "my body, my choice", then turn around and force people to inject something into their physical bodies, crossing a very personal barrier? And not just any physical body, a child's body.

I have a five-year-old that has a sensory processing disorder. There are foods that I can't feed her because it makes her gag, then vomit. It's possible that she might be allergic to some of these foods. This is why I don't FORCE her to eat them. We find alternative ways to support her health.

Who will be responsible if anything happens to my child? Can you give me a guarantee that she is not allergic to any of those harsh, dangerous chemicals in those vaccines?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:48:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sally Suemoto	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha to the Health Committee,

As a parent whose child has been injured by vaccines and someone who is connected with the community of local children who have been vaccine injured, I strongly oppose this bill. I want to protect all the keiki of Hawaii, however I do not believe this bill would help protect our keiki when it puts many other keiki at risk. There are currently too many questions, risks and unknowns surrounding vaccinations.

Thank you for your time in reading this.
Mahalo,

Sally Suemoto

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:49:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Tamaribuchi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to submit written testimony on HB 1118 relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

I am in strong opposition to HB 1118 as it fails to protect religious freedom and puts all authority with the state and the department of health to decide what is medically appropriate for the children. This should be the responsibility of the parents and guardians to decide what is best for their child not the government. This bill fails to include informed consent which is necessary to make a proper decision.

Please vote no on HB 1118.

Mahalo,

Jessica Tamaribuchi

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:49:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reiko Lin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:49:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marleina Maafala	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am testifying to oppose this bill. I question the motives of the government to seize more control of our freedom and our Keiki in the name of safety. This was evident in their pushing of intrusive pandemic measures which now is showing that the "science and safety" was just an excuse for "power and greed". Our government takes advantage of our people. They use our disconnection from the mainland US to push agendas that only serve the powerful and rich. I lost my job At Queens Medical Center for not getting vaccinated after having already gotten covid. I also caught it again from a vaccinated co-worker. This is nothing new. But now you want full control of the most vulnerable. Our Keiki. I assure you that parents will love and care for their children much much more than any government would. This is unconstitutional and not Pono. I believe that most of you know that it isn't. I plead with you to do the right thing. Give people their freedom to exercise their beliefs instead of lining the pockets of governor green and his pharmaceutical connections. I leave you with this. Any party is susceptible to corruption. In our everyday lives we know people, friends and family, who have political beliefs. We know some good people from each party. And we know some bad people from each party. Your political affiliation doesn't make you righteous. Your decision making does. Please make the right decision.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:51:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mailah Gonsales	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I DO NOT agree with this bill. I beleive that we as parents should have the right to choose to vaccinate out children or not. It should continue to be a personal choice for us! It is NOT right for the government to tell us we must vaccine our kids in order for them to be apart of the public school education system.

Please please please do not allow this bill to be passed. It is simply not right in the eyes of God.

Man-made vaccinations should be a choice for our keiki and not mandatory!

Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:51:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sai Timoteo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this Bill HB1118 for many reasons. It is unethical to force the Hawaii children to take vaccines that have NOT always been proven to help them. It goes against our religious rights as well. This is also crossing our HPPA laws. A parent know thier child more the JOSH GREEN. Parent has that right to protect thier children base on thier health. Medical advice is not a one size fit all medication. This is an attack towards our nations regloius rights and the right to receive eduaction in our nations. As a tax payers you are robbing us!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:51:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Annie Courville	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- HB 1118 repeals the non-medical vaccine exemption for school entry in support

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:51:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allen Bumanglag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a parent, registered nurse, and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:52:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arviella Benavides	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am oppose to this bill. I do not give permission to allow any medical staff to decide without my knowing of any shots, vaccine given to my child, children, grandchildren before hand. I oppose this bill and shame on Governor Josh Green to even think of having decisions made by medical staff without parents having the FINAL DECISION MAKING. No no no no no no!!!!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:52:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kennedy-Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent, a nurse and a concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. As a former bedside pediatric nurse and now a nurse in the Patient Safety and Quality Department of a local hospital, I have seen the harm that occurs when children are not properly vaccinated and are then exposed to viruses that can cause significant harm. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:52:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rhiana Lau	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Mahalo,

Rhiana Lau, MD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:53:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad Barga	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With Aloha,

I strongly oppose HB1118, the revocation of religious exemptions for vaccine mandates in hawaii public schools. This move would infridnge upon the constitutional rights of parents to make informed decisions about their children's health and well-being, as well as their right to prictice their faith without government interference.

Key Concerns:

- **Parental rights:** By revoking religious exemptions, the state would be taking away parents' ability to make informed decisions about their keiki's health, which is a fundamental right protected by the 14th amendment.

- **Religious Freedom:** This move would compel parents to choose between their faith and their child's education, violating the first amendment's guaruntee of freedom of religion.

- **Medical Autonomy:** Vaccination decisions should be made in consultation with a healthcare provider, taking into account individual health needs and circumstances.

Consequences:

- **Increased stigma:** Revoking religious exemptions would unfairly stigmatize families who choose not to vaccinate for religious reasons, potentially creating a hostile environment in our public schools.

- **Lack of Trust:** This move would erode trust between parents and the government, leading to increased resistance to public health initiatives and decreased cooperation in promoting the well-being of our children.

Alternative Solutions:

- **Education and informed Consent:** Instead of revoking exemptions, the state should focus on educating parents about the risks and benefits of vaccination, ensuring that they are fully informed and able to make decisions that align with their values and healthcare priorities.

- **Accommodating Individual Needs:** The state should work with accomodating individual needs and circumstances, rather that imposing a one-size-fits-all approach to vaccination policies.

Protecting Our Keiki's Rights

I urge lawmakers to prioritize parental rights, religious freedoms, and medical autonomy in Hawaii public schools. We must ensure that our keiki's education in not compromised by government overreach and that families are treated with dignity and respect.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:53:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Moats	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Failing to accommodate individual preferences reinforces the healthcare system’s history of paternalism and the violations of trust experienced by marginalized communities.

Instead of mandating an ever growing list of vaccine requirements on all keiki, approaches such as improving access, education and documentation might be tried before moving to mandated vaccination.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:53:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
clara loprinzi	Na Iwi Kupuna	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

As a Indigenous Practitioner this bill is illegal. We have rights/rites for customary traditional and cultural practices 711-1107 , Act 50, Ka pai analysis and we are strong in our ways. We are connected to our lands and waters and our medicines are taught to us. You can not tell us that na keiki can not go to school without vaccines or have to go to medical physician or nurse to get an exception.

To me this bill is criminal this bill and full of fraud, your vaccine studies are bought off, many countries have banned vaccines due to sterilization of their children and that our medicines we believe are safer, more effective and look at the health of the children that are not vaccinated.

i oppose this bill and those that oppose are highly educated and disagree with this. how much money does the vaccine industry pay Josh Green and others?

mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

clare loprinzi speaking for Na Iwi Kupuna and myself

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:54:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bevin Kilfoyle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose HB 1118, in an attempt to lord over human rights, this bill would violate our god given choice. The state will not decide for me or my descendants, what we choose for our own vessels. The sanctity of our bodies is divine, and beyond the the reach of these codes. How dare the legislators trusted to speak for those who have no voice impose such a violation to autonomy. No to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:54:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Waipa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. It's the only reason we don't have children in iron lungs, dying from polio, profuse diarrhea, epiglottitis, encephalitis, or meningitis, which was routine 30 years ago.

Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. In addition, with the amount of travelers that comes through our islands, we'll become hub for once-dormant infections that could be devastating to local families.

Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:55:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Galiza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:55:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Angela Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As an Infection Preventionist for our pediatric and general populations, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

As an Infection Preventionist for pediatrics and general populations, we have been observing unprecedented surges of respiratory viral activity in our communities, which is resulting in significant negative impacts on our community's health which consequently adds overburden to our healthcare infrastructure and public systems who are also impacted by the community spread.

Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:55:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Allison Tran-Yokota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:55:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Clinton Len	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY
HB1118 - NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

Good Afternoon, House Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to House Bill 1118.

This House Bill removes religious exemptions for children attending school in Hawaii.

The measure notes that religious requests have increased two-fold in 2023.

The Bill makes it sound as if vaccines are fail-safe. They are not, and there is much evidence regarding their side effects. In addition, the vaccine schedule has increased more than 10-fold since I was a child.

However, my point is not to argue vaccine effectiveness, but rather the free exercise of our individual liberties as guaranteed by the US Constitution. This measure is dictatorial and in direct contradiction.

A draconian measure such as this will only further erode the public's trust in our government. You must vote "No".

Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:58:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katryana Hanley-Knutson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:59:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:59:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a parent and primary care physician, I would like to express support for HB1118 which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an essential tool for keeping our keiki and community healthy. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:00:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bryce Watanabe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a director for patient experience for a healthcare company here in Hawaii, I am in full support of hb1118, and eliminating the non-medical exemptions for vaccination requirements. Vaccinations are a key component in keeping our communities safe, and I have seen firsthand the degradation of trust and increased amount of community skepticism around Health science and vaccines and it worries me. If people continue to think with their heart rather than their head, we could put ourselves in a very dangerous position, especially here in Hawaii as the hub of a major tourist destination. I don't feel that exemption should be made for people who decide to put the larger population at risk based on how they feel. As a society, we should follow the science of what keeps the majority of us all healthy and thriving. I urge you to support this measure

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:00:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Ziebold	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Mark Ziebold and I am a licensed attorney practicing in the State of Hawai'i. I strongly oppose the passage of this bill HB1118.

HB1118 is blatantly discriminatory against people who hold sincere religious beliefs or personal conviction against vaccinating their children. As you should know, freedom of religion and equal protection under the law are constitutionally guaranteed rights and deserve the highest of protection from all elected legislators.

There is no compelling state interest in excluding a very small minority of healthy children from public school. There is no evidence that these children present a real threat to anyone; in fact if vaccines are effective then all the rest of the children should be very safe regardless of what medical treatments one child did or did not receive. For example, it is patently absurd that a child with Hepatitis B infection can attend school without fear of discrimination, but a healthy child who refused the Hepatitis B vaccination would be thrown out of school.

Furthermore, this bill would create a two tier system where children of families who can afford private school or homeschooling would continue to receive education while children of families with fewer resources would be marginalized and likely receive a substandard education. Presumably some Hawai'i legislators and Governor Green are hoping to bully those families of religious belief and lower means into violating their sincerely held beliefs and give in. To do so would certainly be unethical and immoral, but I believe is also unconstitutional.

Please reject this bill. It is unnecessary, authoritarian, discriminatory and wrong for the children of Hawai'i.

Thank you.

Mark Ziebold, J.D. LL.M

Papaikou, HI

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:00:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alda Lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:01:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Trisha Dhakhwa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen I would like to express support for HB1118 which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep out children healthy and it is important for public safety. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:01:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:01:55 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Lopez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is unconstitutional and goes against our right to religious freedom. No state or government should be mandating vaccines and interfering with a citizens right to choose what we put in our bodies especially when it goes against our religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:03:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert C Durkin	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1115 to repeal the non-medical vaccine exemption for school entry. The vaccine requirement serves to protect our families and entire population in Hawaii.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:04:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mercedes Gallup, MPH, RN-BC, PHN, CPH, RCHES	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a Public Health Nurse, currently working in the community of Honolulu as a Clinical Public Health Nursing Instructor. I work closely with our Dept. of Health. I have been, among, other things, a Vaccines For Children (VFC) Program Administrator in a large public University and was the Public Health Officer and infectious disease liaison for my county Public Health Dept. I chose to come to Hawaii in 2019 to do Public Health and work within the community. I was also on the forefront of Covid Vaccinations here in Hawaii, vaccinating and swabbing our homeless. I am Pro Vaccination. I have vaccinated. I have also vaccinated children who weren't vaccinated as children, for numerous reasons, who choose vaccination when coming to college at 18. Personally, as a practicing RN, I do not feel comfortable administering forced vaccinations. This does not sit right with me. Against their Religion! Who are we and what does that make me to follow that? My role is to educate, provide a Vaccine Information Statement, which isn't online currently, discuss all health options. Do no harm. Patient autonomy is foundational to our practice. Whether I support vaccination or don't is not the issue. This is about informed consent. Period. I advocate for my clients. I am all about the stats and keeping our keiki healthy, but no, I won't vaccinate against informed consent. I will tell you the risks, I will inform you and educate you on handwashing, transmission, nutrition, exercise and a million other things if you don't consent because of your religious belief. I fundamentally do understand the importance of vaccination and reduction of disease, herd immunity.. all of it, but as an RN I don't support mandating against religious beliefs. This might have unintended consequences and prevent parents from seeking medical access or education. Who is this targeting? I fear this might target more marginalized populations. This is my testimony, mahalo nui for the consideration.

Mercedes R. Gallup, MPH, RN-BC, PHN, CPH, RCHES

Honolulu HI 96816

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:06:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lucille N Lecker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. I understand that vaccinations MAY help prevent diseases, however some vaccines has also been found to not help and in some cases cause side effects or allergies reaction . Every person reacts different to the vaccine. I believe this bill takes away important rights from parents and families.

With respects

Lucille Lecker

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:06:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lolita Keni	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill! This bill takes away our rights to choose vaccinations, not be FORCED to have our children vaccinated.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:07:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John K Cheever	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:07:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LILY VAN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a clinical pharmacist working in a primary care clinic, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications.

In recent years, some individuals have touted the idea that vaccines are not needed and cause more harm than good. We have previously been fortunate enough to have not realized the harm of lack of preventative care/lack of vaccinations. Now that the rates are decreasing and we are unable to rely on herd immunity, I feel strongly that we are putting public health at risk.

Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

Thank you for your consideration of this importance bill.

Lily Van, PharmD, BCACP, CDCES

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:09:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dane kimokeo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. Parents and children should not be forced to take any vaccines by stripping medical exemptions. This is pilau

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:09:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Netra Halperin, MA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

I am strongly against this bill. I believe in "my body my choice". This includes both reproductive rights and the right to not be injected with unwanted drugs.

Reagan & The 99th Congress Called Vaccines “Unavoidably Unsafe”. So Congress gave vaccine manufacturers immunity from liability, with the agreement that the government would shoulder the burden of the vaccine injuries that they knew would come.

First of all it is unconscionable to force an unavoidably unsafe product on healthy people. Also, vaccines are not what stopped epidemics in the previous centuries. Sanitation and better nutrition is what stopped them. Prior to that people were living in filth without indoor plumbing or refrigeration for meat. (Dissolving Illusions: Disease, Vaccines, and The Forgotten History – July 27, 2013 by [Suzanne Humphries MD](#))

And second, the government has not lived up to its side of the deal. People are not getting treatment or compensation for their injuries.

Also as the pharmaceutical industry moves toward the mRNA platform these products will become even more dangerous. They are not in fact "vaccines" but genetic therapy.

Also none of them have been properly tested with double blind placebo studies. They always give the "control" group a different vaccine. This is not science.

Please reject this bill.

Sincerely

Netra Halperin

Haiku, Maui, Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:10:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shayrina Raquini	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:10:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa H. Gibson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

strong support

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:10:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Selina Chen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Welina legislative committee,

As both a parent and a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements. Vaccines are among the safest, most effective, and most cost-efficient measures to protect children’s health. Unfortunately, we have seen a troubling rise in parents seeking non-medical exemptions, leading to a decline in vaccination rates. As a result, Hawai‘i has fallen below the herd immunity threshold for several serious diseases, including measles—an extremely contagious virus with potentially severe complications.

For more information, please see my Medscape article on measles:

Chen, Selina S.P. *Measles*. Medscape Drugs & Diseases. Updated 2/6/2025. Available at: <https://emedicine.medscape.com/article/966220-overview>

Repealing non-medical vaccine exemptions is a necessary step to protect all keiki in Hawai‘i, ensuring they are safeguarded from preventable illnesses, unnecessary suffering, and the risk of lifelong complications or death.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha pumehana (with kind regards),

Selina S.P. Chen, MD, MPH, DipABLM | Internal Medicine-Pediatric | Clinical Informatics | Assistant Professor | John A. Burns School of Medicine | Hawaii Pacific Health

www.makanprayaloha.com

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:10:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ernelle Leong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:11:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cherry Ann Galiza	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:11:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mae Kyono, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines are one of the safest, most economical, and most effective ways to keep children healthy. As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. We have seen first hand what the complications of these preventable diseases can occur. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai‘i, ensuring that they are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:13:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Yoder	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person's health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely, Steve Yoder Kauai Resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:14:01 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darian Ponce	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB 1118. Parents have their God-given right to make medical choices for their children. I have family and friends who have had children with adverse reactions to vaccines and they are not a one size fit all. Parents have the right to make this choice for their children or not. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:14:12 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rogette Bernardino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. There are wild claims made in the bill and it lacks research and studies from creditable sources.

this is culturally invasive and un-Hawaiian. Since when I have to submit my health to beaurecrats. Education is a right and the legislators should not be forcing unscientific vaccines upon people that just want to learn. Linking a required vaccine in order to receive an education is wrong and evil with communist tendencies. Stripping people of their basic religious rights is a pure form of evil.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:15:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elijah Frank	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill HB1118. I strongly believe that any medical treatment must have the full consent and be the choice of a child's parents. A child is too young to have informed consent so the child's parent serves as the person who should be given the power to decide for the child until the child reaches adulthood. This bill appears to give the State of Hawaii and the Department of Health the authority to make medical decisions for all school children over the desires of Hawaii's parents.

Let me be clear that I am not anti-vaccine. I am vaccinated and my children have some vaccines. But I do not believe the State has the right to make that decision for me or my family. If schools/public schools mandate ALL vaccines my family and thousands of others would be in protest and many would be pulling their children out of public schools and into private school or homeschool. Hawaii public schools are already in a fairly bad state with lower and lower attendance and too few qualified teachers. This bill is divisive and will increase the political and economic divide in our state. Wealthy children who attend private schools will have a choice in their medical decisions while lower economic children who attend public school will have their medical choices mandated by the State of Hawaii. This is wrong and will be bad for our islands. Do not move this bill forward.

Mahalo,

Elijah Frank

Opposition to Hawaii HB1118: Protecting Religious Freedom and Parental Rights

I strongly oppose Hawaii HB1118 because it is an unconstitutional violation of religious freedom and parental rights. This bill would deny parents and students the ability to exercise their deeply held religious beliefs, which is a direct infringement on First Amendment protections.

Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. For many families, vaccinations may conflict with their religious beliefs, and forcing compliance disregards this fundamental protection. The government should not have the power to determine which religious convictions are valid or worthy of exemption.

Parental Rights at Risk

Parents have the primary responsibility to make medical decisions for their children, not the government. HB1118 would strip parents of their right to make informed choices about their child's health based on their religious and moral convictions. A state should never override a parent's authority to protect their child from medical interventions that conflict with their faith.

Legal and Ethical Precedent

Throughout American history, courts have upheld religious exemptions in various areas, recognizing that government mandates must respect individual liberties. Removing religious exemptions for vaccinations would set a dangerous precedent where the state dictates personal medical decisions, undermining the very freedoms on which this country was founded.

Conclusion

Hawaii HB1118 is an unconstitutional overreach that disregards religious freedom and parental rights. No government should have the authority to force a medical decision on individuals who hold sincere religious objections. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and uphold the constitutional rights of Hawaii's families.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:17:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Phebe Kahoiwai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:18:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Yanagihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The effectiveness of many vaccines relies on herd immunity (ie measles) so it is critically important for as many people as possible get vaccinated. This will protect those who are medically unable to be vaccinated (ie immune suppressed patients).

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:19:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natascha Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

In addition as a parent and concerned citizen, I would also like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:21:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Salome Suttles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1118 because I believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions. Furthermore, certain vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:21:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Kono	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:22:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani matsumoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Due to my deeply held religious beliefs, I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:22:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gerald Tariao Montano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

In summary, I strongly support HB 1118 and urge its vote and passage.

Regards,

Gerald Montano, DO

Community Pediatrician

HB1118- RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

Repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements.

Gov. Josh Green, Rep. Gregg Takayama, Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Rep. Terez Amato, Rep. Cory M. Chun, Rep. Lisa Marten, Rep. Ikaika Olds, Rep. Jenna Takenouchi, Rep. David Alcos III, Rep. Diamond Garcia

I, Alexis Wong, strongly oppose this bill.

I believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom.

Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions.

You are asking us to give up our religious freedom and beliefs, to do something we strongly believe against. Not only is this unconstitutional, it could potentially put our children in harm, being that there are adverse reactions and potentially dangerous, life altering effects that can occur. Vaccines are not not size fits all- Hence VAERS - Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System. Not to mention the companies who patent these vaccines and earn big bucks from it along with medical professionals who meet their quota, are not able to be held liable for any damages caused.

Certain vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries.

Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their religious views (non-medical), I strongly urge lawmakers to reject it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify,

God bless you all.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:25:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Noelle Campbell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I fully oppose HB 1118. First, it is a bill that completely bypasses any ones right to practice their religious beliefs which is highly respected on all other fronts of human society. This is disrespectful.

Second, the scrutiny of vaccines are highly one sided. Everything in our media, government, etc is geared toward supporting vaccines without question. This is dangerously, tied to money, and this bill is isolating families who don't believe in this practice religiously.

For me this would mean my 3 children are in school, but because my youngest was not in school in the 2023/2024 school year, he would have to be homeschooled? Why are you trying to make this so hard for good families. We are not a threat. In fact we take our health very seriously. This has nothing to do with public health or care or citizens, but only about control which has been overreached by the Hawaii government over and over again.

Please respect our choices, and repercussions of this bill that is directly breaking up families and making it even harder to work or make ends meet in Hawaii.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:26:31 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carlene Price	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:27:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Johnson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the Infection Preventionist at Kapiolani Medical Center, I **strongly** support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit **all** children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:27:30 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Pao	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Stop trying to take away our free rights to choose.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:36:47 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Derek Ching	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines have a long proven history of protecting our keiki and believe that it is important to continue to support vaccines for our children. I am a Pediatrician that has been practicing for the past 18 years and have seen a drastic improvement in the health of our children due to vaccines. I have also seen the detrimental part of not vaccinating and the uprising of pertussis cases, measles cases and also some other illnesses due to parents choosing not to vaccinate. There is almost the problem of vaccines being too effective that its out of sight so out of mind. Then there is a measles outbreak or Hep A outbreak or a pertussis outbreak and only then are people trying to be reactive to trying to protect them and their children. I have seen a dramatic decrease in antibiotic use for ear infections due to the Hib and Pneumococcal vaccines. There is a dramatic decrease in patients I need to hospitalize due to the RSV and Rotavirus vaccines. I think that we also want to create a herd immunity to protect our other keiki who are not able to receive vaccines such as those who are immunocompromised and can't receive all the vaccines. So, yes I am as in most if not every single heath provider in support of Vaccines for our children and not providing exeptions to children if there is no medical reason why.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:36:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
SHANTEL CUMMINGS	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:37:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Ngo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1118 because I believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions. Furthermore, many vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge every lawmaker to reject it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:40:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jannet Lee Jayaram	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatric emergency medicine physician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

It is also necessary for those who have the ability to get vaccines to receive them in order to protect those who cannot receive them for medical reasons such as immunocompromise. Children who don't receive their routine vaccinations in infancy protecting them from bacteria that cause pneumonia, meningitis, and blood sepsis are at risk for these dangerous diseases, representing a concern that we will return to the days when fever portends something sinister and potentially life-threatening. Being unvaccinated places a burden on the health system as these children will require future medical care, more in-depth workups, and spread illness to others - placing a resource and economic burden that could have been avoided with vaccination. Within the last several years, I personally have seen vaccine preventable diseases in actual children who were not vaccinated, such as mumps, pertussis (whooping cough) and measles - this is not a theoretical concern but a current reality. As you know and may have experienced, illness spreads very quickly on our islands and our medical system could easily become overwhelmed should this decrease in vaccinations continue. Please help protect all of us and especially our precious keiki.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:40:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Leung	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1118 because I believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions. Furthermore, many vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge every lawmaker to reject it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:41:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daryl Kral	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We the people oppose mandatory vaccinations for all children as it raises concerns about individual freedoms, autonomy, and potential risks. Here is an outline of my opposition to mandatory vaccines as the government does not rule the people:

1. Violation of Personal and Parental Rights:

Mandatory vaccination policies infringe upon personal freedoms and the right of parents to make healthcare decisions for their children. In a free society, individuals should be allowed to make choices about their bodies and health, including what medical treatments or interventions they receive. Forcing children to receive vaccinations without parental consent goes against the principle of bodily autonomy and the rights of parents to choose what is best for their children.

2. Medical Freedom and Individualized Healthcare:

Every child is unique, and the decision to vaccinate should take into account the individual's medical history, genetic factors, and personal health conditions. Some children may have underlying conditions that make certain vaccines dangerous for them. Requiring vaccination without exceptions could lead to harm in these vulnerable populations, as they may face adverse reactions or complications that a one-size-fits-all policy cannot account for.

3. Potential Adverse Effects and Lack of Long-Term Data:

While vaccines generally have a good safety record, no medical intervention is without risk. There are potential side effects, including allergic reactions, seizures, and other health issues, which may not be fully understood, especially in the long term. Parents should be able to weigh these potential risks against the benefits and make decisions that best serve their children's well-being.

4. Religious and Philosophical Objections:

Many individuals and families have deeply held religious or philosophical beliefs that prevent them from consenting to vaccination. Forcing vaccinations on children in these circumstances infringes on freedom of religion and conscience. Governments should respect and accommodate such beliefs, rather than imposing mandates that conflict with these values.

5. Trust in Government and Medical Authority:

Mandatory vaccination policies can undermine trust in the healthcare system and the government. Some parents may feel coerced into vaccination out of fear of legal or societal repercussions, leading to resentment and skepticism about the safety and necessity of vaccines.

It's important to encourage informed consent and build trust through education rather than through compulsion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:44:39 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Russell Waialae	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118! First off I'm not against vaccinations, I do not like being forced into taking something that I don't want to as I strongly believe natural immunity is the best thing to fight against any viruses! Second I'm a strong believer in Jesus Christ and to have my religious rights taken away from me is not a good idea!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:44:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Turlington	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:46:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aulii Adviento	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to denying people the right to religious exemptions of vaccinations.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:46:50 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karley Caparida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother it is more of a priority than a duty to nurture and care for my baby. Breastfeeding my child and giving my child the best nutrition I can possible is top priority! My income allows me to bring home nutritious food that I can I take to keep my breastmilk supply going. I am a full time worker at Molokai General Hospital, the only hospital and one of the limited resource access to medical here on island. I pump conrtionously at work while away from my child just so she can eat the next day while at daycare. I choose to breastfeed because it a natural source and one of the most nutritious source that we can give our children. Another reason why I breastfeed is to save money and not have to buy formula milk. Between my husband and I we are just making ends meet leaving little to no wiggle room and with our joined income we are not eligible for food stamps or any assistance relief program.

As a Christian and the religious way my family and I live we are to care for our bodies for our body is a temple of the Holy Spirit. The Holy Spirit who lives in us and was given to us by God. And by taking care of our body it is honoring God. This is important to me because my child's body is another body I have to take care of and breastfeeding is one of the many ways I can honor my religion.

With mandating vaccines and not able to keep my religious exemption active, it is putting my family, my finances, my health and well-being at harm as well as my little family! Injecting a drug with various ingredients that could alter our bodies in many ways and unknowingly harm us is against my religious beliefs.

As a full time working mother, I sacrafice time away from my child to go to work Monday through Friday, 40 hours a week, working for my money, working for the food on my table, working for the clothes on my family's back, working to keep my water running and electric on; versus those using and some abusing the system living off of assistance programs not even trying to earn their keep. I am one of the many hard working people that strive for their family but if bill HB1118 is passed that will be the dictator of whethere my family and I will have to choose between food or keeping water and electric on. It will be a dictator of whethere my husband and I have to choose between spending time with our child or working multplie jobs that could affect my child's emotional well being therefore I am OPPOSING bill HB1118!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:46:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikiya White	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, i am writing to oppose HB1118. Requiring vaccinations for entry into public schools is a violation of our basic human rights. No one should hold authority over the choices we make over our bodies and those of our children. Mahalo!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:49:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Valerie Lefort	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am here by testifying against Bill HB1118. I have seen firsthand children who were never the same after receiving vaccinations, I myself was not vaccinated as a child and neither were my siblings with no issues to ourselves or others.

The choice needs to be ours, whether we want to vaccinate our children or not. What you will accomplish by passing this Bill is denying education to thousands of children. Because we will not vaccinate our children so they can go to school. Please consider this and continue to allow us the freedom and the right to medical or religious exemption.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:02:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Macey Kamauu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill1118 HB relating to non-medical exemption for vaccination requirements. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:02:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shiloh Circle	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent I have a right to decide what medical treatment is best for my family including vaccinations. I wholeheartedly oppose the bill HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:02:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christine Battad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious freedom is a fundamental and constitutional right, and for some, faith dictates the choices concerning their bodies and health. Recognizing religious exemptions for vaccinations respects diverse beliefs, acknowledging that personal faith can deeply influence one's medical decisions. Religious exemption allows individuals to adhere to their spiritual convictions while still promoting public health through alternative means of disease prevention and community protection.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:05:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Parker	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill. It is our constitutional right to exercise religious freedoms which includes the rejection of vaccinations. Covid 19 vaccination has also not gone through the rigorous trialing required by the FDA in order to be approved. It was bypassed by the Authorization Under Emergency act. As further health studies come out, they are finding Covid 19 vaccination has many adverse health effects. It is also not recommended for children under 12 years of age. So to force children under the age of requirement would also be unconstitutional. To not allow religious exemption would become a civil lawsuit.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:08:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Katy Clements	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good morning,

I strongly oppose HB1118 and the removal of non medical exemptions. As a person of faith, religious exemptions are critical to me and my children to exercise freedom of religious beliefs while still receiving an education from the schooling system we pay taxes to be a part of.

Thank you,

Katy Clements

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:15:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Tetsutani	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Hawaii HB1118 because it is an unconstitutional violation of religious freedom and parental rights. This bill would deny parents and students the ability to exercise their deeply held religious beliefs, which is a direct infringement on First Amendment protections.

Violation of Religious Freedom

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. For many families, vaccinations may conflict with their religious beliefs, and forcing compliance disregards this fundamental protection. The government should not have the power to determine which religious convictions are valid or worthy of exemption.

Parental Rights at Risk

Parents have the primary responsibility to make medical decisions for their children, not the government. HB1118 would strip parents of their right to make informed choices about their child's health based on their religious and moral convictions. A state should never override a parent's authority to protect their child from medical interventions that conflict with their faith.

Legal and Ethical Precedent

Throughout American history, courts have upheld religious exemptions in various areas, recognizing that government mandates must respect individual liberties. Removing religious exemptions for vaccinations would set a dangerous precedent where the state dictates personal medical decisions, undermining the very freedoms on which this country was founded.

Conclusion

Hawaii HB1118 is an unconstitutional overreach that disregards religious freedom and parental rights. No government should have the authority to force a medical decision on individuals who hold sincere religious objections. I urge lawmakers to reject this bill and uphold the constitutional rights of Hawaii's families.

Thank you!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:16:36 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erica Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. We need to preserve our existing religious exemption in the state of Hawaii. Removing this exemption would prevent my children from being able to attend school. Passing such a bill is discriminatory. Why don't you use your resources to help make school lunches healthier? Malnourished children are vulnerable to illness. Maybe you could help support local farms to sell their produce to the lunch programs? Thank you for taking the time to read this. Mahalo!

Sincerely,

Erica Brown

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:17:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JennyLee Harris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I OPPOSE BILL HB1118. As a Christian that practices my faith: 1 Corinthians 6:19 means that our bodies are sacred and should be treated with respect and honor.

This is RELIGIOUS DISCRIMINATION and UNCONSTITUTIONAL!

As the Bible states about "unclean animals" vaccines are derived from pigs, rabbits, monkeys, mice, and guinea pigs as well as many other harmful and toxic ingredients, chemicals, etc.

As a parent I/we should make that decision for our children. No one else, we know what is best for our children individually.

Again I OPPOSE BILL HB1118 due to my religious belief!

Here is a link from Oregon State in regards to their opposition in regards to religious practices on vaccinations. Many other states have or are implementing religious exemptions, let Hawai'i continue to pave the path for other cultures/communities by keeping our children's bodies safe and pure from dangerous poisons.

<https://olis.oregonlegislature.gov/liz/2019R1/Downloads/CommitteeMeetingDocument/171446>

Sincerely,

Jennylee Harris

(Mother of 2 unvaccinated, healthy children)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:17:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a citizen of Hawaii, I am opposed to this bill HB1118. I believe it violates the constitutional rights of the citizens of Hawaii according to the first Amendment which states Congress shall make no law that prohibits the free exercise of religion. Also no one should be denied education unless they submit to a drug being injected into their own body in the United States, even with good intentions. This is not right. Please consider voting against this bill. Mahalo, Lorraine Hinaga

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:21:26 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MAHINA VENTURA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: MAHINA VENTURA P.O BOX 880929 Pukalani, HI 96788 Date: February 6, 2025
To the Members of the committee of Health. Rep. Gregg Takayama, Chair Rep. Sue L. Keohokapu-Lee Loy, Vice Chair Aloha I am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill 1118 HB relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. As a parent of a child with significant allergies who requires an EpiPen, I am profoundly concerned about the implications this bill poses for families like mine. My child's allergies make them vulnerable to severe allergic reactions, and the risk of a life-threatening incident from a vaccine reaction is a chance I cannot take. It is truly appalling to think that this bill would push for mandatory vaccination, disregarding the circumstances of children with compromised immune systems or those who cannot safely receive certain vaccines. Forcing vaccination on families without considering individual medical histories is both irresponsible and dangerous. Many children, like mine, cannot take certain vaccines due to allergies or health conditions. The risks associated with these mandatory policies could potentially endanger their lives my child could die. I urge you to consider the profound implications this bill could have on families facing similar challenges. It is vital to prioritize the safety and well-being of all children, allowing parents to make informed decisions about their health without fear of COERCION. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue. I strongly OPPOSE Bill 1118, and I hope you will reconsider such measures that could threaten the lives of our most vulnerable children. With Care, Mahina, Ventura 808-264-9053 Email; oncgirls@gmail.com

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:22:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassie Price	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

Do not force this on the people!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:23:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Avani Lange	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

This is a violation of Nuremberg code of ethics. No government gets to reign power over anyone's bodies and withholding them against their constitutional rights. This is unacceptable

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:26:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cathy Claire Velasco	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this HB1118 because vaccine is not 100% safe and effective and there are no proof that it is. Religious people have their God given rights since birth of free will, their own choice, their freedom. God's people have stronger beliefs of natural immunity. Vaccinated and non-vaccinated people still become sick and it won't make a huge difference, you just want to oppressed the religious people. There is no sufficient proof that the non-vaccinated people are only spreading the disease, sickness, or virus.

You are violating God's people and and their first amendment to the United states. Let me remind you this, The **First Amendment (Amendment I)** to the [United States Constitution](#) prevents [Congress](#) from making laws respecting an [establishment of religion](#); prohibiting the [free exercise of religion](#); or abridging the [freedom of speech](#), the [freedom of the press](#), the [freedom of assembly](#), or the [right to petition](#) the government for redress of grievances.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:26:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robbie Paikai	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In strong opposition.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:28:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is super disrespectful of life sovereignty and health. The constitution declares our rights to religions as well as to persue health and happiness. It should be illegal to take away human sovereignty Ofer our own body.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:30:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nikki Kepoo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members,

Please OPPOSE bill HB1118.

I write in hopes that you understand the grave dangers of this bill. The language written at the start of the bill is already misinformation and misleading in stating strong evidence when some of the vaccinations required did not have extensive research. I am a mother of 2 with one being deaf and having some medical concerns but wouldn't allow an exemption puts my children in danger.

Every single vaccination has side effects. Not one is without and no one can guarantee the absolute safety of our children. Regardless of the risk associated, it should be up to the parents if that risk is worth taking, not a stranger, not a politician, not the public. This is up to the family.

No parent wants to leave that decision to a stranger. I plead with you all to NOT pass this bill. Your constituents beg of you not to.

Mahalo,

Nikki Kepoo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:31:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1118 because I believe in the fundamental right to medical freedom.

Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

Additionally, some vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which raises serious ethical and religious concerns for many individuals. This alone should warrant the continuation of religious exemptions.

Furthermore, certain vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:34:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dee Rhodes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose your criminal efforts to remove ANY RELIGIOUS FREEDOMS from the American people and their rights! Are you prepared for the plethora of Lawsuits that will follow- for your reckless/unlawful denial of Religious Exemption choices for parents over their children? What is next? Denial of gathering for Religious worship? YOU ARE OVERSTEPPING!!!

NO HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:36:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Kuwaye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

From the National Vaccine Information Center

"New study calls for immediate withdrawal of Covid "vaccines" citing irrefutable evidence of harm. Deaths reported to the CDC far exceed the recall limits of past vaccine withdrawals, with figures surpassing historical thresholds by as much as 375,440 percent."

<https://ow.ly/T3gs50UTZ0S>

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:36:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathy Hong	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that seeks to remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. As a concerned citizen and a staunch advocate for individual rights and religious freedom, I urge you to reconsider the implications this bill may have on families across our state. Here are four important reasons to oppose this legislation:

1. **Religious Freedom and Constitutional Rights**

The First Amendment of the United States Constitution guarantees the right to practice one's religion freely without government interference. Removing religious exemptions for vaccinations infringes upon the fundamental right of parents to make decisions for their children based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. This bill could set a dangerous precedent for further erosion of religious liberties, leading to increased government overreach in personal matters.

2. **Diverse Medical and Ethical Concerns**

While vaccines have proven benefits in preventing certain diseases, there are diverse medical, ethical, and philosophical reasons why some families may choose not to vaccinate, including concerns about vaccine ingredients, potential side effects, or personal health considerations. Removing the religious exemption disregards these legitimate concerns and forces families into a one-size-fits-all approach that may not align with their values or needs.

3. **Potential Discrimination Against Religious Minorities**

Religious exemptions to vaccination laws allow for inclusivity of various religious groups that may have different health practices, beliefs, and traditions. Removing the exemption could disproportionately impact religious minorities who are already marginalized in society. This could lead to the unnecessary exclusion of children from public schools or force families to make difficult choices about their children's education.

4. **Encouraging Dialogue and Respect for Diverse Beliefs**

Instead of removing religious exemptions, it is more productive to engage with communities and families to address vaccine hesitancy through education and open dialogue. Encouraging informed consent and mutual respect for differing beliefs fosters a more inclusive and respectful environment for all residents. By removing religious exemptions, we risk creating division and undermining the trust between the government and the people it serves.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to oppose this bill and uphold the religious exemption for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. Our state has long been a beacon of diversity, and protecting the right to religious freedom ensures that Hawai'i remains a place where individuals can live according to their beliefs without fear of discrimination or coercion.

Thank you for your attention to this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hong

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:37:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jeffrey F Mizuno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Text

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:39:14 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Zenia Ledesma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Yahua, the Creator of this world and my God prohibits His people adding foreign sacrificed cells of other human and animals or technology and chemicals into our bodies. This is an abomination to our bodily temple that God created perfectly. By passing bill HB1118 you are deliberately going against me and my familys constitutional right of freedom of religion. You would be taking away my right to practice our religion and obey my God. I stand to obey Yahua over obeying anything or anyone else. I am AGAINST this bill and so is my God. There is plenty of evidence that unvaccinated children and adults are NOT diseased and are some of the healthiest individuals existing today. There is no excuse or reason to take away our constitutional right of freedom of religion.

1 Corinthians 6:19-20 and 10:31 remind us that we are to regard our bodies as temples of God's Holy Spirit and that we are to honor God, our Creator and possessor of our very bodies by not defiling them. Not withstanding the presence of socially sacrificed human and animal cells and debris in vaccinations, we firmly believe that the presence of neurotoxins, hazardous substances, attenuated viruses, animal cells, foreign DNA, albumin from human blood, carcinogens, and chemical wastes is in strict violation of our imperative to treat our bodies as holy temples of the very Spirit of God.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:39:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Michelman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government outreach. It threatens our fundamental rights-our right to bodily autonomy, our right to make medical decisions based on our own beliefs, and our right as parents to protect our keiki. Hawaii is built on respect-respect for our families, our kupuna, our keiki, and our personal choices. This bill disrespects all of that. It ignores the fact that every body is different, that medical treatments come with risks, and that no one, especially the government should have the power to force those risks on anyone. Medical decisions are persona;. Every medical treatment, including vaccines carry a risk of adverse effects, neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. Those risks may be rare, but the families affected, they are life changing. The government has not right to decide that some level of risk is acceptable for someone else's child. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families, to the people who will actually live with the consequences. HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices. These beliefs should be honored not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate. This is more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions where does it stop? What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? Our keiki are not property of the state. Parents-not lawmakers, should be the ones making these choices. I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii. Protect our rights, our freedom, and our keiki. Vote NO to HB1118. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:40:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am 100 percent opposing this bill. If this bill passes I will remove my children from the Hawaii School system immediately. We as parents and humans have rights to informed consent. Please see the Nuremberg code. While you're at it, please brush up on the Constitution and bill of rights. We have a right to choose what goes in our bodies and our children's. If there is a risk, there must be a choice. 79% of SIDS cases happen within 24-48 hours of immunizations. There is no reason our children need 70 plus shots by the time they're 18 years old. There is no reason we should be injecting things like: mercury, aluminum, formeldyhide, aborted fetal cells, etc into our children or ourselves. Autism rates in our country have risen right along with the rise of immunizations. Coincidence? I think not. Millions of cases of people bringing their normal children for shots and never being the same again. Regardless, we have our reasons and our rights to choose. Taking away that choice makes you a dictator and enemy of the people and human rights. You will be tried for crimes against humanity. You are being put on notice. We the people do not consent to your tyrannical actions. Do us a favor and put your ill-placed energy into cleaning up the litter everywhere, helping homeless people, lowering the absurd cost of living, fixing the horrific roads, cleaning the disgusting medians and overpasses, fixing the traffic problems, lowering crime and theft, making it feel safer here, fixing up our schools, helping small businesses, working on the corruption and lack of freedom rating Hawaii has, fixing up Maui, etc. I guess you're just too busy lining your own pockets and working on your nefarious agenda to take more freedoms from us. You have no right! You work for us. Never forget that. Oh and by the way, you are all FIRED.

Signed,

YOUR BOSS

The American people of Hawaii

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:43:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
THOMAS KENT	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill, only parents should have the authority to have their child receive this "vaccination"

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:53:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patty Takahashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE

This is unconstitutional. We the people have rights to our own medical treatment choices that are available. Government has no control or legal authority to force this mandate. This is not an emergency mandate either.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:03:33 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Benjamin Rowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALoha,

I oppose this proposed bill on the simple purpose that it does not allow the right to choose. Something that the current administration is quick to site on other female related issues. Public education should not be selective in their offering as to who is eligible based on medical requirements that may have legitimate or religious reasons for not wanting a certain vaccination. The fear of vaccination is a GOVERNMENT caused fear almost exclusively. The pandemic caused all of the concern relating to vaccines. While there has always been some pockets of population that have reasons to not want certain vaccinations or treatments , The Pandemic taht forced an unproven vaccine was by far the tipping point of public opinion. Having A branch of Government (YOU theLAWMAKERS) dictate mandatory vaccines is not Pono, certainly will be challenged legally and highly likely not withstand the legal test. It is a shame to see thatt some lawmakers use the potential legal challenge as an excuse for not furthering some bills knowing full well that bills like this will be challenged .

Please oppose ANY bills that take aways rights and choices of the people who are served by your respective offices.

Mahalo,

Ben Rowe

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:06:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joyce Calma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong opposition to HB1118. This bill is government overreach. This bill disrespects our religious choices.

Medical decisions are personal. Every medical treatment, including vaccines, carries a risk of adverse effects; neurological issues, autoimmune disorders, long-term health complications. That decision belongs to the parents, to the families.

HB1118 also tramples on religious freedom. Many in our community like me, hold deep spiritual and religious beliefs that guide their medical choices.

These beliefs should be honored, not dismissed by politicians who think they know better. No law should ever force someone to violate their faith to comply with a government mandate.

This is about more than just one bill. If we allow this level of government control over our personal health decisions, where does it stop?

What else will they decide they have the right to force on us? My children are not the property of the state. Parents, not lawmakers, should be the ones making these choices.

I urge you to stand with the families of Hawaii.

Protect our rights, our freedom, and our children.

Please Vote NO on HB1118.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:09:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharan Sadowski	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill because I believe it is detrimental to our religious freedom guaranteed to us by the United States Constitution. Absolutely wrong.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:12:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I believe it is the right or choice of the parent whether or not to put poison in their child's body. Long term effects of vaccines are far worse than actually contracting the virus. Example is Covid, everything that was suppose to help prevent are taking effect to those who have received the shot. Lots of heart problems are linked to some vaccines with Covid. I personally don't have my kids take the flu shot.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:19:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caree Edens	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai'i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next?**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child's body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children's health.

4. What's Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don't matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more families may be forced to leave Hawai'i**. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom**. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

2/6/2025

I **oppose** HB1118, please submit this testimony on my behalf.

My name is Kristie Caparida and I've worked in the healthcare industry for over 20 years. I **oppose** HB1118 because it's evil and corrupt to have the State of Hawaii determining who takes the vaccine or not. They are acting like a dictator and forcing Hawaii/Hawaiians to take a shot or shots that they (Hawaii/Hawaiians) did not create. You, the State of Hawaii are trusting our Pharmaceutical companies that are protected under the law. But we're not protected? We are being force to take a vaccine?

Pharmaceutical companies under FDA does not need to disclose ingredients in their vaccines **21 CFR 601.51(c) and can "omit ingredients" under trade secrets **21 CFR 610.53 (a), doesn't even need to tell us how much of a certain ingredient is put in their vaccine **21 CFR 201.100 (b) (4), please also see FDCA Section 301 (j) and Trade Secrets Act (18 USC 1905) under FDA rulings. Are we suppose to ignore Adjuvants, Fetal cell lines, Animal products, and Metals?

How did we get this far from God's laws? Aren't you, me fearfully and wonderfully made (Psalm 139:14). Now, Governor Josh Green really needs to look at the data and his oath, "first to do no harm." What is driving his actions? If the CDC/VAERS data and peer reviewed studies are showing 11,000 – 23,000 sudden deaths possibly related to a vaccine do we disregard the data and introduce a bill like HB1118? That just blows my mind. That is insane.

Finally, I am not anti-vax. In fact, I had all my childhood immunizations. But the data I provided does upset me and brings me to this one question for my Senators/Law makers/Bill readers! Where the hell is due process?

This bill is against my US Constitutional rights- PERIOD. I have the right to choose, and not the State of Hawaii. The "state" will by any means not deprive me of life, liberty, or property, *without* due process (autonomy). You will need to follow your Emergency Act and not create any omissions, or any more Bills to support your rhetoric, ideologies, or agendas. STOP taking away our rights. Let Hawai'i be Hawai'i and Bipartisan.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kristie Caparida
PO BOX 826
Kaunakakai, Hawaii 96748
808-646-0530

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:23:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chris Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As someone who has family members who were injured by a vaccine, I strongly oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:24:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 6, 2025

I writing today to **OPPOSE** Bill HB1118.

This bill is religious discrimination. Many vaccines are produced using human fetal cell lines developed from aborted babies. Opting out of vaccinations that violate deeply held religious beliefs is an essential principle of religious liberty. It is not the the government's place to impose health care decisions on religious people. I believe in separation of state and religion as defined in the first amendment to the Constitution. "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof." Therefore I **OPPOSE** HB1118.

Thank you,

Nicole

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:26:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Cowan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Cynthia Cowan strongly oppose this bill. The goverment is not God and cannot take away our right to choose. DO NOT PASS this bill!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:35:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
wailani gonsalves	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a born and raised resident of Hawai‘i Island and the mother of two middle school age boys. I am deeply perturbed by bill HB1118 for myriad reasons....

First of all, vaccines are not conclusively proven to be 100% safe for all people. Medical decisions, especially where there's possible risks, are to be made between a doctor and their patient (or patients parents, in the case of a minor). It is not a decision for public servants to involve themselves in. Elected officials and government in a free country have no place dictating citizens' medical desisions, especially irreversible treatments/procedures.

Secondly, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...". In the United States of America, government has no right to infringe on the religious practices of citizens. Qualified elected officials and law makers are wise to remember the rights guaranteed to American citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America.

Finally, to deny a child's education based on unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical procedures is unethical. All children are entitled to a fair education, regardless of medical decisions. This bill falls close to some type of extortion on our children's health and should be stopped immediately.

Thank you for reading my thoughts on this atrocious, unconstitutional bill.

Sincerely,

Wailani Gonsalves

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:41:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaya Patterson	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kaya Patterson. I am the mother of an unvaccinated child, who is thriving in every aspect of life. My daughter is four years old. I would have never thought I wouldn't vaccinate my child. Vaccines were always something I thought were helpful and good, as we're taught growing up. As I got older knowing I wanted to one day have my own children I began to do more research into vaccines. Do you know most doctors and nurses who give vaccinations cannot tell you every thing that is inside it? Have you tried to ask?

When Covid came about I was a breastfeeding mother. I thought I was doing what was best by going to get the first step of the vaccination. That same day I breastfed my daughter after receiving the first vaccination she broke out in a horrible rash. Why would something that's supposed to help you do such a thing?

I have used religious exemption for my daughter as she is now in preschool. She has never received any type of vaccination since she entered this world.

By passing a bill like this you are taking away right of education to children, you are discriminating children and families with different belief. How inhumane and un-american of you to do so.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:42:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Destiny Love	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is important to uphold religious rights within the medical system. All children should have access to public education, regardless of religious beliefs. Thank you. I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:44:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janice Kekoa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oopose HB1118. A child who benefits from a free public education should also abide by the rules to attend the school they are enrolled in. These religious types have done enough damage with our political system by supporting a dumb, uninformed, dictator in Trump. We can't have their uninformed types trying to undo a system that has worked to safekeep the health of our kids and the state. This bill would lead Hawaii right into Trump's and JFK jr's hands. Stop the madness.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:51:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brianne Childs	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a resident of Hawaii and a local healthcare provider. I am opposed to Bill 1118 as it doesn't allow for those working in healthcare and emergency/ first responder services to make their own healthcare decisions at risk of losing their jobs. This bill would negatively impact the already limited healthcare resources we have in Hawaii by "disqualifying" many providers because of their own religious or personal choice to not receive an immunization.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:51:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose this bill! This went through the senate with testimonies of SEVEN for, and TWO HUNDRED PLUS AGAINST, and they still passed it so it ends up here in the house. God, gave us free will, you have no right to force something un-natural on us that many of us do NOT want! This bill violates our right to choose and if you pass this, you are not following the wishes of "We the People"

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:52:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

There are too many loopholes in vaccinating the people of Hawaii. There are too many inaccurate sources of information that prey upon the uneducated and those who read superficially. Mass vaccination has protected our citizens in more ways than most can imagine. Third world countries have high death rates in infant and children and vaccination is the primary reason the US is so far ahead of these countries. Removing vaccine requirement loopholes will further advance the survival rates of all that obtain the vaccines and once enough numbers are achieved, it protects even those that do not get vaccinated.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:56:16 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaleo Schneider	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am very opposed to the removal of medical exemptions for vaccinations!! I will be homeschooling my children in the event this becomes a law here in Hawaii. I already have experienced a vaccine injury in my family and have see the rise of Autism due to the heavy metals and such in these childhood shots.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:58:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jolette Rapozo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose religious beliefs to be disregarded when being forced to take vaccines.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:03:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susanne Brooks	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:04:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Iwamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

State of Hawaii House of Representatives

Committee on Health and Homelessness

HB 1118, Relating to Non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION

TESTIFIER: Melissa Iwamoto

DATE: February 7, 2025

Aloha,

As a resident of the State of Hawai‘i, I am writing in **Strong Opposition** to **HB1118**, relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

Simply, HB1118 removes religious freedoms guaranteed by the United States Constitution.

If enacted, this bill would devastate families with young children who are not yet in the school system. This bill removes the religious rights and freedoms of those most vulnerable—of future generations.

Time and again, the U.S. Supreme Court has upheld religious freedoms and exemptions to medical treatments. Bill HB1118 and its companion SB1437 are in conflict with United States Supreme Court holdings. A state that attempts to enact mandatory vaccination laws must take into account these developments in religious freedom law and offer alternatives for those members of its constituency who cannot in good conscience submit themselves to injecting a

substance into their bodies or the bodies of their children in violation of their deepest and most personal religious beliefs and convictions.

The United States was founded on Religious Liberty, a natural and inalienable right. Please do not disregard these rights. Please do not use the lure of “safety” to wreck havoc on the lives of those less powerful than you.

Instead, please protect religious freedoms, and protect rights to choose how to best care for the bodies and souls our precious children.

Please reject HB1118.

Mahalo for reading my testimony in **OPPOSITION** to HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:09:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beverly Kuwaye	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I oppose HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:19:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julia Sinenci	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Julia Sinenci and I oppose House Bill 1118. My first born son had adverse reactions to several vaccines. When I realized what had happened, and that this new disability was caused by vaccines I vowed to do my research before giving any more immunizations. I will not subject my children to anymore vaccines, 1. they are not safe, they have well over the safe limit of metals in these vaccines 2. We are not in third world countries, were diseases are more prominent. 3. My children are not exposed to certain individuals who might use needles. Therefore my children have no need for these vaccines.

I oppose HB1118 , and will oppose any other bill like it.

Julia Sinenci

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:20:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Likuohihifo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it is against our constitutional rights. We should not be forced to be vaccinated.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:25:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicolette Douvris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am deeply opposed to this proposed bill to make vaccinations mandatory in schools. I was raised in Hawaii, and I have a young son also growing up here who I have a duty to protect.

First of all, vaccines are not conclusively proven to be 100% safe for all people. Medical decisions, especially where there's possible risks, are to be made between a doctor and their patient (or patients parents, in the case of a minor). It is not a decision for public servants to involve themselves in. Elected officials and government in a free country have no place dictating citizens' medical desisions, especially irreversible treatments/procedures.

Secondly, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...". In the United States of America, government has no right to infringe on the religious practices of citizens. Qualified elected officials and law makers are wise to remember the rights guaranteed to American citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America.

Finally, to deny a child's education based on unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical procedures is unethical. All children are entitled to a fair education, regardless of medical decisions. This bill falls close to some type of extortion on our children's health and should be stopped immediately.

Thank you for reading my thoughts on this atrocious, unconstitutional bill.

Sincerely,

Nicolette Douvris

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:34:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Gleason	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support mandating vaccines. That is a violation as our right as private citizens and sovereign beings with autonomy over our most personal of properties--our bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:39:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Balcombe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this because I believe people should have the right to choose to get a vaccine or not to. It should be a person's choice. Religious exemption should not be taken away as an option. We live in America, and we should be FREE TO CHOOSE to get a vaccination or not to get a vaccination.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:44:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my opposition to the proposed changes to the state vaccine exemptions in HB1118. I find myself in the position of having to fight harder and harder for medical freedom and the ability to make medical choices for myself and my family without interference from the government. All medical decisions should be a discussion between our family doctor and our family. Not between our doctor, our family, and the state of Hawaii. Our decisions should be respected, regardless of whether we choose to vaccinate or not to vaccinate. Once the state puts itself in the position of removing medical freedom from its constituents, you are no longer in the position of being our representatives, you have now made yourselves our dictators.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:46:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as I feel every parent has the right to determine for themselves whether or not to exempt their child(ren) for religious reasons.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:47:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Fujii	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill as a US citizen I have my religious right to choose what is best for my children. By taking that right away from a parent, you take away my freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:49:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
melody allen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:51:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leticia Miner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This would go against our freedom of religious choice! Having to purposely vaccinate kids for "herd" immunity based on the 5% of medically fragile children is ridiculous! Why should the majority of kids have to be subject to vaccination when it goes against our religious beliefs to protect the minority of fragile children if that's the case those children should stay out of public school we shouldn't have to be forced to homeschooling our kids because this "governor" of ours wants to take away our religious rights A'OLE!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:53:06 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Religious exemptions must be allowed because secularism built on atheism foundation of ancient documents is as strange as any religion. When I was in public school a few years ago lack of spiritual/religious talk in Highschool left me feeling lost. My parents were as secular as my experience at Kalaheo high school. I had some real mental trouble I went to a psychological councilor for. But that only victimized me. I'm 24 now and I have done a little bit of work at afterschool care programs and been someone who honors others. Secularism is good and bad because it's religiously ambiguous. It helps us to see people as people and not as if they're the stars that clash in battle. That humanising ambiguity could be done well at schools but that was my Grampa's day and age. I beleive secularism disqualified as a religion and so with it people make it out to qualify as something greater. But it only looks good in a speech. Religious freedom is there for freedoms sake. I oppose HB1118 because it's too broad of ostracism. It's too big of a change and we'd be going the wrong direction with it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:53:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lilia Marchenko	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear city and council,

Certainly! Hereâ€™s a positive and respectful testimonial you can use or adapt:

Testimonial on Religious Exemption for Immunization

Good [morning/afternoon],

Thank you for allowing me the opportunity to speak today. I am here to express my strong support for preserving religious exemptions to immunizations. This right is a deeply personal matter, rooted in my sincere religious beliefs and protected by both state and federal laws that safeguard freedom of conscience and religious expression.

My decision regarding immunization is not made lightly but rather based on careful prayer, reflection, and adherence to the teachings of my faith. I believe that honoring the natural design of the human body is part of my religious responsibility, and certain medical interventions may conflict with that conviction.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy. Just as we respect diversity in worship, we must also honor individualsâ€™ moral and ethical convictions concerning their bodies and health choices. Removing religious exemptions forces individuals to choose between obeying their faith and following government mandatesâ€”an impossible position for people of conscience.

I urge you to protect the religious rights of all citizens by maintaining this exemption. Upholding religious freedom means respecting a diversity of perspectives, including those of people whose health decisions are guided by their spiritual values.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:55:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill.

Please reinsert the religious exemption as you are taking away US Federal Constitution protections if passed in this manner and will be subject to much litigation and costs that will be placed upon the taxpayers (many of whom would not agree with this legislation)!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:57:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Caserta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose This bill against removing religious exemptions

from vaccines to go to public school. Not only does it go against my constitutional rights as being able to practice medical freedom in my religion but I have also personally witnessed with my own eyes multiple children with vaccine injuries. My nephew was Injured in his brain at 1 years old directly linked to the vaccines and will never be able to live a normal life at now 21 years old is incompetent and will always have to live with my sister. .My best friend with twin boys who are completely disabled and mute after their vaccines. The list goes on and on and on. Regardless and most importantly it goes against my constitutional rights of freedom of religion . So therefore I strongly am against this bill! Every child should have a right to go to school vaccinated or not!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:58:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ka'eo Ortiz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You seriously have got to be shitting me! This is a clear violation of our rights in accordance with our religions. How does this make sense at all as free citizens that you want to get rid of our right to raise our children in accordance with our religious beliefs. This shit better not get passed!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 12:58:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don King	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in opposition to this bill to take away religious freedom. There is nothing more sacred to me than the god given sovereignty over my own body. That extends to parental responsibilities to our children. Our bodies are sacred.

Education is something we all pay for as tax payers and rely on as parents. It is not ok to deny any child's attendance at school because of their religious beliefs or the beliefs of their parents. If people with religious objections to vaccines are denied a public education they would be forced to home school or go without school. This is not a realistic alternative for most families. Nothing, including health concerns, can justify denying someone a public education based on their religion.

Sincerely, Don King

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:04:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Monica Kalikimaka Akamu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose bill HB1118. Families need to be able to have religious exemptions as an option vs only keeping medical exemptions available, to children who have taken shots already and have been affected badly...at that point, it is too late.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:07:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amerjit Ghag	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

Dear Members of the committee,

I strongly oppose House Bill 1118 and SB 1437 because this TAKES AWAY the RIGHTS of individuals who want to exercise their religious FREEDOM. The First Amendment of the United States of the Constitution protects religious freedom.

The concept of herd protection should not override my rights as a parent to protect my child as I see fit. Vaccination has its place in society but forcing them on individuals, parents and guardians is not and should not be the role of the government.

Public Health officials have lost their credibility throughout the country, why should we give them more authority over us.

Having studied genetics in college and especially in the RNA and DNA replication area there is yet a lot of work to be done on the introducing of a foreign RNA into our bodies. It has been somewhat successful in the use of gene therapy but to treat a cold or the flu is a step too far. The number of adverse effects to some of the COVID vaccines is unprecedented and the effects continue to show themselves. I do not want to subject my son or daughter, grandson or granddaughter to be test subjects to up and coming vaccines that don't hold pharmaceutical companies accountable.

For these reason and more I oppose HB1118 and SB1437 and encourage you NOT vote in favor of these Bills. Thank you,

Best regards,

Greg Sokolowski

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:19:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose.

As a constituent and permanent resident of the state of Hawai'i, I'm absolutely offended that my elected government would attempt to enact this statute against our health freedom. As a medical student, I am increasingly being made aware of the risks of ALL vaccinations, risks that your constituents in a democratic society should be able to weigh and decide on themselves individually. The decision to receive a vaccine should absolutely NEVER be made and enforced by another. Vaccines can without a doubt have lasting detrimental effects on the body and mind, and withholding education from a potential student due to their decision NOT to take that risk is deplorable. Shame on you for the above, as well as not doing complete research before presenting this bill. And shame on Mr. Green for not opening his mind to expand on the medical education he received regarding vaccines.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:23:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
C Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose HB1118. Medical decisions should be entrusted to the guardians, patients, and healthcare providers, rather than being dictated by governmental authority. Such decisions are deeply personal and should be made by those directly involved in the care and well-being of the individual.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:27:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dayna Lau	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118

As parents we should have the freedom to choose what we believe is best for our children. The First Amendment protects our rights to freely practice religion and prohibits government interference in religious practices, which includes the right to make healthcare decisions based on religious beliefs. Removing religious exemptions for vaccinations clearly violates our first amendment right.

Mandating vaccines undermine the principle of informed consent, which is a very important foundation of medical ethics. Parents should have the right to make informed decisions about their child's/children's health care without coercion from anyone, including the government. While those trying to implement this change see mandating vaccinations as protecting public health, it's important to take into consideration and respect the individual rights and freedoms of the people and keiki of Hawai'i.

The law makers and government officials of Hawai'i continue to claim they want what is best for our keiki, but continue to implement change that will not be beneficial, and even detrimental to some. At the very least of obstacles that may arise, children who are unable attend school due to vaccination mandates and exemption restrictions may face educational disadvantages along with potentially effects on their future opportunities and growth, both mentally and socially. The risk far outweigh the benefits of this bill.

Mandates and exemption restrictions should be carefully considered, ensuring that they will not violate our constitutional rights and individual autonomy.

Mandating vaccines and restricting exemptions without fully understanding all potential risks is not in the best interest of our keiki now, our future keiki, and the future of Hawai'i.

2/6/2025

My name is Shiloh Paikea Lani Caparida and I oppose HB 1118 relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. An exemption to not take a vaccine, or our children to, or anyone for that matter should be a right of choice.

Introducing this bill undermine what my family and I stand by, which is the freedom of choice, clearly mentioned in our Constitution under Amendment 14...nor shall any State deprive any person...without due process. You should investigate the reasons why exemptions in Hawaii increased from 2.5% to 5.3% doubling versus introducing a bill to fix the problem on your own ideas. What disease since 2023 has impacted our children/schools? What severity have we underwent in Hawaii or witnessed that was so detrimental to introduce this bill, for an act?

Are we protecting our children, and what percent of the entire school children are we protecting in comparison to the rest of the children? When was our last outbreak in Hawaii, and duration of the outbreak, causing an alarm to take away non-medical exemptions?

Which brings me to the percent of sudden deaths related to vaccine. And pharmaceutical companies protected under the FDA. Why does the FDA have protections, non-disclosure, and trade secrets preventing them from telling us what's in a vaccine? But we are supposed to trust and believe the benefits outweigh the harm in Hawaii schools? By now we all know some of the ingredients that has been lied to us in the past. We asked, "are there fetal cells?" We were told "no by our own physician." Now, do you think our physicians are misinformed? What about metals? Are metals in our immunizations? A yes or no is fine. But to say I don't know is obscured. Do not ask the people to take a vaccine, or have their children immunized when we can't agree with the ingredients.

The state should not have statutory authorization for non-medical exemptions. The parents should make decisions for their children. Since when have placed so much emphasis on vaccines/immunizations linked to learning or a safe environment, until now. The reason for bills like these is a much greater scale of introducing Law (the Federal quarantine Act of 1878, the Public Health Service Act 1944, the Model State Emergency Health Powers Act of 2001). I oppose this HB 1118 and their undermining of our new Administration, under President Donald J Trump to further political agendas.

Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:29:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a mother, born and raised in the state of Hawaii, I strongly oppose HB1118. It is detrimental to our freedoms and rights to our bodies and our children's education that we be the only ones making health choices for our families. Support education for all and trust that an educated community will make the right choices for their health . Please do not pass HB1118. Listen to the people that you swore as an elected official to fairly represent.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:33:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
debra engel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY oppose this bill. for one, the federal EUA law gives us the freedom to decline any kind of medical treatment.. it is our right to choose what we want or do not want. the government forcing this upon us is dictatorship. the government is not medical experts, nor physician. no two bodies are identical. just like with the dangerous covid shot, many had adverse reactions to them. i STRONGLY OPPOSE this bill. i have too many freinds who were effected with the cv jab, some died becasue of it.. some got turbo cancers, one was paralyzed neck down, two got a-fib, one got myorcardis., another colon cancer, died, one got leukemia, died. we are free citizens to choose for ourselves. forcing this is on whether or not a child can attend schools is is not freedom. this is an attempt to control the citizens, as you, the government try and secure a globalist world.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:36:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sera manjarrez	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Please OPPOSE THIS BILL!

Religious freedom is a fundamental American value, so fundamental that it is protected by the First Amendment to our nation's Constitution. And historically, religious exemptions have protected the tried-and-true American values of freedom of belief, worship and religious exercise. Please do not take that away!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:36:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Momi Vee	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To all concerned citizens, I am opposed to Forcing our children to covid vaccines Period!!! How dare you come here to our country and change our lives and our laws!!! Please remember you do not have any united states rights outside of your jurisdiction. We are the Kingdom of Hawai'I truly believe this and remove this horrible, deadly vaccine from our communities. This covid vaccine is deadly and IT has killed many thousands of people. I personally know many working people who have died from heart attacks.?? Perfectly healthy individuals.?? Why would you kill children, unless this is your agenda. This fight will go on until all Americans leave Hawai'I Nei, taking your flag out of our islands and your laws. Your Laws, Not Ours.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:38:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Marsoun	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Parents are the sole responsibility of their own children and should have the right to make decisions on behalf of their own children, even in regards to vaccines. Vaccines are known to have ingredients in them that are not beneficial to the human body and can cause immune reactions in many children and adults alike. Some religions require that their people abstain from vaccines due to various reasons but one being the ingredients in the vaccines. If other children are vaccinated, and those vaccines are supposed to cause immunity, then why the push to vaccinate those children whose parents do not agree? This makes no common sense. Leave the health decisions to the parents.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:41:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
LISA WILFORD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly Oppose HB1118

and feel this is unconstitutional and unlawful ...we the people should have our right to religious exemptions !

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:43:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Schmidt	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in opposition of legislature HB 1118. I am a mother of 2 sons 2 and 4 yrs old. A Christian in Faith. I believe your body is a temple to be kept pure, and has God given ability to naturally to fight against anything that comes against it. My boys have been and will continue to not be vaccinated. Having now issues with sicknesses and if so their bodies have an innate ability to fight against disease or sickness within a few days. Here are some scriptures from the Bible (The written Word of God) I believe fully in.

Roman 14:1

As for the one who is weak in faith, welcome him, but not to quarrel over opinions. One person believes he may eat anything, while the weak person eats only vegetables. Let not the one who eats despise the one who abstains, and let not the one who abstains pass judgment on the one who eats, for God has welcomed him. Who are you to pass judgment on the servant of another?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:44:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joan Heartfield PhD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children’s health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens’ ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:47:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashlyn Garrido	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must protect our children, with freedom of Choice

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:48:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I as a constituent of Hawaii oppose the HB1118. It is the peoples civil rights, not to take away religious exemption's. The government is not God, nor should they play God. This is discrimination against the people's religious right's, and our civil rights establish for many years! You should not discriminate against religion! This would be unlawful! Thank you.

February 6, 2025

To Whom It May Concern,

I, Annette Nakamoto, am writing to request school religious exemptions from vaccinations be allowed. This exemption would be for any and all vaccinations and is non-biased in regards to the Covid-19 vaccines.

I dedicated my life to the Lord Jesus Christ and Christian faith when I was a child. As with many other things in life, when you grow into an adult you take the important aspects in your life more seriously. The most important thing in my life would be God, followed by my family. This aspect applies to my children, grandchildren and everyone thereafter.

I have not received any vaccinations since High School and I have refused the Flu Vaccine each year when offered at doctor's offices and pharmacies. Vaccines are developed using fetal cell lines originating from aborted fetuses. All of the manufacturers of the currently available Covid vaccines developed and confirmed their vaccines using fetal cell lines, which originated from aborted fetuses. For example, they each confirmed their vaccine protein testing using abortion-derived cell line HEK293. HEK293 or Human Embryonic Kidney 293 cells, were initially produced in 1973 and are a specific immortalized cell line derived from an aborted fetus or human embryonic kidney cells grown in tissue culture taken from a female fetus.

In the Bible, Exodus 20:13 God commands, "Thou shall not murder." To be silent about a vaccine made from aborted fetuses makes me complicit in an action that offends my Christian faith. As such, I cannot, in good conscience and in accord with my religious faith, take any such vaccine, including but not limited to the Covid vaccine and my children feel the same in regards to vaccinations to their children (my grandchildren). In addition, any coerced medical treatment goes against our religious faith and the right of conscience to control one's own medical treatment and those of their children, free of coercion or force.

First Letter of Paul to the Corinthians 3:16-17. 16. Do you not know that you are God's temple and that God's Spirit dwells in you? 17. If anyone destroys

God's temple, God will destroy that person. For God's temple is holy, and you are that temple.

First Corinthians 6:19-20. 19. Or do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit within you, which you have from God, and that you are not your own? 20. For you were bought with a price; therefore glorify God in your body.

I request that reasonable accommodations to religious beliefs. I pray that God willing, this will be received well, my beliefs will be understood, that we all remain in good health and that God see us through uncertain times.

Sincerely,

Annette P. Nakamoto

Supporting Documents

- Vaccines Using Aborted Fetal Cell Lines
[An Ethics Assessment of COVID-19 Vaccine Programs - Charlotte Lozier Institute](#)
More links in both Religious and Practical Supporting Documents
- Religious Supporting Documents
Pages 4-21
- Practical Supporting Documents
Pages 22-28

Below is a compilation of Synodal Statements, Medical Studies, Professional Dissertations, and Hierarchical and Monastic Statements which either forbid totally or recommend against receiving the COVID-19 Vaccine:

1. Bases of the Social Concept of the Russian Orthodox Church [\[1\]](#)

The Social Life Document of the Russian Orthodox Church, which is the largest Orthodox Jurisdiction on Earth, defines the absolute inadmissibility of medicines prepared using fetal therapy.

"The Church believes it to be definitely inadmissible to use the methods of so-called fetal therapy, in which the human fetus on various stages of its development is aborted and used in attempts to treat various diseases and to "rejuvenate" an organism. Denouncing abortion as a cardinal sin, the Church cannot find any justification for it either even if someone may possibly benefit from the destruction of a conceived human life. Contributing inevitably to ever wider spread and commercialization of abortion, this practice (even if its still hypothetical effectiveness could be proved scientifically) presents an example of glaring immorality and is criminal."

This command is in point XII 7 of the Social Life Document. This document defines, as indicated by the name, appropriate Orthodox Christian living in as many aspects of society as is enumerated. Because of point XII 7, it would be a violation of my faith to receive the following coronavirus vaccines:

A. Pfizer and BioNTech - The Pfizer Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#).

- This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[3\]](#).
- B. Moderna - The Moderna Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is cited by the vaccine researchers Kizzmekia S. Corbett, Darin K. Edwards, and Sarah R. Leist [\[4\]](#).
 - C. Johnson & Johnson - The J&J Vaccine has publicly admitted to using a cell line called PER.C6. This is published on the Janssen website [\[5\]](#). This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#).
 - D. Sputnik V - The Sputnik V Vaccine cites their manufacturers as using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293 [\[6\]](#)[\[7\]](#).
 - E. AstraZeneca - AstraZeneca was developed using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is also contained in documents permitting its emergency use in the United Kingdom [\[8\]](#).
 - F. Vaxart - Vaxart was produced with the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[9\]](#).
 - G. Altimmune - The Altimmune vaccine was produced and developed with the abortion-derived cell line PER.C6. This information is recorded by Altimmune's own Clinical Trial Protocol [\[10\]](#). This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#).
 - H. COVAXX and United Biomedical - COVAXX was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[11\]](#).
 - I. Medicago - The Medicago Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[12\]](#).
 - J. Novavax - The Novavax Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at ScienceMag [\[13\]](#).
 - K. University of Pittsburgh "PittCoVacc" - PittCoVacc was produced with the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by EBioMedicine at the Lancet [\[14\]](#).

- L. Walter Reed Army Institute - The Walter Reed Vaccine was produced with the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[15\]](#).
- M. Sanofi Pasteur and Translate Bio - The Sanofi Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the vaccine researchers at NPJ Vaccines [\[16\]](#).
- N. Inovio Pharmaceuticals - The Inovio Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at ScienceMag [\[17\]](#).
- O. Arcturus Therapeutics - The Arcturus Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[18\]](#).
- P. Imperial College London - The Imperial College Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[19\]](#).
- Q. Providence Therapeutics - The Providence Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[20\]](#).
- R. CoronaVac - CoronaVac was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at ScienceMag [\[21\]](#).
- S. CanSino Biologics - The CanSino Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by researches at BioSpace [\[22\]](#).
- T. ImmunityBio and NantKwest - The ImmunityBio Vaccine was developed, produced, and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[23\]](#).
- U. Institut Pasteur and Themis and Merck - The Institut Pasteur Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information

- is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Proceedings of the National Academy of Sciences of the United States of America [\[24\]](#).
- V. Rega Institute, KU Leuven - The Rega Vaccine protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Global Virus Network [\[25\]](#).
- W. Anhui Zhifei - The Anhui Zhifei Vaccine was developed and protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cell Press Journal [\[26\]](#).
- X. Clover Biopharmaceuticals - The Clover Vaccine was protein tested using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is recorded by the Cold Spring Harbor Laboratory [\[27\]](#).

The same Social Life Document also states "The transplantation of organs from a living donor can be based only on the voluntary self-sacrifice for the sake of another's life. In this case, the consent to explantation (removal of an organ) becomes a manifestation of love and compassion. However, a potential donor should be fully informed about possible consequences of the explanation of his organ for his health. The explanation that presents an immediate threat to the life of a donor is morally inadmissible."

This is from the same point, XII 7, and therein it condemns the harvesting of biological material from a subject without their total informed consent. This condemns the usage of any vaccines manufactured utilizing stolen organs, thereby also condemning the CureVac Vaccine because it was protein tested on HeLa cells, which were harvested from an African American mother of five in 1951 without her knowledge or consent. This information is enumerated by the Lozier Institute [\[2\]](#). This information is accounted by John Hopkin's Magazine [\[28\]](#).

2. Greek Orthodox Press Release on "The Cloning of Embryonic Cells" [\[29\]](#)

The Greek Orthodox Church, which is the second in order among the non-patriarchal Autocephalous Jurisdictions, declared "Our Church expresses its categorical opposition to conducting experiments on human embryonic cells." This is found in the 17.8.2000 Press Release on Embryo Cell Cloning. It further declares in the same Press Release that "the effort to improve life can not pass through the destruction of millions of human beings of embryonic age."

This absolutely condemns the bulk of the already above-mentioned Vaccines which are the product of testing on cells harvested from aborted fetuses. This would make it a contradiction to my Orthodox faith to receive those vaccines even if said vaccines genuinely benefited me.

3. Romanian Orthodox Church Statement on "The Transplant of Organs" [\[30\]](#)

The Romanian Orthodox Church, which is fourth in the order of junior Patriarchates, lists mandatory principles for the moral use of human organs and tissues, and states: "Because the extraction of organs implies the consent of the donor, extraction of tissues from an embryo is inconceivable given the fact that although alive, this one cannot give its consent."

On this basis, the Romanian Orthodox Church condemns all medical work profiting from the harvesting of cells from a embryo, or, in fact, any medical work profiting from the harvesting of cells from a non-consenting individual. This statement alone condemns all the above-mentioned vaccines on the basis that they come from either an aborted fetus or a non-consenting individual; in the vast majority of cases, these vaccines are condemned by both qualifications.

Also mentioned in this Statement in the Church's view of death. The Church declares that "From a Christian point of view, death has two acceptances:

Man's moving away from God through sin (death that can be temporary or eternal, according to the seriousness of the sin, repentance or its absence);

The physical death - materialized through the separation of the soul from the body. All Christian effort is to get rid of the eternal death through the dynamic communion with God in Christ, through the Holy Spirit. This fact does not exclude the care for the conditions, moment and way of separating the soul from the body."

I am of the opinion that receiving the vaccines mentioned above would be participating in the sin of abortion, thereby resulting in my spiritual death. While neither death is desirable, the Church has since antiquity declared that spiritual death is magnitudes less desirable than physical death because spiritual death results in the eternal suffering of our souls, as is declared in Revelation 21:8 - "But the fearful, and unbelieving, and the abominable, and murderers, and whoremongers, and sorcerers, and idolaters, and all liars, shall have their part in the lake which burneth with fire and brimstone: which is the second death." And again in Revelation 20:14 - "And death and hell were cast into the lake of fire. This is the second death."

4. Inter-Church declaration by Archbishop Makarios [\[31\]](#)

Archbishop Makarios is a hierarch of the Ecumenical Patriarchate of Constantinople, the First Throned Patriarchate of the Orthodox Church. He worked with other religious officials of other churches to compose an InterChurch statement condemning the AstraZeneca Vaccine on the basis that it was developed using the abortion-derived cell line HEK-293. On this basis, most of the above-

mentioned vaccines are condemned because of their usage of HEK-293 in the development or testing of their vaccines.

5. Moldovan Orthodox Church Declaration On The Threat Of COVID Vaccines [\[32\]](#)

The Moldovan Orthodox Church, which is a self-ruling jurisdiction of the Russian Orthodox Church, declared that the COVID Vaccines are a microchipping threat for faithful Christians.

In the statement, the Church states that "it must be said that vaccination carries the risk of microchipping or introducing foreign devices into the human body. The public in many European countries is protesting against mandatory vaccination, especially against the COVID-19 vaccine, because it considers it to be the way in which the world anti-Christ system wants to introduce microchips into people's bodies to control them..."

The Synod says affirmatively that the Vaccine is a microchipping threat and acknowledges that the public are concerned that there are greater forces governing the world which are using vaccines and microchips in order to control them in a scheme in service of the anti-Christ.

I do not know if the vaccine is a microchipping threat, nor do I know if greater forces are serving the anti-Christ using the vaccines, however I DO know that these are my spiritual shepherds and that they have been appointed as pastors of the Orthodox Christian flock due to their wisdom and diligence. They are wiser than I am, and I will trust this overwhelming opposition to the vaccine by the hierarchs of my Church. Therefore, I oppose the vaccine as a threat to me, and would like to request that they are not mandated so that I am not of any potential risk.

6. Georgian Orthodox Synod On The Necessity Of Vaccination Being A Free Choice And Not Compulsory [\[33\]](#)

The Georgian Orthodox Church, which is the second in the order of Junior Patriarchates, made a Synodal Statement concerning the vaccine. In the Synodal Statement, they declare "We welcome the fact that the Covid-Pandemic vaccination process has been declared voluntary and not mandatory; This is especially important today, when the vaccine is newly developed and health professionals in different countries have different opinions about it."

The Georgian Church acknowledges that the different opinions are valid enough to be such a concern that the vaccines should not be compulsory and notes that this is "especially important." I also believe that this is especially important, and I believe this would be a contradiction of my Orthodox faith and thereby should not be mandatory.

7. Metropolitan Saba of Khoni Against The COVID Vaccine [\[34\]](#)

As a Bishop of the Orthodox Church, Metropolitan Saba is one of the highest authorities concerning Orthodox Christian living. He has voiced extreme opposition to the vaccine.

He states "today's virus, it is a means in the hands of the devil, to bring people under its influence," and "there will come a time when a vaccine will be offered to humanity, to humans, which will serve not so much the virus, but the enslavement of humans, the management of humans, the subjugation of humans, and it will become one of the most important tools in the hands of the devil."

He speaks of the danger of the vaccine, saying that it is a method of controlling the population, much less so than it will be for the management of any virus. As one who is charged with taking care of the Orthodox Christian flock, I take note of his warnings against the vaccine and acknowledge it alongside the warnings of many other Bishops, Elders, and Synods. I cannot, in good conscience,

receive the vaccine as I see it as a threat to me, both spiritually and physically. My faith already forbids the COVID Vaccine.

8. Bishop Spiridon of Skhalta Against The COVID Vaccine [\[35\]](#)

Bishop Spiridon warns against the COVID Vaccine, saying that it is being created by evildoers. This is not difficult to believe, at least in an American context, given that Big Pharma is notorious for its corruption, and the primary supporters of the distribution of the vaccines are the unelected elites of society and the mainstream media.

"If a murderer, a maniac brings you medicine, will you drink it?" I do not trust. I will not bring home the medicine brought by them."

"I am personally convinced that this is the devil's trap! - These people will not give you any medicine,"

Bishop Spiridon warns that the elites are functioning as agents of the devil to present the vaccine as a trap. This implicates, not just vaccines produced with aborted fetal cells, but ALL vaccines against coronavirus. This greatly concerns me, and I feel my readiness and functionality will be hindered if under any obligation to receive a vaccine against coronavirus.

9. Saint Paisios Warns Against the Vaccine [\[36\]](#)

In the Orthodox Church, exceptionally holy people are canonized as Saints. A canonization indicates the Church's recognition that a person has already been received into the Kingdom of Heaven. These people have encountered God in a way not many people can comprehend, reaching heights of humility and divinization that the average man may never

experience. Saint Paisios, in particular, lived such a holy life on earth that God bestowed upon him the gift of foresight, that is to say, he could spiritually warn with accuracy about the future. In one of his books, entitled "Spiritual Counsels II: Spiritual Awakening," Saint Paisios displays his gift of foresight by predicting that a new vaccine ("new" relative to the time when he was alive) would be created to combat a new disease which will bear the Mark of the Beast on those who take it voluntarily.

"And now a vaccine has been developed to combat a new disease, which will be obligatory and those taking it will be marked."

"Later on, anyone who is not marked with the number 666 will not be able to either buy or sell, to get a loan, to get a job, and so forth."

Saint Paisios is eerily predicting many things which I have noticed, including the inexplicable push to mandate the vaccine in all areas of life. One such area is this line of work, which is the entire reason I have to request a religious exemption in the first place. This is the mindset behind the "Vaccine Passports" which some people are suggesting should be used as a prerequisite for flight by commercial plane, and some countries are using as prerequisite for any form of immigration. Saint Paisios saw a coming vaccine as the Mark of the Beast, bearing the number of his name: 666. I am aware of the Bible's condemnation of those who bear his number, as all who take the Mark will be beyond salvation due to them having blasphemed the Holy Spirit by doing so. Whether or not the COVID Vaccine is the vaccine Saint Paisios warned about, I do not know, but I do know that there are many similarities between his foreseen vaccine and the COVID Vaccine. In order that I am not of any threat of taking the Mark of the Beast, I am requesting an exemption to the mandate of the COVID Vaccine.

10. Elder Philotheos Against the Vaccine [\[37\]](#) [\[38\]](#)

In the Orthodox Church, the highest accessible spiritual states are found in monasticism. Most canonized Saints are monks, and monks are considered the foremost spiritual fathers for Orthodox Christians. This is further demonstrated by the fact that the Spiritual Center of the Orthodox Church is Mount Athos, which as a monastic republic, composed exclusively of monks. The Holy Mountain is held in high regard as some of our greatest guides come from there. Therefore, it is of considerable note that the abbot of Karakallou Monastery on Mount Athos felt it necessary to make a video to inform Orthodox Christians around the world about the dangers of the COVID Vaccine.

Archimandrite Philotheos says "We sense that the coming of this pandemic was no accident, and in fact, that it was manufactured. And then came the vaccine, supposedly 'to suppress the pandemic,' but we sense that this is all being directed, is artificial, in order to achieve what they want—their ultimate purpose,"

"And we can see in the way they are now imposing the vaccine that the dark forces have their ultimate goal. We have also been prepared for this by the Revelation of St. John the Evangelist, and we have been warned by the Apostolic Fathers who speak of the days of the Antichrist,"

"They abolish democracy, abolish human rights, abolish so many things these days. How do they reconcile all this? Under the pretext, of course, of the pandemic that they have produced,"

Archimandrite Philotheos is in a position unlike Saint Paisios described before, in that he inhabits the world while this Vaccine is conquering the world. He sees it as an effort by higher authorities and elites to abolish human rights for the purpose of subjugating mankind to prepare for the antiChrist. He says this vaccine is prepare

humanity to be sealed in the future, meaning the Mark of the Beast. This is unacceptable for an Orthodox Christian, as the Mark of the Beast cannot be repented of. I absolutely cannot be at threat of the Mark.

11. Elder Parthenius Against the Vaccine [\[39\]](#) [\[40\]](#)

Another Abbot of the Holy Mountain, from a different monastery, speaks against the COVID Vaccine. This is all weighing heavily on the vaccine. Elder Parthenius is the abbot of Saint Paul's Monastery, and here he speaks against the vaccine saying that we ought the Lord's Will far sooner than a man made solution. We ought to pray against the virus as "Our hope is that whoever trusts in God will not be ashamed. We must rely not on our own strength, but on the mercy and love of God."

Elder Parthenius refuses to bless anyone to receive the vaccine as it lines up too closely with what is written in Revelation 13. By its fruits we shall know it, and although the vaccine doesn't perfectly align with Revelation 13, the similarities should strike us as notable.

12. Elder Efthymios Against the Vaccine [\[41\]](#)

Elder Efthymios is another Athonite monk who speaks about the suspicious nature of the vaccine. He firstly says "Those who do not want to be vaccinated, no one should and does not have the right to force them to be vaccinated in any way." He goes on to say that the vaccine was made obligatory in some areas before it was ever even manufactured. "There is a cure," he says, "but some do not want it." The cure he speaks about is the Body and Blood of Christ. This is a greater vaccine than anything created by mankind. "The vaccine is not a cure," he notes as being confirmed by Nobel Prize winning French Scientist Luc Antoine Montagnier. Elder Efthymios speculates that if the vaccine were genuinely and helpful, it would not need all this propaganda. Therefore there is reasonable suspicion of

the vaccine, and it is within all appropriate logic to avoid it.

13. Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira Against the Vaccine [\[42\]](#) [\[43\]](#)

Metropolitan Seraphim is bishop of the Church of Cyprus, the first in the order of non-patriarchal Autocephalous Jurisdictions in the Orthodox Church. He has condemned the vaccines harshly for being the products of aborted fetal cells. Citing information from Italy, he notes that "the vaccine is made from aborted fetuses," saying that it is impossible for the Orthodox to accept such a thing even if it is in the best economic interests of the people, because what matters more than the economy is proper enforcement of morality.

I cannot accept a vaccine which results from the murder of babies, and therefore am requesting an exemption to the vaccine so that I do not participate in this grave sin.

14. Father Alexander Demonstrates the Moral Peril of the COVID Vaccine [\[44\]](#)

Father Alexander is a highly respected academic, author, and speaker. He served as an Orthodox Chaplain in the United States Army for over 24 years, achieving the rank of Colonel. He also served as a Dean and Professor of Moral Theology Emeritus at Holy Trinity Seminary. In light of his impressive resume, he would unquestionably support an exemption for Orthodox Christian receiving the COVID Vaccine. He says "We must reject, on moral grounds, all COVID-19 vaccines that have any connection to aborted preborn baby cells." This condemns practically every available COVID Vaccine, and surely you cannot suppose that one violate their own moral codes for the sake of a negligibly beneficial vaccine? "According to traditional Orthodox moral theology (as opposed to revisionist variations so common today), certain actions ("means" to "ends") are objectively, intrinsically evil under any

"circumstances"—most notably, abortion, rape, incest, child abuse, physical torture, and deliberate targeting of non-combatants in war." Fr Alexander knows the price that must be paid for anyone who participates in these grave evils, even if that evil is FDA Approved.

15. Saint Nikephoros the Leper Reveals the True Cure [\[45\]](#)

Saint Nikephoros was a monk granted the rank of the Angelic Schema, the highest order of monks in the Orthodox Church. For the majority of his life, he suffered from leprosy. In his time, he was unable to obtain medicine for the disease. He lived among lepers so as to not spread the disease among the healthy. As he progressed in his life and grew in his holiness, he came to a point where the disease would not spread to the healthy anymore. He became a vessel for blessings and good things, rather than a vector of death. He was granted the gift from God to return to the earth after his death to warn the faithful about the coronavirus pandemic. Multiple times he appeared to faithful Orthodox Christians in the Balkans. Saint Nikephoros revealed the truth: "There is a cure and this is the Holy Communion. There's also a herb to drink, it's thyme, it kills viruses. And in any case, be sure to visit the house of God at this difficult time, because there is no contagion there and no one can be infected." He has given us the knowledge of a better and more natural treatment, not one from the labs of men. The Holy Eucharist is the cure to COVID-19, and the disease can be treated with thyme. As one who suffered from life-altering diseases, he knows it like no other. As one among the highest order of monks, he knows that the House of God CANNOT contain an infection that harms the faithful. A person who is received validly into the Orthodox Church is the only one allowed to partake of the Body and Blood of Christ for his sanctification. As an Orthodox Christian, I can trust that I will receive the appropriate care from God by going into the temple of the Lord and participating in the regular Liturgical Cycle. Therefore there is no need to fear if I will catch the disease without a vaccine.

All of the above is a confirmation that it is not only my right to not be subject to the COVID Vaccine, but my duty as an Orthodox Christian. It is contradictory to the Orthodox faith no matter how you look at it. It cannot be justified and may even lead to our eternal spiritual disaster. It is for these reasons that I am requesting, through the appropriate channels, an exemption to the mandate to receive the COVID Vaccine.

The following are my sources for why it is a violation of my Orthodox Faith to receive at this time a COVID Vaccine:

- 1: Bases of the Social Concept of the Russian Orthodox Church - http://orthodoxkansas.org/Bases_of_Social_Concept.html
- 2: The Lozier Institute Lists a number of COVID-19 Vaccines which utilize aborted fetal cells - <https://lozierinstitute.org/update-covid-19-vaccine-candidates-and-abortion-derived-cell-lines/>
- 3: The Pfizer Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.08.280818v1.full>
- 4: The Moderna Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-2622-0>
- 5: The Johnson & Johnson Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.janssen.com/emea/emea/janssen-vaccine-technologies>
- 6: Sputnik V Vaccine citing trial tests of their manufacturers = <https://sputnikvaccine.com/about-vaccine/human-adenoviral-vaccines/>
- 7: Sputnik V manufacturers acknowledge usage of aborted fetal cells - <http://actanaturae.ru/2075-8251/article/view/10302/106>
- 8: The UK Government acknowledges AstraZeneca's usage of aborted fetal cells - <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/regulatory-approval-of-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca/information-for-healthcare-professionals-on-covid-19-vaccine-astrazeneca-regulation-174>
- 9: The Vaxxart Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.04.283853v1.full>

10. The Altimmune Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - https://clinicaltrials.gov/ProvidedDocs/67/NCT03232567/Prot_000.pdf
11. The COVAXX Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.30.399154v1.full>
12. The Medicago Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.11.04.20226282v1.full-text>
13. The Novavax Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/370/6520/1089>
14. PittCoVacc utilized aborted fetal cells - [https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964\(20\)30118-3/fulltext](https://www.thelancet.com/journals/ebiom/article/PIIS2352-3964(20)30118-3/fulltext)
15. The Walter Reed Vaccine utilized fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.04.28.441763v1.full>
16. The Sanofi Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41541-021-00324-5>
17. The Inovio Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-16505-0>
18. The Arcturus Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.03.280446v1>
19. The Imperial College Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.22.055608v1>
20. The Providence Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2021.05.11.443286v1>
21. CoronaVac utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/suppl/2020/05/05/science.abc1932.DC1>
22. The CanSino Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://science.sciencemag.org/content/suppl/2020/05/05/science.abc1932.DC1>
23. The ImmunityBio Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.07.29.227595v1.full>
24. The Institut Pasteur Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.pnas.org/content/pnas/117/51/32657.full.pdf>

25. The Rega Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41586-020-3035-9>
26. The Anhui Zhifei Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - [https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674\(20\)30812-6](https://www.cell.com/cell/fulltext/S0092-8674(20)30812-6)
27. The Clover Vaccine utilized aborted fetal cells - <https://www.biorxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.09.24.311027v1.full>
28. The HeLa Cells were harvested without informed consent - <https://pages.jh.edu/jhumag/0400web/01.html>
29. Greek Orthodox Press Release on "The Cloning of Embryonic Cells" - https://www.bioethics.org.gr/03_c.html
30. Romanian Orthodox Church Statement on "The Transplant of Organs" - <http://patriarhia.ro/transplant-of-organs-6021-en.html>
31. InterChurch Declaration by Archbishop Makarios - https://neoskosmos.com/en/173771/australias-greek-orthodox-anglican-and-catholic-archbishops-united-against-oxford-universitys-vaccine/?fbclid=IwAR3IpvUkBkIHs0iEm3Rl-ppMpFX_rL12zU_0lxb8E_71E6bHa7gbKmbppM
32. Moldovan Orthodox Church Declaration On The Threat Of COVID Vaccines - <https://credo.press/231152/>
33. Georgian Orthodox Synod On The Necessity Of Vaccination Being A Free Choice And Not Compulsory - <https://patriarchate.ge/news/2718>
34. Metropolitan Saba of Khoni Against The COVID Vaccine - <https://tabula.ge/ge/news/645649-mitropoliti-saba-virusis-vaktsina-iaraghi-ikneba>
35. Bishop Spiridon of Skhalta Against The COVID Vaccine - https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=CRJ_6jfQh5Q
36. Saint Paisios Warns Against the Vaccine - <https://cyberianorthodox.wordpress.com/2021/03/26/a-vaccine-those-taking-it-will-be-marked/>
37. Elder Philotheos Against the Vaccine - <https://orthochristian.com/139871.html>
38. Elder Philotheos Against the Vaccine [Video] - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6pTlIg01MUU>
39. Elder Parthenius Against the Vaccine - <https://orthochristian.com/136688.html>

40. Elder Parthenius Against the Vaccine [Video] - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=VJ3MHayQoCQ>
41. Elder Efthymios Against the Vaccine - <https://www.ekklisiaonline.gr/nea/gerontas-efthymios-o-ypochreotikos-emvoliasmos/>
42. Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira Against the Vaccine - <https://www.protothema.gr/greece/article/1079881/koronoios-mitropolitiss-kuthiron-gia-to-emvolio-paraskeuazetai-apo-emvrua-ektroseon-min-to-dehteite/>
43. Metropolitan Seraphim of Kythira Against the Vaccine [Video] - <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=q6ln-YMvG34>
44. Father Alexander Demonstrates the Moral Peril of the COVID Vaccine - <http://www.monomakhos.com/on-covid-vaccines-and-the-church/>
45. Saint Nikephoros the Leper Reveals the True Cure - <https://asceticexperience.com/2020/03/saint-nikephoros-the-leper-appears-in-bulgaria-and-gives-the-cure-for-coronavirus/>

Below is a list of reasons why it would not impede mission readiness, nor disrupt my physical capacity to perform, if I do not receive a COVID Vaccine.

1. The Low Mortality Rate of the Disease

The particularly low mortality rate of the disease, but also its distribution by age, clearly denote that vaccination, whenever it becomes feasible, must be targeted. This percentage is fictitiously over-evaluated for the time being (~2.5%) : on the one hand, due to the over-representation of severely positive cases of the virus [\[1\]](#), and on the other, given that the death toll from COVID has also included the deaths of cases found positive for COVID but with other, underlying diseases (not the SARS respiratory syndrome). The Center for Disease Control (CDC) admits this, saying only 5% of deaths involving COVID-19 had COVID as the exclusive cause of death [\[2\]](#). Recent studies which have estimated the number of deaths in relation to the actual number of people exposed to the virus - based on serological tests (antibody tests) in a specific geographical area - have determined that this percentage is of the order of magnitude of seasonal flu (certainly <1%) [\[3\]](#). The fact of the matter is that COVID has a 99.74% survivability rate, so saith the CDC [\[20\]](#).

2. COVID Mainly Affects People in the Third and Fourth Age Groups

COVID mainly affects people in the third and fourth age groups, where the phenomenon of immune senescence [\[4\]](#) occurs - that is, the reduction in size, quality and duration of their immune response-protection - which can occur, after being vaccinated. In other words, the vaccine-induced active immunity may not be capable of protecting the elderly, who are the par excellence "target" of the corona virus; hence, the finding of an anti-viral therapy should be a priority - assuming that the protection of the

elderly is in fact what is desired. The youth are affected very marginally, almost not at all.

3. Asymptomatic Transmissions of COVID are too Insignificant to Warrant the Mandate of a Vaccine

Researchers at Nature Communications [\[5\]](#) and the Journal of the American Medical Association [\[6\]](#) both found that asymptomatic transmissions of Coronavirus are less than one percent. In the case of JAMA, 0.7% of transmissions were among households, which would undoubtedly be lower in the general population or, hypothetically, a short time in a workplace where we are already spread apart, or an even shorter time in close proximity due to the infrequency or nature of such gatherings. Previously I spoke about deaths due to the virus, but it is probably even less likely that I would spread it to another person, if I had it, than the likelihood that I would die from it. The vaccine's main purpose is to prevent the spread of the disease to others, but that is already incredibly unlikely, not only due to natural herd immunity, but also because, at this point in time, most people who have desired the vaccine have received it, making any mandate of it among those who do not want it frivolous.

4. Among the Seriously Ill, the Vaccine May Actually Cause More Harm Than Good

With seriously ill patients, acute respiratory failure occurs through an immuno-pathological mechanism (a "storm" producing inflammatory cytokines and reducing CD4 and CD8 T-mediated immune response [\[7\]](#)). There are serious concerns that vaccination will exacerbate this immune complication in the event of a subsequent viral infection and will consequently worsen the patient's clinical course. A similar effect was observed with the FeCoV coronavirus vaccine, which affects cats and causes peritonitis. [\[8\]](#).

5. In the 12-29 Age Group, there has been a notable risk of heart inflammation due to the COVID Vaccine [\[9\]](#)

The CDC reports that there have been many reports of myocarditis and pericarditis following the reception in mRNA vaccine recipients. These are inflammation of certain heart muscles, the myocardium and the pericardium respectively. The vaccine has caused multitudes of people who are not allergic to any product in them to suffer heart inflammation. Many have even died. Therefore, the COVID Vaccine is not only a spiritual threat, as indicated in the prior documents, but also a physical threat. It seems to me very impractical, inconsiderate, and even abusive to mandate a vaccine that has such a high rate of physical harm to a recipient.

6. The Vaccine is Temporary and Will Go Obsolete, Will You Mandate Future Developed Vaccines for Future Mutations of COVID?

The logic of eradicating an infectious disease through global vaccination, on the one hand presupposes the existence of a very safe and very effective vaccine, and on the other hand, most importantly that there be no other hosts of the virus in the natural environment. That is, man has to be the only species that can host the virus. This is true of the polio virus, but it does not apply to the coronavirus, because all research suggests that the virus originated from bats. Unknown and controversial remains the intermediate link (host?) which had transported it from the bats' caves of Wuhan city. In any case, the disappearance of the virus through global vaccination would only be temporary - in other words, a terrible waste of resources, inasmuch as it could transfer from its natural refuge (the bats or the intermediate host) to the human population at any given moment, capably mutated for bypassing the existing herd immunity and initiating a new pandemic.

Coronaviruses, being RNA viruses, mutate rapidly, gaining genetic and therefore antigenic diversity. This diversity, especially for coronae, also increases through RNA recombination, due to the particularly inconsistent mode of transcription of viral RNAs. Two types have already been

identified for SARS-Cov2, S and L [\[10\]](#)[\[11\]](#). It is doubtful that a vaccine can provide both equal coverage for all strains of the virus that emerge, as well as permanent protection over time, hence underlining one more time the importance and priority of finding anti-viral drugs against coronavirus. It is quite likely, therefore, that over time, a global vaccination evolve into regular global vaccinations.

Could this perhaps be the aim? Perhaps the corona is the long-awaited pretext for launching the universal transition to a hybrid human biology, where the human body will be protected, strengthened and ultimately dependent on platform technologies (genetic engineering, digital interfacing) through regular vaccinations-updates. But why all the rush for a vaccine that not only does not promise much, but is the cause for concern in the scientific community, especially if it is produced in a hurry and implemented en masse? Finally, do the pharmaceutical industries serve man, or does the opposite apply?

7. Multiple, Eminent Health Authorities From All Across the World Have Warned Against the Safety and Efficacy of Coronavirus Vaccines

Dr. Peter Hotez [\[12\]](#), UK scientist Hilda Bastian [\[13\]](#), and former Vice President of vaccine-manufacturer, Pfizer, Dr. Michael Yeadon [\[14\]](#) have all warned against the safety of the COVID Vaccines due to the nature of their creation.

Vaccine development usually takes many years or decades, whereas the coronavirus vaccine has been manufactured in less than 12 months. I am not comfortable with receiving a "fast-tracked" product, as by definition, fast-tracking a product means there is no data on long-term safety.

8. Current Pfizer CEO Unable to Say if Vaccine Will Mitigate COVID Transmission [\[15\]](#)

Albert Bourla, CEO of Pfizer, was unable to confirm if any of effectiveness of the COVID Vaccine. It is evident from the above that the vaccine has a negligible effectiveness and a great chance of harm caused to a recipient of the Vaccine. The Vaccine certainly has greater risks than it does benefits.

9. Adverse Reactions and Death Caused by the Vaccines are Underreported

According to a study done by Harvard [\[16\]](#), at the commission of the United States Government, less than 1% of all adverse reactions to vaccines are actually submitted to the National Vaccine Adverse Events Reports System (VAERS). These problems have yet to be fixed.

It is unpredictable what negative effects will be suffered from the reception of the vaccine, therefore I find that it would be inappropriate to mandate the vaccine and, in fact, harmful.

Much of this has been derived from arguments presented by Monk Paul of the Holy Mountain, Biologist, MD Molecular Biology and Biomedicine [\[17\]](#), Christian Elliot's article listing many reasons why to be skeptical of the Vaccine [\[18\]](#), and an anonymous hospital worker's letter requesting an exemption from the Vaccine [\[19\]](#).

I believe that this is sufficient evidence to conclude that it would not be against the best interests, nor would it be a threat to the health and safety, of the environment, workplace, or my compatriots for me to not receive the COVID Vaccine.

The following is a list of sources demonstrating that not receiving the vaccine would not be a threat to the organization:

- 1: That COVID Deaths are over-evaluated due to false positive tests for the virus -
<https://www.bmj.com/content/368/bmj.m1113.long>
- 2: That only 5% of Deaths had COVID as the only cause -
https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/nvss/vsrr/covid_weekly/index.htm
- 3: That COVID has a death rate of less than 1% -
<https://www.medrxiv.org/content/10.1101/2020.04.14.20062463v2>
- 4: That COVID only marginally affects the youth -
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC2265901/>
- 5: That COVID has an almost zero percent chance of asymptomatic transfer - <https://www.nature.com/articles/s41467-020-19802-w>
- 6: That COVID has a less than one percent chance of asymptomatic transfer among individuals living together within the same household -
<https://jamanetwork.com/journals/jamanetworkopen/fullarticle/2774102>
- 7: How Acute Respiratory Failure Occurs -
<https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S205229752030024X>
- 8: That FeCov Worsens a Subject's Clinical Course -
<https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/16322745/>
- 9: That mRNA Vaccines have a chance of causing Heart Inflammation -
https://www.cdc.gov/mmwr/volumes/70/wr/mm7027e2.htm?s_cid=mm7027e2_e&ACSTrackingID=USCDC_921-DM60791&ACSTrackingLabel=MMWR%20Early%20Release%20-%20Vol.%2070%2C%20July%206%2C%202021&deliveryName=USCDC_921-DM60791
- 10: Mutations in COVID -
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7108124/>
- 11: Mutations in COVID [part 2] -
<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7108196/>
- 12: Dr. Peter Hotez on the unsafe nature of the Vaccine -
<https://uk.reuters.com/article/uk-health-coronavirus-vaccines-insight/as-pressure-for-coronavirus-vaccine-mounts-scientists-debate-risks-of-accelerated-testing-idUKKBN20Y1I1>

13: Scientist Hilda Bastian on the unsafe nature of the Vaccine - <https://www.wired.com/story/the-astrazeneca-covid-vaccine-data-isnt-up-to-snuff/>

14: Former Vice President of Pfizer, Dr. Michael Yeadon on the unsafe nature of the Vaccine - <https://health.economictimes.indiatimes.com/news/diagnostics/no-need-for-vaccines-covid-effectively-over-ex-pfizer-vp/79445839>

15: Current Pfizer CEO Unable to Say if Vaccine Will Mitigate COVID Transmission - <https://www.dailymail.co.uk/health/article-9018547/Pfizer-CEO-not-certain-covid-shot-prevents-transmission.html>

16: That Adverse Reactions and Deaths due to the Vaccine are underreported - <https://www.icandecide.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/Lazarus-report.pdf>

17: Monk Paul of Mount Athos Against the Vaccine - <https://orthodoxethos.com/post/de-mystifying-the-vaccine-for-corona-virus>

18: The Worth in Being Skeptical About the Vaccine - <https://www.deconstructingconventional.com/post/18-reason-i-wont-be-getting-a-covid-vaccine>

19: Anonymous Exemption Request - <https://miriaf.webs.com/hospital-worker-test-vaccine>

20: 99.74% Survivability Rate of COVID - <https://www.nbc26.com/news/coronavirus/cdc-estimates-covid-19-fatality-rate-including-asymptomatic-cases>

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:50:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
stephanie schneible	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Freedom to choose especially with our religious beliefs. I am Absolutely against taking away religious exemptions. Many many people will pull kids out of the system!! I am one of them!!

No to HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 1:57:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tom Woods	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I ask you not yo support this bill as it impacts the rights of parents an a family's religious freedoms.

Aloha,

Tom

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:01:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kamaka Pahinui	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Kamaka Pahinui stand opposed to bill HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:01:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Tsuchida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to HB1118. I believe all children who attend public schools should not be required to receive vaccinations. Some vaccinations are harmful and some children may have adverse effects from the vaccination. I believe it is up to their parents or guardians to make the decision for their child. Children have strong immune systems. Please oppose this bill, HB1118. Thank you, Susan Tsuchida

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:03:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Briana Puahala	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118.

This bill goes against our God given rights and choices for our keiki as a father and mother.

This bill goes against our religion and no law or mandate should violate our faith in order to comply with government laws.

This bill goes against medical decisions and the government knows that a vaccine is not a one size fits all type of thing. Vaccines affect everyone differently and it should be up to the individual if a vaccine is necessary for them.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:04:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Debbie Tamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I cannot believe this is even being considered in the land of the free! I drastically OPPOSE Bill HB1118.

Thank you,

Debbie Tamura

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:05:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cynthia Bartlett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB1118

1. **Conflict of interest - How corporate doctor offices and pediatricians benefit in Hawaii if the religious exemptions are removed** Hawaii's doctors are mostly part of corporations that must adhere to insurance protocols that incentivize high vaccination rates with bonuses in their practices. Fewer and fewer today are independent medical offices. Removing religious exemptions is a conflict of interest for these corporate medical businesses and strong motivation for them financially. Any medical adverse reactions of their patients do not affect these bonuses and religious rights are not considered by insurance corporations.
2. **The affect on minors: HB 1118 would take away the parent's legal right to protect the health and welfare of their child and subject the child to health procedures that go against their religious core beliefs and Federal constitutional rights**

Many of the vaccines contain ingredients and even human DNA placenta fragments that are against the personal religious beliefs of many in Hawaii.

The Individual rights of the individual are protected by our Federal constitution and overrides any state ruling. Removing religious exemptions is a way to mandate more of the entire community take vaccines and will be in conflict with informed consent.

Writing a law at the state level does not make it legal and will cause an uproar in Hawaii as well as legal retaliation against this legislature and even the Governor's office. **Our Governor is a MD and should know the conflict of interest between the doctors making money in their offices and more vaccine mandates**, just as additional unessential testing mandates made many rich in the pandemic, common sense was lost to financial incentives.

Background content: Our Governor has been falsely claiming knowledge about vaccines in the Samoa measles campaign when it was only the Government of Samoa itself that stopped their country's measles vaccine program in Samoa because of bacterial contamination in batches that caused the death of 84 people. They did not die from lack of vaccines or from measles but from contaminated injections which their Government stopped after watching 84 of his people die when given the contaminated vaccine. Our Governor Green went on the news and flew to Washington DC to have us all falsely believe that a lack of vaccines in Samoa caused deaths when in fact it was a lack of safety and testing by the medical community running the vaccine

program there. If you follow that logic it would seem eliminating religious exemptions will save lives. But none of his story is true. Now the CDC has now said that even the COVID 19 recent vaccine did not prevent and transmissions so the whole story of “keeping grandma safe” was false.

We must guard against conflict of interest and falsities and keep the rights of the individuals in Hawaii for their religious exemptions.

The removal of religious exemptions in Hawaii harms the core of our people’s religious beliefs and their constitutional rights as individuals. **Legislatures and Governors do not hold rights over individuals and our religious beliefs.**

Our citizens in Hawaii deserve truth and deserve their religious exemptions and informed consent. It is only the small independent medical offices that write the medical exemptions and most Hawaiian voting citizens cannot afford an extra visit or cannot find a private doctor whose insurance allows medical exemptions to be provided. If patients are on medicare or medicaid their doctor is most likely corporate. Medical professionals who may testify for this bill are the ones who can get substantial bonus increases if a higher percentage of their patients are vaccinated because religious exemptions are eliminated. No one votes against their own source of money. **Please vote no on HB1118**

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:14:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Pojas-Suan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:16:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aubrey Rowe	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 06 2025

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118 – RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, as a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Vaccination defies God's perfect design of the human immune system, which was created to fight illness naturally. Psalm 139:14 affirms, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well."

It is my deeply held religious belief that artificially altering my immune system through vaccination goes against God's divine plan for human health and well-being.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,

Aubrey Rowe

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:16:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tanya Jernigan	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is a violation of our consitutional rights as Americans. It will be challenged. You must not pass a law that forces people to violate their firmly held God given beliefs.

You are wasting our state's valuable time and money trying to pass a law that cannot be upheld because it is not legal.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:17:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kandi Hovsepian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Having two vaccine-injured grandchildren has been heart-breaking and very challenging, especially when they cannot speak to express when they are sad or hurting, hungry, tired, or just need to use a bathroom. Moving to the island numerous years ago was in support of their parents, who were nearly devastated by the ordeal. To make "requirements" of those who have "other than" beliefs is simply unjust and discriminatory. Apparently, none of those pressing to pass such a bill have personal, hands-on experience with such trauma or have never parented those with disabilities resulting from unnecessary injections. I would encourage them to at least "walk a mile" in these shoes before assuming they know better.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:18:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Klaudia G Kemenes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Regarding Vaccine Mandates and Religious Exemptions

I am writing to share my personal experience and perspective regarding vaccine mandates, particularly concerning the religious exemption.

My son, now 14 years old, was born healthy in the USA and received all recommended vaccines at 2, 4, and 6 months. However, after each "well-baby" visit, he exhibited concerning adverse reactions, including high-pitched crying, refusal to breastfeed, and abnormal behaviors such as repetitive foot hitting while attempting to sleep. Over time, these behaviors progressed to include unusual hand movements and speech delay. By 6 months, he also stopped maintaining eye contact, a concerning sign that we now understand may be linked to the vaccines he received.

After researching these issues, I discovered that certain vaccines, such as MMR, contain aborted fetal cells, which directly conflicts with my religious beliefs. I work in healthcare and have spent significant time researching the topic, understanding the risks involved in vaccination, and the need for informed consent. I strongly believe that parents should be responsible for the medical decisions regarding their children, as these decisions have profound consequences on their health and development.

I understand the importance of public health, but I also believe in the fundamental right to make informed medical choices based on religious beliefs and personal freedom. The removal of the religious exemption for vaccination undermines parental rights and discriminates against those who make medical decisions according to their faith.

I urge you to protect our rights to make decisions for our children without fear of discrimination. Please consider the impact of such mandates on the well-being of families who choose to raise their children in accordance with their beliefs.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Klaudia Kemenes

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:22:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Caban	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:23:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
emily gambino	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Every citizen should have the freedom to choose what medical procedures to do with their own bodies and ESPECIALLY for the safety of their children. When a parent deems that a shot is not safe for their children or is against their religious beliefs, they should have that right to choose and not be told they cannot go to school. There are proven cases of children having adverse affects from these shots including long term seizures and possibly autism and more. It is not the government's right to put our bodies and our children at risk.

Please uphold our medical freedom and OPPOSE HB1118.

Thank you,

Emily Gambino

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:29:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joanna Weber	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE HB1118

ALOHA, JOANNA WEBER

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:31:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jordan Spinak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe every individual has the right to choose what they put in their bodies. Especially vaccinations that are irrevocable.

To Whom It May Concern,

I oppose bill 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS. Is it essential to allow the religious exemptions for immunizations for students due to their sincerely held religious beliefs that prohibit them from receiving vaccines.

According to the National Conference of State Legislatures webpage, <https://www.ncsl.org/health/state-non-medical-exemptions-from-school-immunization-requirements>, forty-four states (including Hawaii) and Washington DC allow religious exemptions for immunizations. There has been no disease outbreak in Hawaii's schools so this bill is not necessary as it pertains to public health.

I have a problem with this statement in the bill:

When ninety-five per cent of individuals in a community are immunized, those persons serve as a protective barrier against the likelihood of transmission of vaccine-preventable diseases in the community.

The ninety-five per cent figure in the above statement has no study to back it back it up. This invalidates the credibility of the bill.

I oppose this bill because it is necessary to accommodate students' religious beliefs against immunizations to ensure that they are not forced to choose between their faith and their education.

Sincerely,
Jeffrey Eshima

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:33:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Akiona	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118 as a mother of 5. Parents should ALWAYS have full autonomy to choose what is best for their children. My eldest son is considered medically fragile, special needs, requires 24/7 care. I made an informed decision when he was around 4 years old or so to stop vaccinating. The children I had after him were not vaccinated at all. They are healthy, rarely sick, strong, active children. I never once was worried that their presence around him was harmful to him. In fact, he is also extremely healthy considering his special needs and healthcare professionals are always surprised at how healthy he is. Vaccines are unsafe in my opinion but I do believe that every parent has the right to have informed consent on what to give their children or not. There is no accountability in injuries that happen due to vaccines. If a parent believes that their child should not receive vaccines, that is their choice and they should be allowed to still send their child to school. After all, vaccines are intended to protect the one that receives the vaccine. If they are medically unable to receive the vaccine and a parent is worried then they should keep them home and not in society at all. You are prone to getting sick and death by just a cold when you are medically fragile. That is the reality. Another vaccinated child cannot keep your medically fragile child from that happening. This bill should be thrown out immediately.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:43:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Sebastian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious freedoms need to be protected. Vote NO for this Bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:47:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Chang	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:47:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Duffy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The removal of religious exemptions for vaccines, especially for children attending public school, is a direct violation of the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution, which guarantees the free exercise of religion. Forcing parents to vaccinate their children against their religious beliefs in order to access public education disregards both parental rights and the dignity of the child. Parents have the fundamental right to make medical decisions for their children based on their faith and conscience, without government coercion. Denying unvaccinated children an education due to their religious beliefs amounts to discrimination and exclusion, violating their right to equal access to public services. Protecting public health is important, but it must be balanced with respect for individual rights, religious liberty, and parental authority. This bill sets a dangerous precedent that undermines the fundamental freedoms upon which our nation was founded.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:49:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shavonn Okamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

- I oppose to bill HB1118. Let everyone make their own choices. Why force people to get vaccinated.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:52:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ron Dias	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I strongly disagree with this bill. This bill would remove our fundamental personal rights and I do not support it.! I vote no!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:56:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I would like to state that I am opposed to this bill! Bypassing this bill, you would remove my constitutional right to choose religious freedom. My children and my family stand Very firmly on our beliefs. When you remove our ability to practice what our faith entails you are going against the constitution. Just because our governor is now a doctor, he thinks that he knows what's best for the rest of the population? It seems that this decision he is making is based on his professional doctorate opinion and not for what's best on behalf of the people being affected by this change. I ask that you rethink the stance on this bill and that it does not make it to legislation to protect our keiki and our way of life for the future generation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:57:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Adrian Silva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm against and oppose to 1118 HB

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 2:58:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joda Santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I oppose bill HB1118

It will highly affect my family and I think it's not right for our children to be forced to get vaccinated against their will.

Respectfully,

Joda K. Santos

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:03:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stephanie Kouba	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person's health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, as a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Vaccination defies God's perfect design of the human immune system, which was created to fight illness naturally. Psalm 139:14 affirms, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." It is my deeply held religious belief that artificially altering my immune system through vaccination goes against God's divine plan for human health and well-being.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out

nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,
Stephanie Kouba

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:05:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Odette Ferrer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill having personally seen vaccine injuries. It should be a parents choice, not the government, doctor, or otherwise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:08:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camille Adams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my religious right not to be forced to put any so called vaccination, medication, foreign thing in my body or my children, grandchildren's bodies!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:09:01 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in opposition to HB1118.

Allow the people to have religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:10:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Olelo pa'a Ogawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject: Testimony in Opposition to HB1118 - School Vaccination Mandate

To the Honorable Members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, the proposed legislation mandating vaccinations for all public school students in Hawai‘i. I believe this bill constitutes an overreach of government authority and infringes upon the fundamental right of parents to make informed healthcare decisions for their children.

I firmly believe in the right of parents to have autonomy over their children's health. Vaccination is a deeply personal medical decision that should be made by parents in consultation with their healthcare providers, considering the individual child's medical history, family history, and overall health.

Furthermore, I believe that focusing solely on vaccinations neglects other crucial aspects of child health. By prioritizing a healthy diet rich in whole foods, encouraging regular exercise, and emphasizing stress management techniques, we can significantly strengthen our children's immune systems naturally.

I am concerned about the potential adverse effects of vaccines and believe that every child's individual circumstances should be carefully considered before mandating a one-size-fits-all approach.

I urge the legislature to reject HB1118. Parents should have the freedom to make informed decisions regarding their children's healthcare without government interference.

Mahalo nui loa,

Olelo pa'a Ogawa Energy Holistic Coach, Consultant and Chef

glow@glowhawaii.com / 808 938-3989

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:11:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sylvie Madison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to repeal non-medical exemptions from immunization requirements in Hawai'i. This bill represents an overreach of government authority, violating the fundamental rights of individuals and families to make personal medical decisions without coercion.

Even Governor Josh Green himself has acknowledged that the government should not dictate personal medical decisions. He has stated, "As a physician and a Governor, I feel strongly about health care, including reproductive health care and a woman's right to make health care decisions that affect her." If Governor Green believes in bodily autonomy when it comes to reproductive rights, then the same principle must apply to immunization choices. The government should not force medical procedures upon individuals who, for personal, religious, or philosophical reasons, choose otherwise.

HB1118 disregards informed consent and the ethical principle of medical autonomy. The right to refuse medical treatment has long been recognized as a fundamental human right. Eliminating non-medical exemptions not only tramples on this right but also ignores the diverse cultural, religious, and personal beliefs that make Hawai'i unique.

Instead of restricting personal freedoms, the state should focus on education and informed decision-making rather than coercion and punitive measures.

I urge the committee to reject HB1118 and instead uphold the principles of medical freedom and bodily autonomy.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Sylvie Madison

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:13:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support HB1118 and the vaccination of all children to attend any public school. Medical exemptions only, to be allowed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:15:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney Southwick	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawaii State Legislature – Health Committee

Hawaii State Capitol

415 S Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

Attn: Chair Greg Takayama, Vice Chair Sue Keohokapu, and Members of the Health Committee:

Terez Amato, Cory Chun, Lisa Marten, Ikaika Olds, Jenna Takenouchi, David Alcos III, and Diamond Garcia

RE: OPPOSITION TO HB1118 & SB1437 – PRESERVING PARENTAL & RELIGIOUS RIGHTS

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Keohokapu, and Honorable Members of the Health Committee,

I am writing to express my unequivocal opposition to HB1118 and SB1437, which seek to remove the long-standing religious exemption for childhood vaccinations in the State of Hawaii. These bills represent an egregious overreach by the government, infringe upon constitutional rights, and set a dangerous precedent for the erosion of religious freedom and parental autonomy.

1. Violation of Constitutional Rights

The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees every American the right to freely practice their religion, while the Fourteenth Amendment ensures due process and equal protection under the law. For many families, religious beliefs are deeply intertwined with medical decisions, including the choice to decline vaccinations. HB1118 and SB1437 directly violate these rights by forcing compliance with a medical mandate that conflicts with religious convictions.

Additionally, the Hawaii State Constitution explicitly protects religious freedom under **Article I, Section 4**, which states:

"No law shall be enacted respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof."

By stripping away religious exemptions, these bills violate not only federal but also state constitutional protections, opening the door for legal challenges that will cost Hawaii taxpayers significant resources in litigation.

2. Parental Rights and Medical Autonomy Are Fundamental

Parental rights have long been recognized as fundamental liberties under Supreme Court precedent (**Pierce v. Society of Sisters, 268 U.S. 510 (1925)** and **Wisconsin v. Yoder, 406 U.S. 205 (1972)**). The government does not have the right to dictate medical decisions for children against the will of their parents—especially in the absence of a public health emergency.

The State of Hawaii has already established strong public health measures, and there is no compelling justification for eliminating religious exemptions, particularly when medical exemptions remain in place. If parents can be trusted to make medical exemption requests, they should likewise be trusted to make faith-based exemption decisions.

3. Lack of Justification for Eliminating Religious Exemptions

Hawaii's current laws have successfully balanced public health and individual freedoms without the need for excessive government intervention. There has been **no documented public health crisis** in Hawaii necessitating such a drastic policy change. The data does not support the claim that religious exemptions have led to widespread disease outbreaks in Hawaii.

Further, many vaccine-preventable diseases have high herd immunity thresholds already met in the general population, rendering the removal of religious exemptions unnecessary. Eliminating these exemptions does nothing to increase public safety but instead alienates and disenfranchises thousands of families who contribute positively to Hawaii's society.

4. Unintended Consequences: Disenfranchisement of Families & Educational Disruption

Stripping religious exemptions will result in Hawaii's families being forced into impossible decisions—compromising their religious beliefs or being denied access to education. This disproportionately impacts low-income and faith-based families who rely on the public school system. It also places an undue burden on an already strained education system, as families may be forced to withdraw from schools, leading to increased homeschooling and migration out of state.

5. Slippery Slope Toward Government Overreach

Once the government dictates one area of medical decision-making under the guise of public health, it sets a **dangerous precedent for further erosion of personal freedoms**. If religious and parental rights can be stripped in this instance, what stops the state from mandating other medical procedures in the future? Hawaii should not follow the path of states that have aggressively restricted individual freedoms in the name of government control.

6. Hawaii Must Uphold Its Commitment to Diversity & Inclusion

Hawaii has always been a place that values diversity, respect, and the ability to coexist despite differences in belief systems. The removal of religious exemptions sends the message that those with faith-based convictions are unwelcome or must conform to a singular medical perspective.

If the State truly values inclusivity, it must uphold the rights of **all** residents—including those whose faith dictates their medical choices.

Conclusion: Reject HB1118 & SB1437

I urge you to **stand for religious freedom, parental rights, and constitutional integrity** by voting NO on HB1118 and SB1437. These bills do nothing to enhance public health, but they do everything to strip away the fundamental rights that make Hawaii and America a beacon of liberty.

As elected officials, you have a sworn duty to uphold the Constitution and protect the freedoms of Hawaii's people. I implore you to consider the long-term consequences of these bills and reject them in favor of preserving the rights of parents and religious communities.

I would appreciate your time and response on this urgent matter. Please do the right thing—**protect religious freedom, parental rights, and constitutional integrity by opposing HB1118 and SB1437.**

Sincerely,

Courtney Southwick , M.Arch

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:18:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm a citizen of the U.S. and live in the state of Hawaii, I OPPOSE this Bill. It's not right for the Governor of Hawaii Josh green to force this on the citizen of Hawaii to take away our constitutional rights to remove our religious exemptions for our children to be vaccinated. This violates our civil rights. Don't we have freedom of choice? Please don't take our rights away.

Thank you,

Roberta Helemano

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:32:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronelle Andrade	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118. I do not support removing exemptions at any time.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:38:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a man of faith i oppose this house bill 1118 and ask a simple question. Does the government believe that they are god? Because if so. You are not my god!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:43:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dixon Kodama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing the removal of religious medical exemptions is essential to preserving the fundamental right to religious freedom, a cornerstone of democratic societies. Such exemptions allow individuals to adhere to their deeply held religious beliefs without facing coercion from the state. Eliminating these exemptions undermines personal autonomy and can lead to significant ethical and moral dilemmas for those whose faith prohibits certain medical treatments. Furthermore, removing religious exemptions may erode trust between religious communities and public health authorities, potentially decreasing overall compliance with health initiatives. It is crucial to balance public health goals with respect for individual rights and religious diversity, ensuring that no one is forced to act against their conscience.

Regards,

Dixon Kodama Jr

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:44:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Micah Camp	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the language of this bill which ensures a denial of freedom to parents to make educated and informed decisions about the healthcare of their families. Please consider the implications of the US Constitution and keep Hawaii strong and free!!

February 6, 2025

My name is Mildred Ahina and I reside on the island of Molokai and have 17 grandchildren. I *oppose* a bill for an act relating to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. Therefore, *opposing* HB1118, to repeal statutory authorization for non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements, and preserve exemptions already approved. This means you're wanting to change exemptions already approved. The only one that comes to mind, is a religious exemption.

This is quite disturbing as the United States was founded on Godly principles. The Declaration of Independence 1776 mentions nature's God, Creator, Divine Providence. The US Constitution Preamble invokes God indirectly through date "in the year of our Lord." During the first Presidential Inaugural 1789, Washington ended his oath with "so help me God." The National Motto in 1956 says "In God we Trust." Our founding Father's quotes says "Our Constitution was made for a moral and religious people" (John Adams) and "It is impossible to rightly govern without God and the Bible" (George Washington).

In the New King James Bible, Jesus raised three people from the dead; Jairus daughter, a son of Nain, and Lazarus of Bethany. In addition, Jesus healed multitudes. At least 37 individuals are mentioned, who were healed by Jesus, in the Bible. Here's 3: The Leper, the Centurion's servant, and Peter's mother in-law. Not to mention, entire cities were healed; Capernaum and Gennesaret.

Another disturbing and profound evidence is immunization related to MRC-5 cell line from aborted babies from the 1960's. Dr. Hayflick discovered these cells could divide 50 times before natural death. Were using dead parts of humans and animals in these immunizations. Science will claim the reason for this is because we need a cellular environment to replicate, and these fetal cell line provide nutrients for viruses to grow. Why would we even want viruses to grow? I get it, to create vaccines. The idea is to trust that our bodies will then make antibodies, and amongst others without immunization will create herd immunity. This HB1118 is introduced as releasing statutory authorization to the state of Hawaii, to mandate immunization to prevent an outbreak? Again, I oppose such horrific predictions, declaring an outbreak, and HB1118. You should investigate why there's an outbreak to begin with, who, what, where, why, when and demand laws to protect the American people from virologists working in labs that breeched infection control technique. Why isn't this on Hawaii's agenda?

You should be ashamed of yourselves for using school children to further your agenda and saving face on your real intentions. You should learn from Covid-19 and ask yourselves why exemptions have doubled if not tripled. Instead, you despise the rights of Hawaii families to choose. You create a bill to sneak behind Hawaii people's backs to take away their rights, holding hearings during work hours, knowing that pharmaceutical is big business and protected by FDA laws like trade secrets and non-disclosures, hiding ingredients in their immunization to the people. You also know what's in it, and still want to further "your" agenda. Your agenda is probably against RFK Jr., seeing the timing of HB1118. Thanking for hearing me out and my honest opinion in this matter. *Mrs. Mildred Ahina.*

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:48:52 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mary Livingston	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

America was founded on the principle of religious Freedom (among others). This bill removes that freedom altogether. It is an overreach of government and the sponsors of this and SB 1437 have been noted and will be opposed going forward.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 3:55:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shaneaia Perkins	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill infringes on my family's constitutional right to Freedom of Religion. Being denied access to sectors of society such as the education system on the grounds of not adhering to governmental medical mandates surrounding immunizations that go against my family's religious beliefs is blatant discrimination and vastly unconstitutional. Religious belief does not exclusively comprise of spiritual beliefs but the beliefs that affect the entirety of the individual including the manner in which they handle their health, which in my family's case is holistically and naturopathically.

Furthermore, in my personal opinion, this entire bill was introduced not out of the necessity and betterment of our population but as a power play orchestrated by the governor to combat plans of ridding child immunization mandates at the federal level. The people of Hawai'i are not pawns on your political chess board. We are actual people with real lives that you continue to intrude on by giving us ultimatums like vaccinate your kids or forfeit your right to basic human necessities such as education.

Why is it that when you go to a hospital for a sickness, you have to sign a paper giving them permission to treat you, but for a healthy child to attend school, the government mandates the child get treated for no apparent reason?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:10:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB1118

To: **House Committee on Health**

Regarding: **HB 1118, RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS**

Dear Chair Takayama and Members of the Committee:

I strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions for childhood vaccinations and mandate compliance for school attendance. This bill undermines constitutional rights, disregards historical disease trends, and ignores the reality that removing exemptions does not necessarily reduce illness rates.

1. Violation of Religious and Parental Rights

The First Amendment guarantees the right to religious freedom, and forcing parents to violate their deeply held beliefs is a direct assault on this fundamental right. Religious exemptions have existed for decades without catastrophic public health consequences. In *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972), the U.S. Supreme Court affirmed that parents have the right to make medical and educational decisions for their children based on religious beliefs. If exemptions exist for other medical procedures (e.g., blood transfusions for Jehovah’s Witnesses), they should remain in place for vaccinations.

2. Historical Disease Data Shows Declining Trends Before Vaccines

Many vaccine-preventable diseases were already declining before widespread vaccination due to sanitation, nutrition, and healthcare improvements. CDC data shows that measles cases dropped **98% between 1960 and 1970**, before the commonly administered MMR vaccine. While vaccines have contributed to disease control, it is misleading to suggest that removing exemptions is the only way to prevent outbreaks.

3. Removing Exemptions Has Not Eliminated Disease Outbreaks

States that have already removed religious exemptions have not seen a clear, lasting reduction in childhood disease rates:

- **New York** removed religious exemptions in 2019 after a measles outbreak, yet in 2024, New York City saw a **169% increase in whooping cough cases compared to 2023**, and nearly a **500% increase since 2019** ([NY Post, 2024](#)).

- **California** removed non-medical exemptions in 2015, yet parents found legal loopholes such as medical exemptions or homeschooling, undermining the intended effect of the law.

- **Maine and Connecticut** have not yet provided clear evidence that removing religious exemptions has meaningfully reduced disease outbreaks.

If the goal of HB1118 is to protect public health, the data does not support removing religious exemptions as the solution.

4. Vaccine Injuries Are Real, and Parents Should Have the Right to Weigh Risks

Vaccines, while generally safe, carry risks. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (VICP) has paid out over **\$5 billion** to individuals who suffered serious side effects from vaccines. Reported adverse effects include Guillain-Barré Syndrome, anaphylaxis, and myocarditis. The *Journal of the American Medical Association (JAMA)* found that the risk of febrile seizures after the MMR vaccine is **five times higher** than from a natural measles infection in low-risk populations. Parents must be able to assess these risks and make medical decisions for their children.

Conclusion: Protect Parental Choice and Religious Freedom

HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent by forcing medical procedures on children in direct violation of parental rights and religious freedom. The data does not support the idea that removing religious exemptions significantly reduces disease rates. Instead, this bill will alienate faith-based communities, push parents into alternative schooling options, and create legal battles over medical choice.

I urge you to **oppose HB1118** and protect the rights of families to make informed medical decisions.

Respectfully submitted,

Brittany Anderson

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:17:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendall DiDonato	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please throw this proposed legislation out! It's madness, and a waste of taxpayer dollars! After all the nonsense we have been put through during the pandemic, and the significant evidence of terrible side effects associated with the covid vaccines and others; don't infringe upon your constituents ability to make good decisions for themselves based on their own conscience and medical circumstance. Ensuring access to non-toxic food and clean water, and safe roads will do more to create a healthy society, than violating the rights of the people of Hawaii. Seems like it's inviting years of legal battles. Don't we have more important matters to address in the legislature?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:21:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill strongly.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:21:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicole Hoover	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a practicing physician in this State of Hawaii and I am vehemently opposed to this bill. When we speak of vaccine science and state with certainty that 95% immunization rates infers herd immunity this is fraudulent. The science that pertains to this type of community immunity is based upon "naturally acquired immunity" not vaccine acquired immunity. The science is not settled. If these 72 doses of childhood vaccines were just across the board "safe and effective" then there would be no need for our National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. This federal court system is set up to process and compensate families whose children have suffered vaccine injuries and/or death following routine childhood vaccination. While rare, it is still not safe for all, especially when considering that not one single study has been done comparing all health outcomes of vaccinated vs unvaccinated children. Furthermore, "safe and effective" is an untrue statement when we do not have one single double blind placebo controlled study in childhood vaccines. Nor do we have any studies clearly showing the long term effects of this current vaccine schedule for children. Removing this exemption is way of force upon families to vaccinate their children without full informed consent of all potential risks under threat of no access to public education. This is not only immoral, but unethical and violates our most basic human rights to bodily autonomy. Please take more time to do your homework, understand the history further and know your facts before voting yes on this bill. It is not a black and white issue and there is much grey area to sift through. I cannot urge you strongly enough to VOTE NO!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:23:03 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyssa Gomes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

All medical issues, including vaccines, should be up to the person directly impacted by it, or if a minor, by the parents/guardian. No medical issues should be decided by anyone else including across the board decisions by a government body. The existing vaccine requirements for school attendance are already overreach even before denying religious and other exemptions. Elected officials are supposed to represent their constituents, not bully them into doing things they do not agree with. Vaccines are not without risk, especially for children.

Besides, the new mRNA vaccine did NOT keep COVID from spreading, which is the ONLY reason to get any vaccine.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:25:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marilyn Moniz	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immunizations should generally not be made mandatory.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:37:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Ristine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The government does not determine my right to decide medical needs that violate my religious beliefs. Please record that this is my choice and my choice alone. Mr. Green has acknowledged this in his past statements and should abide by them.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:37:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Scott Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The decision for all medical procedures are between a doctor and childrens parents, and no one else."Full Stop"

Regardless of what the governor or a government degree's or mandates. The government is paid by the people to effectuate specific responsibilities layout in the constitution, no more and no less. The constitution limits the governments power, and not the peoples freedom's, which were bestowed on the people of the U.S.A by almighty God, including the freedom of religion which Mr. Green must have missed. Let this testimony stand as a reminder that we the people will never comply or give up our God given rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:40:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Fu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

On behalf of my family we oppose this bill. Immunizations are not a one size fits all and a parent should be able to have a say on what is best for their own child. The manufacturers of the immunizations will not be held accountable if god forbid anything happened to their child. Compensation is also not enough for any vaccination injured child. I have witnessed first hand vaccinations injury in a family friends son along with my nephew. Everyone should have free choice to vaccinate their child or not. What happend to my body my choice?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:42:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please don't take away people's God given rights as to what they can put into their bodies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:42:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joshua Kaina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I firmly oppose HB1118. The 14th amendment of the US Constitution allows the right to body integrity. The constitution also protects our religious freedoms. Do not pass this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:47:44 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kayla Davis	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, as someone who has been a patient my whole life, also a caregiver, Licensed Nurse Assistant at one point and a Mom it is so important we as United States Citizens should have the right to choose what is best for our God given bodies. Not what some doctor who gets paid to basically "sell products to consumers" or some government person (whom may or may not also get money from certain companies) or both says!!!! It should be a basic human right to be able to choose what goes into our bodies. All these complexes (medical, autoimmune,ect) that were created to make money need to be stopped at the risk of the people. We shouldn't be test subjects. Plus, if you're vaccinated, shouldn't you be protected from the unvaccinated? Remember the saying "you are the ONLY one who knows your body not anyone else." Please give power to the people to choose. God be with you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 4:49:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chanelle Tomas-Alconcel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair(s), Vice Chair(s), and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **oppose HB1118**, which would remove religious exemptions for school vaccinations in Hawai‘i. While I understand that vaccinations help prevent diseases, I believe this bill takes away **important rights from parents and families**.

1. Parents Should Have a Choice

Parents should have the right to **decide what is best** for their children. Some families have strong **religious or personal beliefs** about medical decisions, and they should not be forced to choose between **following their beliefs or sending their child to school**.

2. Protecting Religious Freedom

In America, we have the right to **practice our religion freely**. Some families choose not to vaccinate because of their religious beliefs. This bill **takes away that choice** and does not respect **personal faith and values**. If the state removes this religious exemption, **what other rights could be taken away next?**

3. Every Child is Different

Not every child’s body reacts the same way to vaccines. While medical exemptions exist, they are **very hard to get**, even when there are real concerns. Families should not have to fight for **basic medical rights** when it comes to their children’s health.

4. What’s Next?

If this bill passes, it **sets a dangerous precedent**. Today, the government says religious beliefs don’t matter when it comes to vaccines. **What will they take away next?** People should always have the right to **make informed decisions** for their families.

5. The Impact on Schools & Families

Hawai'i already struggles with school attendance and **a high cost of living**. If children are not allowed to attend school because their families have religious beliefs against vaccines, **more families may be forced to leave Hawai'i**. This bill could make things harder for local families who are already struggling.

I believe in keeping people healthy, but **we cannot ignore parental rights and religious freedom**. Families should not be punished for making medical decisions that align with their beliefs. I strongly **urge you to reject HB1118** and protect the rights of Hawai'i families.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Respectfully,

Chanelle

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:11:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gordon LaBedz, MD	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSITION!

As a Family Physician who has immunized thousands of patients in my career, I find this bill offensive, totalitarian and UnAmerican. It interferes with the patient's choice, it interferes with the doctor patient relationship and it interferes with religious freedom.

Gordon LaBedz, MD

Kekaha, Kaua'i

808 634 8535

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:14:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eleonore Koury	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my very strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential!!!! Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions!!!!

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:15:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Set Thach-Craig	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear law makers,

I am a care giver and mother of young children. I strongly oppose this bill, HB 1118. We have numerous more dire issues facing our state of Hawaii such as housing shortages, high cost of living, drug abuse, homelessness, and poor school system just to name some. How is this bill going to solve these real crises facing our state and people?

This bill is nothing more then one person's flex of power to infringe on the God given rights to expressively practice our freedom of conscience. No citizens of this country should be punished to vaccinate or not vaccinate. I urged you to stop this bill from passing and find real solutions for real problems facing our people.

Thank you,

Set T.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:20:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vicky Mink	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Opposition to HB1118

Dear Chair Takayama, Vice Chair Lee Loy, and Members of the Health Committee,

I am writing to express my absolute opposition to HB1118. This bill is an outrageous overreach of government power, stripping away religious freedoms and forcing families into compliance with something that goes against their deeply held beliefs.

Forcing parents to inject their innocent children with substances they do not consent to—especially ones that may alter DNA—is not only unethical, but it is biblically wrong. The government has no right to override the beliefs of parents who are protecting their children based on faith and moral convictions.

Hawaii has always prided itself on diversity and respecting different backgrounds. Yet this bill does the opposite—it bulldozes religious freedom and parental rights in the name of compliance. Where does this stop? What else will the government force on our children?

This is not about public health; this is about control. Religious exemptions exist for a reason, and taking them away is an attack on our fundamental rights. I urge you to vote NO on HB1118 and stand for freedom, for parental choice, and for the protection of our children.

Sincerely,

Vicky Mink

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:23:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Thuy Huynh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. For one, I believe this bill is a violation of our freedom of religion, as guaranteed by the Constitution. Moreover, Hawaii's proposed legislation is a national outlier, as only 5 states do not allow any type of non-medical exemptions. Some states are even considering bills to establish state-level vaccine injury databases or to change rules about what providers must tell patients about the shots. The steps such as these would be more conducive to lowering vaccine hesitancy. I believe taking away religious exemption and making vaccines mandatory will only increase distrust in public health authorities.

The draconian measures that were implemented during the COVID pandemic did enormous damage to this state's economy and small businesses, not to mention the negative effects on our population's (both young and old) physical and mental health. Despite high rates of vaccination, Hawaii did not fare any better in terms of deaths or hospitalizations during the pandemic.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:27:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eliel Starbright	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Exemptions are needed!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:35:32 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Paul Rerucha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose the State of Hawaii attempting to eliminate religious exemptions to childhood vaccines. We live in a country that guarantees the right to practice or religion as we see fit. I neither subscribe to or practice the religion of "vaccines."

The recent COVID "vaccines" neither stopped transmission nor infection. Neither does MMR nor many other vaccines. In fact most vaccines carry a higher risk of dying from the vaccine than from the underlying disease.

It's time to stop this madness.

Thank you

Regards

Paul Rerucha

*The following testimony was **written by Beau King, a 24 years old autistic, non-speaker by pointing to letters on a board** and scribed by his practitioner. If you want to know more about his primary method of communication, please [click here](#) and [click here](#).*

February 6, 2025

State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Health
RE:HB 1118

Aloha Chair Greg Takayama and fellow Health Committee Members,

I oppose this bill. I am vaccine injured and now have autism. Vaccines should always be a choice and never forced on anyone. You have no idea what it is like to be vaccine injured and how difficult my life is. Vaccines are not perfect and can have serious side effects. Because they are not tested like regular drugs we don't really know how safe they are. I want no child to go through what I go through.

Mahalo,
Beau King

postscript by Beau's mother Julianne King

"Beau was documented vaccine injured at age 3 by Dr. Richard Kelley, metabolic geneticist at Johns Hopkins' Kennedy Krieger Institute, in Baltimore, Maryland. Beau was one of the plaintiffs in the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program [autism omnibus](#) in which over 5000 families were lumped together as a class action case. Recently, a motion has been filed alleging that the Department Of Justice lawyers committed fraud. That fraud led to thousands of families of vaccine-injured children being denied the right to compensation and the right to have their cases heard, according to the motion."

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:47:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118 and SB1437.

This is gross government overreach and a blatant violation of our individual rights and freedoms given to us through our Constitution and by God.

If this bill is pushed through, I can guarantee there will be years of costly litigation of which our State cannot afford and for which the outcome will be in the people's favor based on our Constitution.

Why would our "elected" officials want to put our State through this? What gives our "elected" officials the right to interfere with parental decisions?? Who benefits monetarily from all these bills being put forth this session regarding vaccinations?????

Passing this bill would be tomfoolery at its finest!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:51:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Gugliemelli	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Subject : SB1437 , HB1118

January 29, 2025

To Whom It May Concern within the State of Hawai‘i,

I hope this letter finds you well. I am writing to respectfully express my belief in the importance of preserving religious exemptions for vaccination, based on my strong Christian faith and pro-life convictions. I believe that the practice of receiving vaccinations derived from aborted fetal cells is incompatible with my deeply held religious beliefs and commitment to the sanctity of life.

As a Christian, I hold the conviction that life begins at conception and that each individual is made in the image of God. The Scriptures affirm that God knows the plans He has for us even before our birth (Jeremiah 1:5). With this understanding, I approach matters of health and well-being. I believe that God, in His infinite wisdom, has designed and created our bodies with purpose, and I trust in His divine protection and provision for my health.

In alignment with this belief, I consider my body a temple of the Holy Spirit, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20. As such, I am called to honor God with my body and to be cautious about introducing foreign substances that may conflict with my faith. Vaccines produced using aborted fetal cell lines present a moral dilemma for me, as it would involve indirectly participating in a process I believe to be inconsistent with the sanctity of life.

Furthermore, I believe that God is the ultimate healer, as referenced in Exodus 15:26, where He promises to be the healer of His people. While I acknowledge the benefits of medical science, I place my trust in God's sovereignty over my life and health. Romans 14:5-6 reminds us that each person must be fully convinced in their own mind about what is right in matters of conscience, and I am convinced that my faith compels me to reject vaccines produced from fetal cells, as it conflicts with my pro-life stance.

Additionally, I find encouragement in the call of Romans 12:2, which exhorts believers not to conform to the patterns of this world, but to be transformed by the renewing of our minds. I understand that decisions around vaccinations are highly debated, but I feel led to trust in God's guidance and the convictions of my conscience rather than societal or governmental pressures.

Therefore, I respectfully request that my religious convictions be honored through the provision of a religious exemption to vaccination. I am committed to loving my neighbors as myself, as instructed in Mark 12:31, and am always open to discussing my beliefs in a respectful manner. I believe that allowing for religious exemptions respects the diversity of thought and conscience, which is vital to the freedom of belief in a democratic society.

Furthermore, I believe that vaccine mandates violate our rights and freedoms as American citizens. Below are the key reasons why I feel that a vaccine mandate infringes upon our fundamental freedoms:

1. Right to Bodily Autonomy:

The Fifth Amendment protects individuals from government actions that would deprive them of life, liberty, or property without due process. A vaccine mandate could be seen as a violation of this right to bodily autonomy, as it forces individuals to undergo a medical procedure against their will. This undermines the principle that individuals should have control over their own bodies, including making decisions about their healthcare.

2. Religious Freedom:

The First Amendment guarantees the right to freely practice one's religion. Many individuals oppose vaccination mandates due to deeply held religious beliefs. Mandating a vaccine could

infringe on the right of individuals to follow their conscience and religious teachings, which may prohibit certain medical interventions.

3. Freedom of Choice:

The right to make personal decisions, especially those concerning one's health, is an essential part of the American ethos. Vaccine mandates undermine the concept of personal choice by removing the ability of individuals to weigh the risks and benefits of vaccination for themselves. This type of government interference challenges the belief that individuals should be free to make decisions about their lives without coercion.

4. Slippery Slope to Overreach:

Mandating vaccines could set a dangerous precedent for government overreach, allowing the government to impose further restrictions on personal freedoms in the future. This could pave the way for future mandates on other aspects of life, eroding the broader rights guaranteed to all Americans.

5. Informed Consent:

American healthcare is based on the principle of informed consent, where individuals are provided with all the necessary information to make an informed decision about their medical care. A vaccine mandate bypasses this principle by removing the element of personal decision-making. Individuals should be allowed to make their own informed choices, based on their understanding of the risks and benefits of vaccination.

In conclusion, while I acknowledge the importance of promoting public health, I firmly believe that vaccine mandates represent a serious infringement on personal freedoms and individual rights. It is crucial to preserve the American ideals of bodily autonomy, religious freedom, personal choice, and informed consent. These freedoms should be safeguarded from government interference, especially when it comes to making personal healthcare decisions.

Thank you for your time and consideration of my request. May God bless you and grant you wisdom in all your decisions.

Respectfully,

Sophia Gugliemelli

91-1013 Kaikauhaa St.

Ewa Beach, HI 96706

sophiagugliemelli@gmail.com

[\(973\)-234-3610](tel:(973)234-3610)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:53:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janeesa Imamura	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because vaccines have possible severe side effects, every adult should be free to opt out if they don't want it and every parent should have the right to opt of any vaccine they choose. If a parent believes the side effects are too risky, they should be able to say no just like every other medication or supplement out there. This decision is for parents to make and should not be impacted by the state government. Currently 30 states plus DC allow religious exemptions and 13 other states allow religious and personal exemptions. If these personal exemptions are allowed in those states and they are safe, we should be allowed the same freedom. Do not take away a parent's choice to do what is best for our individual child.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:56:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tasa mcdonald	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is unconstitutional to force anyone to get vaccinated, denying children education, if they don't want to be vaccinated for religious reasons. You all should be ashamed of yourself for trying to impose this law. You all are puppets for big pharmaceutical companies, trying to take our rights away.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:58:02 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Abby Simmons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair and esteemed members of the committee,

Please support this bill.

Abby Simmons - Hawaii resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:04:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Hotchkiss	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I vehemently oppose HB1118 as it is a complete violation of the United States Constitution. Governor Josh Green and the state of Hawai'i are not above the Constitution. Religious exemption is our God given right as citizens of the United States of America.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:15:38 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanelle Starrett	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to OPPOSE this bill. Please respect and honor our beliefs, and let us raise our children the way we see best. No law should ever force us to violate our faith. The government should never have control of our personal health decisions! I urge everyone to vote NO to HB1118 and protect your families rights!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:16:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Lyons	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Where there is risk to health from vaccines, there must be choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:16:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jennifer ann lowe, living former minor	on behalf of ALL MINORS UNDER GUARDIANS & TRUSTEES	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments: NOTICE OF OBJECTION TO LEGISLATIVE VIOLATION OF CONSTITUTIONAL LIMITATIONS BY PROPOSED ELIMINATION OF RELIGIOUS EXEMPTION TO HAWAII IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS February 6, 2025 TO: The Governor of the State of Hawai'i, ^{[[SEP]]}All Members of the Hawai'i State Legislature, ^{[[SEP]]}The Lieutenant Governor, and Legislative Staff FROM: One of The People, on behalf of those presumed to be under Guardians & Trustees NOTICE OF LEGAL VIOLATION & PERSONAL LIABILITY We, the undersigned People of Hawai'i, being of the age of termination and competent to stand upon our protected rights enumerated in the Hawai'i Constitution, the Constitution of the United States of America, and the Bill of Rights, hereby serve actual, legal, and constructive notice to the Hawai'i Legislature, the Governor, the Lieutenant Governor, and Legislative Staff that any legislative action eliminating religious exemptions for immunizations is: 1 Unconstitutional, 2 Unlawful, and 3 Exposes participants to personal liability under federal law. The proposed legislation violates protections guaranteed by: • The First, Fourth, Sixth, and Fourteenth Amendments to the U.S. Constitution, • The Religious Freedom Restoration Act (RFRA), 42 U.S.C. § 2000bb et seq., • Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) § 553A-20 (Age of Termination) and HRS § 577-1 (Age of Majority), • Supreme Court precedent, including Marbury v. Madison, 5 U.S. 137 (1803), which renders any resulting legislative acts void by operation of law and subject to facial challenge. Furthermore, Public Officials who knowingly or recklessly violate these fundamental rights may be subject to: ✓ Recall or termination from office, ^{[[SEP]]}✓ Personal liability under 42 U.S.C. § 1983, and ^{[[SEP]]}✓ Investigation by the U.S. Department of Justice, Civil Rights Division for violations of inalienable, civil, and political rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:18:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jala Navarro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am strongly against bill HB1118 to make vaccines mandatory to any non medical reasons including religious. Parents should have the freedom to chose whether or not to get their child vaccinated. Many of these vaccines use substances that are unhealthy for the human body like aluminum and formeldehyde or unusual and against religion like aborted fetus tissues and animal derived gelatins. Vaccines have a long list of ingredients that are not openly exposed to the public. There has not been any direct studies that I am aware of regarding adverse long term effects of vaccines and there has been short term side effects some deadly that get reported to VAERS. These vaccines are made by pharmaceutical companies that are also the same companies promoting drugs that end up decreasing health or even worse causing death and have lists of long side effects that are sometimes even worse than the symptom they are trying to treat themselves. I believe that parents should be able to make that choice on their own which vaccines they want their child to take or not giving them any at all. Once the child is grown they should have the choice to make whether or not to get fully vaccinated if they aren't already or remain unvaccinated. I do not think preventing a child from education just because they are unvaccinated if justifiable especially if the majority of children and adults are vaccinated and choose to vaccinate . What's the risk if someone unvaccinated is around them? We as a people should have that freedom and not have it taken away by some bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:50:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

We are writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

We urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. We oppose HB1118. Please vote against it.

Sincerely,

Kevin and Claire Ortega

Kauai Residents

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:57:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kathleen Ahsing	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB 1118 which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach of government that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held religious and personal beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 6:59:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bethany Letoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines are the reason childhood mortality rates are at a historic low. Because of vaccines, I don't have to spend every day wondering if my children will succumb to a horrible illness. Herd immunity is the best tool we as a society have to protect against infectious disease, and non-medical exemptions put children who are immunocompromised at unnecessary risk. I strongly support the repeal of non-medical exemptions for vaccines for children in public and charter schools.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:00:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gallagher	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose taking away, parental right to choose what goes into their child's body! This should never have even been brought up. This bill should immediately be thrown out

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:02:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aliya Olson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

[02/06/25]

To: Hawaii State Legislature

Re: Opposition to HB1118 – RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Furthermore, as a person of faith, I firmly believe that my body is a temple, as stated in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20: "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore, honor God with your bodies." Vaccination defies God's perfect design of the human immune system, which was created to fight illness naturally. Psalm 139:14 affirms, "I praise you because I am fearfully and wonderfully made; your works are wonderful, I know that full well." It is my deeply held religious belief that artificially altering my immune system through vaccination goes against God's divine plan for human health and well-being.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous

precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I respectfully request that you vote against HB1118.

Sincerely,
Aliya

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:04:35 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carly Hietpas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony Opposing HB1118: Relating To Non-medical Exemptions To Immunization Requirements.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee,

I, Carly Hietpas, am writing to express my strong opposition to Bill HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunizations required for school entry. As a mother, I believe it is my fundamental right to make decisions regarding my child's health and well-being, including whether or not they receive certain vaccinations.

This bill infringes upon my parental rights by stripping away the ability to make an informed, personal decision about what is put into my child's body. I understand the importance of public health, but it is essential that we also respect the rights of individuals and families to make choices that align with their beliefs, including religious ones. Government mandates should not dictate these decisions.

Moreover, the potential for adverse effects from vaccinations cannot be overlooked. As a parent, I am the one who will bear the consequences if a vaccine has a harmful impact on my child's health. It is not the legislators or public health officials who will live with the long-lasting effects of those decisions—it is us, the parents, who will face the emotional, physical, and financial repercussions. I cannot take such a risk without the right to decide what is best for my child based on my family's needs and beliefs.

I urge you to consider the importance of protecting the rights of parents in this matter. This bill takes away my ability to make the most important decisions in my child's life and forces me to relinquish my parental rights. My child, my choice. I strongly oppose HB1118 and ask that you vote against it.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Carly Hietpas

91-1200 Keaunui Dr, Ewa Beach HI, 96706

(808) 393-5177

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:05:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
V Butler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 as it infringes on my constitutional rights and religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:11:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aileen Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is very disturbing to see that there is such a move to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccinations just to go to school. Where is the distinction between Church and State? This is mandated in the constitution is it not? The State SHOULD NOT have power over parental decisions regarding medical and religious choice for our children. This is Wrong, do not pass this bill.

I and my entire Ohana strongly oppose this ridiculous health imposition mandate by Gov. Green and this legislative body. Please do not pass this bill.

The number of recommended vaccines for children have been increased dramatically in the past 20-30 years and cause many issues that the medical, pharmaceutical and government dismiss. There are many vaccine injured children that have no voice and more children that this bill if passed will put in harms way.

Vote NO!

Or you're Voting against God and our religious rights.

Vote NO!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:12:51 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Sky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

I am a mother, born and raised in Hawaii, with two children in elementary school. I strongly oppose HB1118, which would remove the religious exemption for school immunization. Our religious beliefs guide our decision not to vaccinate, and it is our God-given right to make this choice for our children.

Education is a fundamental right, and no child should be denied access due to their family's religious beliefs. I urge you to find other ways to boost immunization rates in our state without infringing on religious freedoms. Let's work together to ensure all children receive the education they deserve without discrimination.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Sky

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:16:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Newton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's not a "loophole" that needs to be closed. Don't disregard people's religious or philosophical beliefs just because they may contradict your own beliefs or agenda. I understand it's your job to protect the public the best you can, but don't do it at the cost people's freedoms.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:20:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Ann True	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB1118

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:27:59 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lily Sky	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee on Health,

I am a teenager, born and raised in Hawaii, and I believe strongly in religious freedom. I oppose HB1118 because it restricts the rights of individuals and families to make decisions based on their own beliefs. No child or young adult should be denied an education—whether in elementary school or college—because of their own or their family’s convictions.

If this bill passes, it could force Hawaii residents to attend college out of state, leading to a loss of both talent and revenue for our state. I urge the committee to find other ways to improve vaccination rates without infringing on our freedoms.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Lily

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:33:25 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Timothy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is important and I support this. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:35:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karla Ann Furumizo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of three school-age children, I strongly oppose HB 1118. This violates our first amendment protection of religious liberty. Neither DOH nor DOE should override the parents medical decision for our children, especially regarding religious convictions. Attempting this unscupulous government overreach in Hawaii is appalling. I urge you to vote no on this Bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:35:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person’s health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I oppose HB1118. Please vote against it.

Aloha,

Terri Miyashiro

Kauai Resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:41:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Genova	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

it is against medical and religious freedom to make it otherwise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:42:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hong Nguyen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It is my religious belief that we must not inject any part of other person's into our own bodies. All vaccines except COVID vaccine are made of aborted fetal cells. Therefore, I refuse to receive vaccinations, nor do I accept them for my children. Every kid must have an access to public education. State must never force citizens to receive vaccines against their religious belief and it must never take away their access to public education. We have two children who will need to attend public school and we cannot homeschool as both parents are working. Please do not repeal the religious exemption. I strong oppose this bill. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:52:24 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christie Brooke	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Absolutely OPPOSE! Religious freedom to choose is protected by our United States constitution. We say NO to forced vaccinations- yes we want our keiki protected but having them mandated by the state and going against religious freedom to choose is giving the power to state officials and not parents. Every child and person has a different body type and these vaccines are NOT clear on how they will affect them long term. My friends have taken vaccines mandated by the state and they have suffered life altering results with heart problems and incurable conditions due to government mandated vaccinations that now affect their children. 100% OPPOSE as a kama'aina and native Pacific Islander- no government official should be allowed to force any family or child to have a required vaccination to attend a public school paid for by our tax dollars. As a former educator with eight years of experience, I have seen the trauma first hand of your mandates and it DOES NOT PROTECT OUR KEIKI. These vaccines are harmful and we DO NOT ACCEPT THIS MANDATE NOMATTER WHAT YOUR RELIGION OR CREED.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:52:56 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rocio Bueno	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha to all members who will be voting on this measure, HB 1118.

It is with sincere respect for your positions, in our government, that I say to you that it is your job to protect everyone's freedoms and not to take freedoms away.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:54:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor Muh	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not believe that vaccines are necessary for good, healthy humans. In fact, vaccines are detrimental to maintaining good, healthy humans. The last four years is proof of this. If someone chooses not to receive an injection , for whatever reason, that's his choice.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:56:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ahonui Mims	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

No ka 'u 'olelo ho'ike: na kelā me keia kānaka e koho inā kūpono ka lā'au ko'oko'o nona iho me kāna mau keiki. 'A'OLE ia he koina mai ka moku'aina mai.

Mahalo,

Na'u nō

Na Alexandra Mims

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:56:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Camas Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions. Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions. Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students - those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:00:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Curtis Cook	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs. Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions. Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions. Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students - those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:10:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Normajean Brady	Individual	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

I believe in our Constirution and that we the people have a right to choose whether or not we want a vaccine. We the people decide based on medical, or religious reasons or just plain choice if we want a vaccine or not. No one has the right to force anyone!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:10:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Niki pestel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No one has the right to be forced into taking a substance that goes against their values. Morales. Faith and Belief. As children of God who has given us the almighty power to heal thyself. One should never subject their body to such tainted unsafe bio weaponry which has been created in evil to due harm to humans. To ultimately control and enslavement. No thank-you 🙄

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:12:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

You cannot remove the medical religious exemption.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:13:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Esau Mims	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In my experience, natural immunity is the best. I went through the pandemic, was around people who were exposed to and had COVID, not once did I get it. And almost every single one of my family members that received the mRNA vaccination have had major health problems since or were accelerated. I also work with people who have compromised immune systems who have not received the vaccinations, and even though that they were immune compromised, and their doctors recommended that they received vaccinations, because of their spiritual beliefs and diligent research, they did not take the vaccination, and even after getting COVID two times, they are resilient with no long-lasting effects of COVID. Even though they were supposed to be diagnosed with long-term symptoms such as loss of taste and sensation of smell, they were able to study different methods and were able to regain their senses. So I believe that everyone should have a choice, whether it's spiritual or ethical, to not confirm to something that goes against their faith.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:13:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brandi K Akina	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this be these are our children and we should not be forced by government to go against our beliefs and inject our children with poison! This is unconstitutional and discriminatory. Josh Green you have no right, it's not your place to decide what we as parent believe in and choose for our kids. I say NO to this bill!!!!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:13:42 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel Haduch	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB1118 because it's infringement on personal, religious, and philosophical rights. As parents we must make the best decisions for the health of our children and this includes vaccines. My child has the MTHR gene and if forced to get vaccinations could have had a negative effect on his developing brain due to the research I've done on the amount of vaccination injuries that occur. Give parents the religious and personal right to choose!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:24:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
kim santos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I ask that you please keep the Religious exemption for those who choose not to vaccinate their children due to their Religious beliefs. This decision by parents must be honored. Thank you

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:25:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tracy Karnuth	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill to remove religious exemptions for vaccines for children to attend school. It is unconstitutional and parents should have freedom to decide for their children if it goes against their religious beliefs or not and also in general parents should be able to make the choice to not vaccinate their children if they choose so.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:26:12 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rachel L. Curnel Struempf DEM	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha honorable Chair and Comittee members,

As the mother of a vaccine injured child, I believe everyone should have the right to autonomous choice over their body. Please continue to support body autonomy by allowing vaccine exemptions, oppose HB1118.
mahalo,

Rachel Curnel Struempf

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:28:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Kawaoka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician and a parent, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:29:26 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marc Carreira	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Preserve citizens medical rights and privacy. Governor was wrong about Covid lockdowns and forced vaccinations. If this passes more parents will withdraw their children from the DOE and hurt teachers and funding.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:29:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Davin Jaime	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Davin and I am from O'ahu. I am submitting this testimony to strongly oppose HB1118, as it threatens our fundamental right to religious freedom, which is explicitly protected by the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution. Any attempt to limit or infringe upon this right is a direct violation of the principles upon which our nation was founded.

Religious freedom is an essential part of both American and Hawaiian traditions. Enacting legislation like HB1118 creates a dangerous precedent by allowing government interference in religious practices. Such measures not only undermine individual rights but also weaken the very freedoms that define our society.

Additionally, this bill fails to take into account the rich cultural and spiritual diversity present in Hawai'i. Our state thrives on a variety of faiths and beliefs, and it is crucial to preserve the right of individuals and religious institutions to practice their faith without undue government intervention. Restricting religious freedoms in any capacity erodes the inclusivity and respect that our communities value deeply.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to reject HB1118 and uphold the constitutional protections of religious liberty. The preservation of our rights must remain a priority, and this bill takes us in the wrong direction.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Much aloha.

Davin

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:41:23 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Steve Santos	Calvary Chapel Westside	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am OPPOSED to this bill, HB1118

I believe that it not only violates the rights of a parent to choose all medical treatment as they deem right for their children for religious or any other personal reason.

I am also opposed because of the hardship that this bill will put our local families if it is passed. If passed, many parents whose convictions are strong and committed to protecting their children and that will stand faithful to not go against their religious beliefs will be forced to remove their children from public schools and find other means to educate their child creating financial hardship.

It will also cause friction and division between families, neighbors and others in our communities as the Covid mandates did in recent years.

Above all, we need to protect parents rights to lead in all care for their children, medical and otherwise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:47:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Megan Harris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to the proposed bill that seeks to eliminate non-medical exemptions for immunization requirements in Hawaii schools. While I understand the intent behind this legislation—to protect public health—I believe that this bill fails to consider critical concerns regarding vaccine safety, long-term effects, and individual rights to informed medical choices.

Lack of Long-Term Safety Testing for mRNA Vaccines

One of the most concerning aspects of this bill is that it forces compliance with vaccines that may not have been adequately studied for long-term safety. The COVID-19 vaccine, which was developed using mRNA technology, has not undergone the extensive long-term testing that traditional vaccines have. This vaccine utilizes novel technology, and its effects over the course of decades remain unknown. Reports of myocarditis, pericarditis, and other severe adverse reactions, particularly among young people, highlight the need for caution rather than mandates. The potential risks of requiring children to receive such vaccines should not be dismissed in the name of herd immunity.

Toxic Ingredients in Current Vaccines

Beyond the COVID-19 vaccine, many standard childhood vaccines contain substances that raise serious health concerns. These include heavy metals like aluminum, which has been linked to neurological disorders, and formaldehyde, a known carcinogen. Additional questionable ingredients include preservatives such as thimerosal (a mercury-based compound) and various stabilizers that may have unintended consequences on developing immune systems. Given these concerns, parents should have the right to weigh the risks and benefits before making medical decisions for their children.

Evaluation of the Current Vaccine Schedule

The modern vaccine schedule is more extensive than ever before, with children receiving dozens of doses by the time they reach school age. Many vaccines also contain additives such as polysorbate 80, which has been shown to impact the blood-brain barrier, as well as artificial dyes and preservatives that have been linked to allergic reactions and behavioral issues. Instead of

forcing compliance, the state should encourage a more individualized approach, recognizing that one-size-fits-all medicine does not account for genetic and biological differences that influence how children respond to vaccines.

The Right to Medical Choice and Bodily Autonomy

Medical decisions should always be made with fully informed consent. Removing religious and personal exemptions forces families to comply with a medical intervention they may not fully trust or agree with. The right to exercise medical freedom is a fundamental liberty that should not be discarded in favor of state mandates. This bill disproportionately impacts families who have sincerely held religious beliefs or personal convictions regarding vaccine safety and efficacy, effectively discriminating against their right to make healthcare decisions in accordance with their values.

I am a mother of 3, my oldest child was vaccine injured. After his MMR/DTAP vaccines around 18 months old he had a grand mal seizure, within 48 hours of being administered these "safe" vaccines. This developed into a seizure disorder which lasted throughout his younger childhood and when he was 4 years old, he was diagnosed with autism spectrum disorder. After watching my child go through this and having severe regression, such as losing motor and language skills after being given vaccines, I elected NOT to have my younger two children vaccinated.

Conclusion

While protecting public health is a noble goal, this bill fails to address the legitimate concerns surrounding vaccine safety, composition, and long-term effects. Instead of eliminating non-medical exemptions, I urge the legislature to respect parental rights, promote informed consent, and allow individuals to make medical decisions that align with their beliefs and risk assessments. True public health policy should prioritize safety, transparency, and personal choice rather than coercion.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Megan Harris

Island of Maui

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:48:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Fajardo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118! Forcing students to go against their individual and their family's religious beliefs is UNCONSTITUTIONAL. Vaccinations should never ever be a mandate! The government is not who gives us our unalienable rights, it is GOD! Stop with the overreach!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:49:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mei Lyn Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i State Senators and Representatives (Congress)

Hawai'i State Capitol

415 South Beretania St.

Honolulu, HI 96813

I have been sadly informed that presently there is a bill SB1437 and HB1118 shockingly being introduced that is targeting Religious Exemptions from Vaccines for our keiki attending schools in Hawai'i, including the already proven highly injuring and death causing Covid-19 Vaccines.

This is unconstitutional Period. Everyone knows this and I AM calling for a Cease and Desist Immediately. There have been Millions of Injuries and Deaths of not only adults yet of our innocent Keiki all around the world. This is no longer a secret and there are many Federal Lawsuits occurring now.

We the People, WILL NOT DIGRESS BACK TO 2020-2021 and continue to stand for the attempts and threats to our health, our Keiki's Health, our lives and our Freedom of choice any longer nor ever again. We the People also will not allow our rights to our religious beliefs between our Creator of our Souls and Bodies to be trampled on nor to be challenged in any way shape or form. In the Mighty Name of Yeshua, Amen.

Again, These Bills must be eliminated once and for all.

Aloha Ke Akua,

Mei Lyn Brown

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:51:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alison Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a pediatrician, parent, and concerned citizen, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:58:53 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

It is my belief that This bill is infringing on my religious freedoms as a parent. Parents should be free to make decisions about their kids according to their convictions and conscience. Taking away the ability for parents to make these decisions violates our ability to practice religion. It is my hope that this committee votes NO to HB1118.

Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:59:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Petricci	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Robert Petricci

Submitted 2/6/2025

AGAINST: H.B. NO. 1118,

RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

BEFORE THE: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH DATE: Friday, February 7, 2025

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

Aloha my name is Robert Petricci I am a Hawaii Island resident. I oppose this bill force vaccinations against our will. Control over our own bodies is a god given right, the governor has no right to do this to free people. Are we free or not, it is really as simple as that. Are we cattle with no right to say NO?. No means no governor Green, this is not what freedom looks like, this bill represents authoritarian oppression. I will not forget things like this, when I vote.

Mahalo please vote no.....

Robert Petricci

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:01:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition of this bill, which aims to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines. It is a violation of religious freedom, parental rights and bodily autonomy. The First Amendment guarantees rights to religious liberty.

Freedom is not a privilege given by the states, it's our rights as American people. I deeply urge you to oppose bill HB1118 and stand firm in protecting the religious liberties of all of Hawaii.

Mahalo for you time and consideration

Emily

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:08:43 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Morihara Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a physician and concerned citizen writing to express my support for HB1118. This bill seeks to remove the non-medical exemption for vaccines for our children in schools. Vaccines have been shown to be safe and effective and keeping our children healthy, thus protecting them and the most vulnerable people in our population. Thank you.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:09:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
christy Kalama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Firm 'A'ole to HB1119
Blessings members of committee

Mahalo ke Akua for all your blessings
Thank you for your protection and guidance over our lives. Thank you always being with me and guiding me to make decisions based in love and not of fear. Thank you creator for giving me the spirit of power, love, and sound judgment. Thank you for giving me the discernment to know what was best for my family and I. Thank you for being with me in all the spaces that attempted to bring discord between you, my child and I. I trust you creator and I see your hand of divine intelligence all around me and within me. Thank you for your life giving power. Thank you for helping me to see the illusions of our time.

This I pray
May all beings be free from illusions, coercion, manipulation, and fear.
May all beings be free from suffering and all the causes of suffering.
May all beings have the discernment needed to navigate the grand illusions of our time.
May all illusions and attempts to create discord and disharmony dissolve.

Thank you for our bodies
A manifestation of your perfection and spirit
I know that No matter what obstacles or undesirable circumstances crosses my path
I refuse to accept it for it is nothing but illusions.
I know that that there can be no obstacle or undesirable circumstance to the mind of God which is in me and around me and serves me always.

I trust in the life giving power of my creator.
Pharma is not my God

Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:13:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kimberly Stewart	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I believe that it not only violates the rights of a parent to choose all medical treatment as they deem right for their children for religious or any other personal reason.

I am also opposed because of the hardship that this bill will put our local families if it is passed. If passed, many parents whose convictions are strong and committed to protecting their children and that will stand faithful to not go against their religious beliefs will be forced to remove their children from public schools and find other means to educate their child creating financial hardship.

It will also cause friction and division between families, neighbors and others in our communities as the Covid mandates did in recent years.

Above all, we need to protect parents rights to lead in all care for their children, medical and otherwise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:14:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As an OBGYN, mother and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118, which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children and communities healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:28:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jerri Shay	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill should be opposed as it is unconstitutional. The individual rights of parents to make medical decisions for their children will be stripped away if this bill passes. The government should never control whether a parent vaccinates their child. Hawaii is a medical freedom state and needs to stay that way. Body autonomy is extremely important.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:29:18 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Moore	HAWAII GENERAL JURAL ASSEMBLY	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

We the people of Hawaii firmly Oppose HB1118. This act of the state is outrageous. It Offends our standing Constitutional Bill of Rights. Every body should have the right to choose. To force vaccinations on our own bodies and on our children is ludacris and evil...Many vaccinations have not gone through complete testing; there is no solid proof that these vaccinations do harm our bodies. In fact, there are more dangers that exist in these medicines that were not test long enough...Many people have died from vaccines already. Stop this bill from being passed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:31:30 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nina A. Kirillova	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote NO on HB118. Parents/kids who choose to exercise exemptions on some or all vaccines should not pose risk to children who are already vaccinated. Let us not turn HI into totalitarian regime, where Christian and Muslim kids are being denied public school education because of their or their parents' religious beliefs. This is religious discrimination.

As tax payers, these Christian families are paying for the public school education. They should have a right to have their children in these schools.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:39:11 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sophia Douvris	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am a resident of Hawai'i Island and I am deeply perturbed by bill HB1118 for myriad reasons....

First of all, vaccines are not conclusively proven to be 100% safe for all people. Medical decisions, especially where there's possible risks, are to be made between a doctor and their patient (or patients parents, in the case of a minor). It is not a decision for public servants to involve themselves in. Elected officials and government in a free country have no place dictating citizens' medical desisions, especially irreversible treatments/procedures.

Secondly, "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof;...". In the United States of America, government has no right to infringe on the religious practices of citizens. Qualified elected officials and law makers are wise to remember the rights guaranteed to American citizens under the Constitution of the United States of America.

Finally, to deny a child's education based on unnecessary and potentially dangerous medical procedures is unethical. All children are entitled to a fair education, regardless of medical decisions. This bill falls close to some type of extortion on our children's health and should be stopped immediately.

Thank you for reading my thoughts on this atrocious, unconstitutional bill.

Sincerely,

Sophia Douvris

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:40:16 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Spikerman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oppose HB 1118, parents have the right to choose for their children and family.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:48:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Atau Sakuma	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly opposed to this bill as I know many law abiding, health conscious Hawai'i residents are.

The Governor, like many in medicine today, is disregarding parents and their rights and desires to care for the best interest of their children, because of sheer arrogance. They did it with the Covid Vaccine; where health organizations around the world have found them to be dangerous. Most of the medical rhetoric regarding vaccines, like herd immunity along with often used scare tactics originated from vaccine manufacturers and blur the truth, which is that there is enough evidence to support a parents concerns for the safety and efficacy of the vaccines.

regarding religious exemption in particular, it is unconstitutional for the Governor would try to take away parents religious rights. Parents must be able to make health and religious decisions for their children without the heavy and greedy hand of the state government forcing their biased MORAL decisions on us.

Just because the governor is a Doctor by trade, doesn't give him the MORAL grounds to make this decision for people of Hawaii.

I'm a Realtor by trade. It wouldn't be right for me to force people to buy a home just because my experience and occupation tells me it would be in their best interest. As ridiculous as that sounds, it's pretty much what the governor is doing, while stepping on and disrespecting our parental rights.

please don't allow this travesty to happen here. Stop being a copycat to the worst run state in America (CA).

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:50:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gary Wong Wagner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Government should stay out of our business and should not be able to tell us that we have to choose between giving our kids an education or vaccinating our kids. Totally inappropriate and should not be legal in the state of Hawaii.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:52:09 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anita Green	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB 1118

Dear Members of the HAWAII Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions to vaccination. This bill directly threatens fundamental rights protected by the First Amendment, infringing upon religious freedom and parental rights in making informed healthcare decisions for our children.

Religious exemptions exist to uphold the deeply held beliefs of families who, based on their faith, choose to opt out of certain medical interventions. Removing this exemption sets a dangerous precedent—one that disregards the constitutional right to religious freedom in favor of government-mandated medical procedures.

Furthermore, parental rights must be respected in matters of healthcare. Every child is unique, and families deserve the ability to make decisions that align with their values and best interests. Stripping away this choice undermines the trust between the government and the citizens it serves.

It is important to acknowledge that informed, responsible parents who seek religious exemptions are not acting recklessly but rather in accordance with their sincere beliefs and careful consideration of risks and benefits. Medical decisions should never be forced, especially when they involve deeply personal and spiritual convictions.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and protect the fundamental rights of families in our state. Please respect the constitutional freedoms that have long been the cornerstone of our democracy.

Sincerely,

Anita Green

Kapaa. HAWAII

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:56:17 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Renee Kawelo	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

The description to this hearing is so deceiving. “Repeals the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements” in reality this is an anti choice and an anti religious to freedoms bill.

No one is saying your jobs aren't hard but
Politics and politicians DO NOT belong anywhere near my medical decisions and how we observe and practice our protected rights to religion. God created my kids with intact immune systems that were able to naturally beat covid and anything else that has come their way.

Green talks about how fast locals are leaving and I know that Nakamura was proud of her assistance with producing affordable housing per her interview in 2021 on PBS and yet here is another issue that will create more locals leaving as if there wasnt already a huge exodus happening.

Is the goal to further alienate more natives and citizens of this state? We already feel displaced with the absorbent costs associated with living here and the political climate that has been in Hawaii for the last 50 years. We are losing more and more Hawaiian families due to the failures of our political leaders.

I am native Hawaiian and this will force me, my husband and my kids from OUR HOME because the amount of resources I would need to homeschool my kids wouldn't be fare to them or me. We would leave if this passes. We were already building reasons to go and this is a huge last straw.

Green calling Trump a dictator. But who is dictating our medical and religious freedoms now? Green himself said that vaccines could be made safer. He knows there are safety issues with vaccines himself. We should have transparency which we do not. If vaccines were so great then we should be able to rely on our officials to give us the studies that cover all vaccines on schedule vs a placebo group but the only thing I keep hearing is that its not ethical? But it's ethical to vaccinate our most vulnerable without repeatable evidence based studies showing the risk and long term effects on kids that have and havent had vaccines?

Medical exemptions are extremely hard to get because Dr.'s are afraid to be labelled as anti

vaccine. They dont want to lose their practices by speaking up or providing an exemption. Only under extreme circumstances like almost dying will there be any chance of a Dr. wanting to write an exemption. Having allergies or rashes and breathing issues or even fainting after a vaccination will not be enough if this bill passes. Most adverse reactions are never reported.

NO ONE KNOWS who will have an adverse reaction until it's too late. People do die after vaccines and have other debilitating health issues. Sometimes it takes time for those issues to present them selves.

Are you guys really prepared to lose approx \$270 million a year which comes from the federal government to fund public schools? I know it's only 13% of the budget. With the huge mismanagement of funds and assets I doubt we can afford to lose money when all this state does is over spend and not use our money appropriately. Trump stated he would defund any schools requiring a vaccine or mask mandate.Its just one month in and this state wants to make an enemy of "the bad orange man"?

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:01:10 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Drake	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Jessica Drake, oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:15:00 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Craig Allmendinger	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to remove religious exemptions to vaccination. This bill directly threatens fundamental rights protected by the First Amendment, infringing upon religious freedom and parental rights in making informed healthcare decisions for our children.

Religious exemptions exist to uphold the deeply held beliefs of families who, based on their faith, choose to opt out of certain medical interventions. Removing this exemption sets a dangerous precedent—one that disregards the constitutional right to religious freedom in favor of government-mandated medical procedures.

Furthermore, parental rights must be respected in matters of healthcare. Every child is unique, and families deserve the ability to make decisions that align with their values and best interests. Stripping away this choice undermines the trust between the government and the citizens it serves.

It is important to acknowledge that informed, responsible parents who seek religious exemptions are not acting recklessly but rather in accordance with their sincere beliefs and careful consideration of risks and benefits. Medical decisions should never be forced, especially when they involve deeply personal and spiritual convictions.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and protect the fundamental rights of families in our state. Please respect the constitutional freedoms that have long been the cornerstone of our democracy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:29:50 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Richard Hoapili	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I opposed Bill HB1118 because after what happened with Covid, I never did and never will trust any vaccine. Josh Green needs to stop trying to Poison all of us in Hawaii. This is not right

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:29:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lauren mekeel bohl	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

There is no reason why this bill should be passed. Vaccinations have been proven to harm more than help, are a business and do not better the well being of our society. Taking away this right to choose whether or not to innoculate childreb is absurd and should be absolutely not allowed and illegal. What kind of government needs to interfere with individual's rights and privacy.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:32:36 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David R Hamman	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This measure violates God given unalienable rights & the Nuremberg Code of informed consent of which the US is a signatory to. Any legislative body members or officials promoting such violations of God given unalienable rights and the Nuremberg Code can be held personally liable under Common Law - 7th Amendment

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:34:49 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a pediatrician, I strongly support HB 1118, which would repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are one of the safest, most effective, and most economical interventions to keep children healthy. Over recent years, we have observed with dismay that increasing numbers of parents are seeking non-medical vaccine exemptions for their children. As a result, Hawai'i is now below threshold for herd immunity for several devastating diseases, including measles, which is extremely contagious and can have serious complications. Repealing the non-medical vaccine exemption would benefit all children in Hawai'i, ensuring that keiki are protected from unnecessary suffering and potentially lifelong disability or death.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:40:39 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tania Fukuda-Freuler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Religious freedom is foundational to our country. Personal choices about our health based on religion must be allowed to uphold freedom of religion. When the gvt controls both religious choices and health choices it is a very dangerous thing. Please do not take this constitutional right from us.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:41:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa De Costa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am vehemently opposed to this bill. Hawai'i has long been a state that welcomes all beliefs, traditions, and practices with open arms. It is one of the few places where so many cultures and religions can coexist so harmoniously. Forcing parents to choose between sending their kids to public school and honoring their personal medical/religious choice is abhorrent. I am pro choice, and not just for women's bodies, but pro choice for all bodies. All of you self proclaimed pro choice legislators can not call yourself such any longer if this is the type of control you wish to force upon the citizens. As a mother with children who have had adverse reactions to some vaccines, I will not stand for this. You are doing a disservice to the Hawai'i Department of Education as this will only lead to a decrease in enrollment. I will pull my children out before I force them to get certain vaccines such as the HPV Gardasil vaccine, which has high rates of adverse reactions. Shame on all of you politicians for only viewing this topic with a black and white lens, not seeing it as a spectrum that it is. I am not anti-vax. I'm just against certain vaccines due to extensive experience personally and through friends and family members who have had issues. I am someone who believes every parent should have the choice to decide for their own kids. To force everyone to have every single vaccine and eliminate any option for an alternative perspective and avenue in which to attend public school is unconstitutional. I hope we can all fight to protect both religious and medical freedoms in this state.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:04:45 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MALIA KAHALE	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha and I oppose to any child and their parents to be forced to put any thing, foreign, hard, soft, dry or wet that it might not work well with their body internally and may upset,her stomach and vomit bodily fluids and spread to others.Or case an allergic attack of irritability skin from the foreign objects as said before or worse externally may cause a prevented death. Mahalo in advance

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:10:22 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Drew Elwood	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this Bill. Hawaii Constitution Article 1 section 2 states "All persons are free by nature and are equal in their inherent and inalienable rights." This bill would violate individual rights and sovereignty. Per Article 16 section 4 any rep that swore oaths to support and defend hawaii constitution would be breaking their own oath. How could you even consider force vaccinations? After the last four years of the "safe and effective" nonsense. How many do you know have had heart attacks, strokes, cancer etc... Wake up. This bill is disgusting on its face.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:11:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
sara kimball	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose Bill 1118. Childhood illnesses play a natural role in strengthening the immune system, and removing non-medical exemptions disregards parental choice in healthcare decisions.

MANY vaccines have been developed using cell lines derived from aborted fetal tissue, which is absolutely against everything I believe in. How can you say vaccines "protect" children while using aborted children as a means to the vaccines? This backwards thinking alone warrants the continuation of religious exemptions.

MANY vaccines have not undergone long-term testing to fully assess their safety. The 1986 National Childhood Vaccine Injury Act granted manufacturers immunity from liability for vaccine-related injuries, meaning they are not held accountable for potential harm.

Until vaccines are thoroughly tested and manufacturers are held responsible for any adverse effects, I cannot support a bill that forces medical procedures without the option for informed refusal. Bill 1118 strips parents and guardians of their right to make medical decisions based on their beliefs and concerns, and I urge lawmakers to reject it.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:12:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Glenn Grimes	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose the passing of HB1118 in any form.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:15:08 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melania Aghakian	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to the government deciding what is best for my child. This bill Imposes on my right to choose what to put in my child's body. I am my child's parent and the one that's responsive for deciding what is best for my child. The government is not my child's parent.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:39:20 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan wadas	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it violates our constitutional rights. I am appaled that you all would even think to bring on more violations of our religious right to not have medical intervention, in the wake of settled lawsuits for millions of dollars that tried to do what you are doing. We need a bill that puts you all responsible for the monies awarded from lawsuits that come from religious freedom violation bills you waste time on and try to pass.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 11:58:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juanita Ka'ahanui	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Juanita Ka'ahanui and I strongly oppose HB118. This bill strips away non-medical immunization exemptions, violating religious freedom and parental rights.

My Native Hawaiian (Kanaka 'Ōiwi) children have had a religious exemption since birth. Our faith teaches that our bodies, created by God, are designed to heal naturally. As 1 Corinthians 6:19 says, "Do you not know that your body is a temple of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own." We firmly believe that our health decisions should align with our faith, and forced medical interventions violate our fundamental religious rights.

In 2021, the State of Hawaii Department of Education approved our religious exemption for my children to play sports, recognizing the legitimacy of our faith-based convictions. Their ability to attend school has never been threatened—until now. HB118 seeks to strip away that same recognition, denying my children access to the public education my tax dollars fund and forcing families like mine to choose between faith and schooling.

Exodus 15:26 says, "I am the Lord who heals you," and Mark 5:34 states, "Daughter, your faith has healed you. Go in peace and be freed from your suffering." These scriptures affirm our belief that God is our healer, and our faith guides our medical choices.

I urge you to oppose HB118 and protect our religious and constitutional rights. I am here to protect Hawaii's Constitution, which grants us the right to religious exemption and I urge you to do the same.

Mahalo.

Juanita Ka'ahanui

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:40:21 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brigitte Otto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. In a free society, individuals should have the right to follow their conscience and make decisions based on their personal beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 1:38:19 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenny Nakagawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Committee members,

I oppose HB1118. Parents should be able to decide when and how to vaccinate their children. Likewise, adults should be able to decide what vaccines to take relating to their personal health without being mandated by the government. This is especially true if individuals oppose vaccinations due to their own personal religious beliefs. Please respect people's personal decisions and keep the government out of our individual health care choices.

Mahalo for your time,

Jenny Nakagawa

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 1:41:15 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Catherine Thyne	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Attention,

I strongly oppose you taking away our rights as a parent. This bill is dangerous for the health of our children. If the Pharmaceutical Companies would accept liability for all these vaccines that would show that they believed in them! But to not accept liability for all vaccines then I feel it's a no brainer Parents have the right to decide the health of their own children. If they truly cared they would not have to force this issue! Maybe all the politicians that are pushing these Bills should have all there Family be forced to take all the vaccines whether they want to or not! Then see the side affects for the public to watch! Stop playing with the Health of the Children. Parents have the right to choose for their children. STOP

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 1:51:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm in strong opposition HB1118.

This HB1118 is unconstitutionally removing religious exemptions targeted at our children attending schools in Hawaii. As a parent with deep practiced religious beliefs which are instilled into my children I believe as a parent I have religious freedoms and parental rights on decision making to what medications and vaccines should go into my children's bodies not government. My children have a right to education and should not be denied access to that because of this unconstitutional removal of religious exemptions based on HB1118.

Mahalo,

Tiare Smith

Email: Lahela79@yahoo.com

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:03:40 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daisy Lawton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Daisy Lawton oppose this bill as it takes away our constitutional rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:19:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lorraine Yuen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

First and foremost, I oppose the passing of HB1118 as this bill is a DIRECT VIOLATION OF MY CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS according to the first amendment of the United States Constitution TO EXERCISE MY RELIGIOUS FREEDOM to refuse these vaccines. Also, the denial of religious accommodations based on one's sincerely held religious beliefs would be contrary to federal law (the Civil Rights Act of 1964) and morally reprehensible.

Second, I oppose this bill because of the HARMFUL EFFECTS OF THESE VACCINES! I will not allow the contaminants that are now documented to have been found in all of the vaccines into my child's body lest I defile, or worse, destroy my aforementioned Temple, in which God the Holy Spirit resides and indwells.

Finally, I oppose this bill because some of these vaccines required for 7th graders such as the HPV (Human Papilloma Virus) is only valid should my 7th grade child be sexually active as that is how the virus can be transmitted. Same with the meningococcal conjugate vaccine. My child is not going to be kissing anyone soon in an intimate setting so I do not feel these vaccines are appropriate for her age at this time. When my child reaches the age of consent of an adult, she can decide for herself whether to have these vaccines or not.

As for now, I am the consenting adult advocating for my child until she reaches the age of consent. Please DO NOT take that right away from us parents. I am sure as a parent concerned for the health and well being of your children, you would not want to have a forced mandate that goes against the best interests of your children.

I greatly appreciate your consideration in NOT passing HB1118, but rather focus your energy towards keeping our residents IN Hawaii to make living in these beautiful islands more affordable rather than passing bills like this and other actions that price us locals out of paradise.

Mahalo and GOD BLESS YOU!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:50:06 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erin Rementer	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for vaccines. This bill is a direct assault on religious freedom, parental rights, and bodily autonomy - core principles that must be protected.

Forcing individuals to choose between their deeply held religious beliefs and government mandates is unconstitutional and sets a dangerous precedent. The First Amendment guarantees the right to religious liberty, and removing vaccine exemptions disregards this fundamental protection.

HB1118 also ignores the fact that religious exemptions have long been recognized as a legitimate right, balancing public health interests with personal freedoms. Eliminating these exemptions would:

1. Violate the First Amendment by punishing individuals for adhering to their religious convictions.
2. Erode parental rights by stripping families of the ability to make medical decisions for their children in accordance with their faith.
3. Create a slippery slope where government power expands to override religious beliefs in other areas.

Religious freedom is not a privilege granted by the state - it is a God-given right enshrined in our Constitution. I urge you to oppose HB1118 and stand firm in protecting the religious liberties of all of Hawaii.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I look forward to your response on this critical issue.

Mahalo,

Erin Rementer

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:14:02 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Peacock	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Removing the exemption right is unconstitutional and a violation of our first amendment rights. No utopian expression of a world free of risk should be mandated by those unwilling to accept the risk of life. Heart renching antidotes can be found on either side of this issue but individual and parental rights have historically lead to a freer society and the greatest good. We are free to choose for our selves and express those rights in words and actions. Exemption rights MUST be granted consistent with first amendment rights. This is still America.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:07:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill and believe that we should have the right to religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:28:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rebecca G	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose taking away the religious exemptions for vaccines.

If a child gets a negative vaccine reaction because you all decided on taking away the religious exemption, then it's on your conscience, the suffering the family has to endure. So I hope you don't make a decision for my child. I'm the parent and know what my children need or don't need.

When a child experiences a negative vaccine reaction, sometimes mild and sometimes lifelong and severe, a family is burdened for life.

How many social service recipients in the state of Hawaii are actually vaccine injury victims? Do you have a number? It costs the state a lot of money for many years.

More parents are aware that doctors get a kick back from how many fully vaccinated kids they have in their practices.

Vaccines can contain aluminum, mercury, and more toxic ingredients as well as aborted fetal tissue cells (cells from dead babies).

Parents all over the world are waking up and not fully trust their doctors anymore. They finally do their own research on what exactly am I allowing into my precious babies body.

Have you held a baby that cried for ours on end because it got vaccinated, and their tiny bodies were in pain?

Vaccines are not safe.

The only way out will be Homeschooling and you never will achieve the so called herd immunity anyways.

Please don't make a decision for parents in Hawaii, we still have the freedom to choose.

Thank you

Rebecca G

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:54:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sharie Ono	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:01:24 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jasmine Souza	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:11:20 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Murad	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Reducing our religious expression and bodily autonomy is a threat to our democracy. Uphold the constitution and the bill of rights to live as free citizens in this nation.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:25:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcelle Liana	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this bill

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:27:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lahela Twist	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose HB 1118 as it removes the religious exemption for immunization requirements. This bill undermines my right to make informed decisions regarding the health and well-being of my children. Religious beliefs are deeply personal, and I believe in the importance of maintaining my rights to make choices based on these beliefs. I want to protect my children from potential harm while also preserving the freedoms that allow me to make those decisions for their health.

Mahalo,

Lahela

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:28:28 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Julie Stowell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this unconstitutional bill. If vaccines were "safe and effective", there would be no need for the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program. This federal court system is set up to process and compensate families whose children have suffered vaccine injuries or death due to routine vaccinations. Forcing families to vaccinate their children without full informed consent of all possible risks, under the threat of no access to public education, is immoral and dangerous. The government has no right to take away our religious freedoms for any type of vaccination. I know of a number of families that have been affected by vaccine injuries. There is more and more evidence showing correlations between certain vaccines and adverse reactions in healthy individuals. All parents should have the right to choose which medical procedures their children receive. The right to bodily autonomy is one of our most basic human rights. We can not allow corporate pharmaceutical companies or the government to dictate what goes into our bodies.

I strongly oppose bill HB1118 and it's companion bills.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:35:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Okihiro	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mother of five children. My oldest son being of an auto immune compromised and diagnosed with autism and severe cognitive impairment. I should have rights to my other children's medical decisions. I believe as parents we should not be held accountable for certain vaccines that we seem are not deemed safe for my children and to be put in a situation of not being able to send them to school. It saddens my heart that the government is imposing such a gruel bill (almost punishment) to parents who just truly want our children to learn and not be forced to take shots that we may not know the long term effects of. Please take in consideration all the concerns of each loving family that just wants the best dor their children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:38:09 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anthony Villanueva	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:48:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kris Tokioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to do the right thing: vote NO on HB 1118.

Blessings,

Kris Tokioka

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:57:41 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
william cote	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent of a 15-year-old non-vaccinated child who is in a public high school here on Maui, I 100% oppose the proposed bill to require vaccinations for my daughter. I have both religious and medical reasons for doing so and I plead with you to Respect my daughter's rights to not have a vaccination requirement to attend a public school. It is her constitutional right to go to a public school and it is her religious right to oppose your tyranny!

Respectfully,

respectfully,

William Cote

Maui resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:00:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yasmin Vatter	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ONE SIZE DOES NOT FIT ALL.

Religious and Non Medical Exemptions to ANY AND ALL VACCINES must apply to our citizens of Hawaii.

Our personal bodily autonomy is paramount to our future.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE HB1118.

Yasmin Vatter

Keauhou

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:11:17 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Charelle Neizmen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is against the rights of the citizens. This should NOT be passed.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:11:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Harrison	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to Removing Religious Exemptions for Vaccinations

Aloha,

I am writing as a deeply concerned parent and citizen of Hawaii to express my strong opposition to the removal of religious exemptions for vaccinations. This proposed change infringes upon fundamental rights and disregards the deeply held beliefs of many families across our state. As parents, we have a duty to protect our children, and that includes making informed medical decisions that align with our faith, values, and understanding of potential risks.

Preserving Religious Freedom and Parental Rights

Hawaii has long been a place of cultural and religious diversity, and our state should uphold the constitutional right to freedom of religion. By removing religious exemptions for vaccinations, the government is forcing families to violate their sincerely held religious beliefs in order to access education and other public services. This is an unconstitutional overreach that discriminates against families who believe that medical decisions should be guided by their faith.

Parents should have the right to make medical choices for their children without coercion. Many families in Hawaii hold religious convictions that emphasize bodily autonomy, natural immunity, or ethical concerns regarding vaccine ingredients. Forcing compliance with mandatory vaccinations disregards these deeply held beliefs and sets a dangerous precedent for future government overreach into our personal and religious lives.

Concerns Over Vaccine Injury and Medical Freedom

While vaccines have provided public health benefits, it is also undeniable that there are risks associated with them. The National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out over \$4 billion to families affected by vaccine injuries, proving that adverse reactions are real and not as rare as many claim. Some children experience severe allergic reactions, neurological complications, or long-term health issues after vaccination.

Parents should have the right to weigh these risks and make an informed decision based on their children's individual health needs. Medical exemptions are extremely difficult to obtain, even for

children who have had prior vaccine reactions, making religious exemptions one of the only options left for parents who have legitimate concerns about vaccine safety.

Impact on Hawaii's Families and Communities

Hawaii already faces challenges with affordability, access to healthcare, and ensuring families have autonomy in raising their children. Removing religious exemptions creates additional stress for families who will be forced to choose between their faith and their children's education. This disproportionately impacts local families who may already be struggling with the high cost of living and limited schooling options.

Furthermore, removing these exemptions does not acknowledge the natural immunity many children already possess. Emerging studies show that natural immunity in many cases provides robust and long-lasting protection. Should parents have the ability to decide what is best for their children's health, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all medical mandate?

A Call for Common Sense and Parental Choice

I urge lawmakers to consider the serious ethical and medical implications of removing religious exemptions. The government should never come between a parent and their child when it comes to personal health decisions. Medical freedom is a fundamental human right, and in a democracy, individuals must be able to exercise their beliefs without fear of exclusion or discrimination.

Hawaii has always been a place of respect, understanding, and personal choice. We uphold these values by preserving religious exemptions and allowing parents to make informed medical decisions without coercion.

I strongly urge you to oppose any legislation that seeks to remove religious exemptions for vaccinations. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo, Jessica Harrison

Aloha Representatives:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB1118, which seeks to restrict non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements. This bill undermines informed consent, parental rights, and medical freedom, which are foundational principles of a free society.

HB1118 disregards vaccines inherent risks by attempting to eliminate the ability of individuals and parents to make personal medical decisions. Each person's health needs and risk factors are unique, and blanket mandates fail to account for the complex and deeply personal nature of healthcare choices. By removing non-medical exemptions, this bill would coerce individuals into accepting medical interventions that may not align with their religious beliefs.

Additionally, every child has the right to attend public school without being forced to compromise their religious beliefs. The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution guarantees the free exercise of religion, which includes making medical decisions in accordance with one's faith. Public education should be inclusive and respect the diverse beliefs of all students, rather than forcing them to choose between their faith and their education.

The principle of informed consent dictates that individuals must have the right to decline medical procedures without coercion or penalty. By restricting exemptions, HB1118 sets a dangerous precedent that could lead to further erosion of medical choice, religious freedom, and bodily autonomy.

I urge you to oppose HB1118 and instead prioritize policies that respect medical freedom, informed consent, and individual rights. The government should not dictate medical decisions, especially because the National Vaccine Injury Compensation Program (NVICP) has paid out nearly \$4.6 billion to individuals and families who have suffered vaccine-related injuries and deaths. This staggering amount, documented in the Vaccine Adverse Event Reporting System (VAERS), underscores the fact that vaccines, like any medical intervention, are not without risk.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I oppose HB1118. Please vote against it.

**Mahalo,
DonnaMae Collier-Sua**

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:16:07 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Connie Kelley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

You ust know that this bill is in violation of the first amendment to the Constitution, as it disallows citizens to practice their religion or genuinely held beliefs. As such, you should not be surprised when citizens boycott or otherwise refuse to comply with this bill. Citizens have the rights from God to decide what they take into their or their minor children's bodies. Shame on you for foisting this injustice and tyranny on the people!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:18:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Meryl Abrams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly and deeply oppose HB 1118 !!! This bill removes personal and religious exemptions from vaccination: basically removing personal and religious freedom. This is insane that this bill is even proposed, and makes me strongly at odds with our current governor, Josh Green.

I have opposed vaccination on personal and religious grounds for over thirty years of raising my four children. Vaccinations contain genetic ingredients, ingredients from human fetuses, aluminum, mercury, formaldehyde and gelatin (I am a vegan; this is an animal product). Nobody should be forced to inject this poison (or anything else) into their body without their consent- or their parents' consent! You should not need a medical exemption for a vaccination..... any more than you should need a medical exemption from force feeding of kale and broccoli (while this would be healthy, it should not be required by law). Nobody should be kept out of public schools with the forcing of vaccines.

Strike down HB 1118 !! This bill goes directly against our religious freedom, and therefore against the Constitution!

Also: this bill may have the side effect of many more homeschoolers, and many more parents leaving the state!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:36:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eurielle Carrillo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill. I am writing to you as a mother of 3 and an ER nurse on Kaua'i. If you pass this bill, it will impact us so negatively. I will no longer be able to keep my kids in their wonderful public school, and would have to quit my job where I care for our sickest and most critical population. As someone who works in the medical field I know we have the right to decline treatments, and I am holding that value when I testify today. I will continue to value our religious exemption for me and my children, as my father and grandfather did theirs. Please shut down this ridiculous bill.

Eurielle Carrillo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:37:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bruno Rodrigues	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Good morning, Chair and members of the committee. My name is Bruno Rodrigues, and I appreciate the chance to speak with you today.

I am here to oppose House Bill 1118. This bill would take away the option for people to say no to vaccines for non-medical reasons, including deeply held religious beliefs. Our nation was built on the idea of freedom—the freedom to choose our own path and to practice our religion without government interference. By removing these exemptions, this bill forces everyone into the same mold and ignores our individual rights.

We have seen the dangers of government overreach before. In the mid-1800s in England, when the government forced people to take the smallpox vaccine, many citizens became angry. This heavy-handed approach led to protests and even riots. Instead of bringing the community together, it created chaos and deep mistrust between the people and the government. We must remember that forcing a single solution on everyone can have serious and unintended consequences.

I ask you to think about these lessons from history. We need to protect our community's health, but we must do so without taking away the freedom to choose based on personal or religious beliefs. True progress is achieved when we respect each other's rights and work together, not when we force one view on everyone.

Thank you for your time and for listening to my concerns.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:43:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dussy Jones	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Hawaii State Legislators,

Forcing vaccines on school aged children is a grave mistake with many dreadful dire consequences. Vaccines are known to injure and impair due to their poisonous mixture of ingredients. A one size fits all mentality hurts the most vulnerable-our beautiful, healthy keiki! Please educate yourselves by reading books, websites, peer reviewed journals, watching YouTube & other videos on vaccine injuries to understand clearly what consequences your vote will have on the health and well being of Hawaii's keiki. Studies show one in 30+ children have autism which is linked to vaccine injuries. Our daughter had an adverse reaction as a baby to her 1st MMR shot. We thought she was dying as she did not wake up for over 24+ hours. Since then, we have educated ourselves by reading books, watching videos, looking at peer reviewed journals, talking to others who had adverse vaccine reactions in their keiki. Please be respectful and uphold religious freedom as given us by the constitution of the USA and oppose HB1118! You will save many many keiki lives and help them have a happy productive future helping you when you grow old, instead of being injured and impaired and unable to help their Kupuna or Ohana or even their communities. Please save Hawaii's Keiki from Big Pharma's over-reach!

Mahalo Nui Loa!

Dussy Jones, PhD

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:45:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fha96744@gmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a native hawaiian resident of Hawaii and personally oppose HB1118 and SB1437 bills that take away my rights in forcing my children to take immunizations from the government in order to attend public or private schools in Hawaii. I stand firm in my religious rights of my mind and body being a temple of the Holy spirit, it says in 1 Corinthians 6:19-20, "Do you not know that your bodies are temples of the Holy Spirit, who is in you, whom you have received from God? You are not your own; you were bought at a price. Therefore honor God with your bodies."

When I pray and ask God for guidance and instruction, I have a strong conviction to not defile my body with these government "immunizations." Today I stand by my beliefs, convictions and firmly oppose these 2 bills for myself and ohana.

Kacie Aurio

HB-1118

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

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tia O Fergusson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support HB1118!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:52:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kendra Miranda	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a mom with a severe (yet common) vaccine childhood injury requiring major surgeries who is married to my husband who has an adult vaccine injury acknowledged by payment from the government who forced his vaccines--our children have not been able to receive medical exemptions. And if this bill gets voted, it will prove to be even harder to get a doctor to sign off on our children. Genetics are not a one-size fits all yet this sweeping bill tries to make it just that. Vaccine injury is underreported (both of ours have not been accepted in the data)

And if the public knew that vaccines actually use monkey, canine, aborted humans, chicken dna, etc then this religious exemption would still be allowed. You are fragmenting our dna even more if you support this bill and you are choosing to play god. The Bible and God specifically commands against this--the mixing of dna. Fear and lack of knowledge of the working of vaccines is attempting to control the people. Please consider that even medical doctors do not get true vaccine knowledge just a bias attempt from pharmaceutical companies who get to write the textbooks. These very same pharmaceutical companies are then protected by federal government from any and all errors they cause.

The bill to move to remove religious exemptions is a gut-wrenching appalling attempt to move Hawai'i people away from sovereignty to Ke Akua and attempts to choke us to look more like the poorly managed government of California. Please consider what God says and do not let unsubstantiated fear govern your vote.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:07:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brittany Kealoha	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill because I pay state and federal taxes which fund our public schools. We also have the right to practice and express our religion in public and private, which means we should not be subjected to something that goes against our religion in order to attend public schools.

Thank you,

Mrs. Brittany Kealoha

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:09:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Arien Reed	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1118 and suggest the legislature do the same. Parents deserve the right to make health related decisions for their children based on their belief system without the interference of the state, and children deserve access to education without this interference. Maintaining the option for religious exemption to vaccination is one way to respect these rights. Removing this option, as HB1118 aims to do, is unconstitutional. Please oppose HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:10:58 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tate Jensen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB1118, which removes non-medical exemptions from school immunization requirements to protect public health and safety. Vaccination is a proven public health measure that prevents the spread of infectious diseases, particularly among vulnerable populations such as immunocompromised children who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. With non-medical exemption rates rising from 2.5% in 2015 to 5.3% in 2023, and some schools exceeding 10%, Hawaii is at increased risk of outbreaks that threaten public safety. This bill ensures that our public schools remain safe environments where preventable diseases do not disrupt education or endanger lives.

Importantly, this legislation does not force anyone to vaccinate their children; it simply establishes that participation in state-funded public education requires compliance with public health standards. Parents retain the right to make medical decisions for their children, but those who choose not to vaccinate must seek alternative education options. This approach balances individual freedoms with the collective responsibility to protect public health. By maintaining high immunization rates, we uphold the safety and well-being of all children in Hawaii's public schools. I urge the committee to pass this bill to increase public health protections and ensure our schools remain safe learning environments for all who choose to participate.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:25:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiana Wilbur	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE HB1118, as it is out of State Legislatures jurisdiction to pursue measures of such literature. This not only violates our individual rights. This causes you to breach the OATH you swore when sworn in to serve the people of Hawaii. This measure is clearly not for best interest of our people and is of interest of certain individual that could benefit emensely by pursing this illegal measure. EX: if selling lands to foreigners or others is unconstitutional than so is this!

Mahalo for your time and adhere to every voice many in my Moku feel the same as I.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:38:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alicia Lafaele	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill is removing freedoms from our citizen's.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:41:13 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Karen Stangel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am opposed to this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:43:18 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

No government should be allowed to tell me what I can or cannot do with my body or my children's body. This is purely for the benefit of Josh Green and whatever crooked politicians involved.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:43:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Grace Doak	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to present a written testimony. I oppose HB1118. Removal of the religious exemption in relation to immunizations first of all, does not seem constitutional. Secondly, by removing the religious exemption, resulting in forcible requirement of immunizations, the government is immorally venturing into waters of religious organizations by dictating what beliefs and tenets a religion has a right to believe in. In Hawaii, where we profess to be a spiritually powerful place that is also rich in acceptance of all cultures and beliefs - the removal of religious exemption is contrary to what is espoused. As a politician that shape our laws, at your core - are you spiritual and tolerant person of Hawaii, or are you a person of hypocrisy? I urge you to also oppose HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:43:56 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melisa D. Haile	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am writing to express my strong opposition to Senate Bill No. 1437, which seeks to eliminate religious exemptions for school immunization requirements in Hawai'i. This bill infringes upon fundamental rights, disregards parental choice, and fails to consider the diverse needs and beliefs of families in our state.

I am a parent of a school aged child and believe this ruling would negatively impact parent and child participation in our public schools, some of which are already at risk of closure due to low enrollment.

Violation of Religious and Personal Freedoms

S.B. No. 1437 directly infringes upon religious liberty, a fundamental right protected by both the U.S. Constitution and the Hawai'i State Constitution. The ability to make informed medical decisions based on religious or philosophical beliefs is a cornerstone of a free society. Forcing families to comply with medical procedures that may conflict with their deeply held convictions is an overreach of government power and sets a dangerous precedent.

Parental Rights and Informed Consent

Parents have the primary responsibility and inherent right to make medical decisions for their children. This bill removes their ability to exercise informed consent in a matter that significantly affects their children's health and well-being. The government should not override parents' decisions regarding their children's medical care, especially when those decisions are based on personal, religious, or philosophical considerations.

Concerns About Vaccine Safety and Medical Autonomy

While vaccines play an important role in public health, there are documented risks associated with immunization, including adverse reactions and medical contraindications that may not always meet the criteria for a medical exemption. The current system, which allows both medical and religious exemptions, ensures that families can make the best decisions for their unique circumstances. Removing religious exemptions forces parents into a one-size-fits-all approach that may not be in the best interest of every child.

Discriminatory Impact on Families and Education

By eliminating religious exemptions, S.B. No. 1437 disproportionately impacts families who

hold minority religious beliefs. It effectively bars children from receiving an education in public and private schools unless their parents comply with state-mandated medical procedures. This is a form of discrimination that unfairly punishes children and their families for adhering to their faith or personal beliefs.

Alternative Solutions

Rather than removing religious exemptions, the legislature should focus on policies that respect parental rights while promoting public health. Strengthening educational efforts, offering improved vaccine injury screening, and ensuring transparent risk-benefit analyses would foster trust in immunization programs without coercion.

For these reasons, I urge you to vote **NO** on S.B. No. 1437 and uphold the rights of parents and families to make informed medical decisions. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Melissa D. Haile

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:44:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Valdez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this HB1118 for the fact that the previous vaccine has lead to not prevention but death, health issues and disabilities. My own sister got affected by this. I have friends and friends of friends that has a lifetime affect. So I oppose this bill 1000%

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:45:22 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tysen Pasco-Brown	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill makes zero sense. It was fine the way it was you should not force parents to give their children every single vaccine on the schedule. The schedule is ridiculously long and has way too many side effects to outweigh the diseases itself in most cases. Especially when vaccine companies are still immuned (1989) to being sued for any of the possible side effects.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:47:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Beau Blair	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly OPPOSED to HB 1118. As a parent who raised my children in Hawaii with religious vaccination exemptions, I value the freedom of choice for those of us who do not choose to vaccinate for school entry. My children and their children deserve the freedom to choose vaccination or not, and not be excluded from entry to a public institution that is meant to serve all of us.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:50:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janet Edghill	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:54:03 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
YMiki St Laurent	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a long time citizen of Hawaii and retired educator. I am in opposition to HB1118 because it violates my and the constitutional rights of the citizens of Hawaii according to the first Amendment (as it was originally written by the Founding Fathers) which states: "Congress shall make No Laws respecting an establishment of religion or prohibiting the FREE exercise thereof ... " Thomas Jefferson wrote about the separation of church and state as a reminder that FREE WILL comes from God not Government! It is our inalienable rightp! This attempt to FORCE all citizens to "vaccinate" in lieu of all the recent disturbing facts and statistics that have emerged about the covid mandate is troubling! THINK about it!

Also, as a retired educator, NO ONE should be denied education! To mandate vaccination or no school does not excuse the State from educating ALL its citizens! After all, citizens who choose not yo vaccinate pay taxes too! Therefore I OBJECT to HB1118 proposal: "NO VAC means NO State Provided EDUCATION to its Citizens"! This is not "PONO" Please consider voting against this bill and support our citizens by doing what is written in our State Motto ... "Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono ... the LIFE of the land is perpetuated in (HIS) RIGHTEOUSNESS! Mahalo!

Y. St. Laurent

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:54:34 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Candace Basilio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill because it takes away my rights to practice my religious freedoms.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:55:27 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Denis Mullen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Im strongly opposed to this.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:55:46 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Holly Wheeler	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Vaccines are being looked at by the new administration and I am hopeful for better vaccine policies in the near future. As of now, there are vaccines with significant side effects that lack efficacy and I do not feel they should be mandated to our children. Parents deserve the right to determine if vaccines are right for their children and in line with their religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:56:10 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Estel Grover	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL HB1118. This is a vialation of our First amendment of the US constitution. Which guarantees freedoms concerning religion. This bill is governmet over reach. Health concerns incuding vaccines decisions should be made by parents working with their health care providers. NOT THE STATE GOVERNMENT.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:00:38 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
rose silverstein	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No vaccine mandates

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:02:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Faith Seim	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill violates our Constitutional and human rights. Denying the right to choose what goes into our bodies and to consent to medical procedures for ourselves and our children is pure government overreach and more about power, control and greed than it is about health.

We must acknowledge the rights of parents to make conscious health choices for their families.

Going down this road is dangerous. Our government was to be for the people and by the people, not for Big Pharma and lining corrupt politicians' pockets.

At this very moment, there are legislative efforts being made to ban COVID-10 "vaccines" and mRNA injections from the market. The very same "vaccines" that were forced upon so many individuals with horrific results. There is clear evidence that this particular medical product has greater risks than benefits, and the government has once again proven WRONG on what it has forced onto its citizens. These are not the actions of a Constitutional Republic, but rather, dictatorship.

Turn back now and have a clear conscience.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:03:57 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Christmasedna Tuifagu	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Christmasedna Tuifagu and I am born and raised here on the Island of Oahu. I have school aged children, and I also am a Christian who opposes vaccinations. I have been fired from my job with Hawaiian airlines practicing religious freedoms for vaccinations. I oppose this bill as this bill breaks my constitutional rights to religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:07:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Laura E Morihara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am support of HB1118 because 1.Vaccines are safer than not vaccinating and 2. Vaccinating protects the public.

Thank you,

Laura MOrihara

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:15:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Carter	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Although I have many motivations for not wanting this bill to pass, banning non-medical exemptions for vaccinations goes against the very foundations this country was founded on. Whether it be a religious exemption or a personal held belief, we do not have the right to force someone to inject vaccine substances into their bodies against their will. Substances that use toxic ingredients, heavy metals, and aborted fetus cells, and are not without side effects. If better informed consent was given in our pediatrician offices across the country, I can guarantee there would be far fewer parents vaccinating their children. It should raise a red flag that vaccine manufacturers are not held responsible for adverse reactions that occur from vaccines that are on the childhood schedule. We cannot be a state that aligns with women's pro-choice rights, and not offer that same opportunity to our residents when it comes to vaccination. We have seen the aftermath of the covid vaccine. People lost their jobs who did not want to get the shot and now, we see how it was not effective and caused lots of damage. I hope that Hawaii stands with letting people decide what is best for their own Ohana.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:17:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Andy Tuifagu a resident of Oahu oppose this bill as it violates my constitutional rights to freedom of religion.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:22:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mia Hemmings	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB1118! I have the right to pursue my own personal and religious health standards. This bill would negate this right. America, home of the FREE.

HB1118 & Sb1437 is a direct attack against parental rights and religious and individual freedoms.

The notion that the government should have the authority to dictate medical decisions, particularly when it comes to personal beliefs and religious convictions, is a bold violation of individual autonomy. This bill undermines fundamental rights and condemns the diverse sets of beliefs and values held by Hawaii's residents.

Given the state's overreach and inconsistencies observed during the COVID-19 era, there is a glaring lack of trust for the government's interests in forced bodily intrusions, especially on Hawaii's most vulnerable.

In the face of transparency failures, authoritarian mandates, and growing apprehension towards government intrusion, lawmakers must heed the voices of their constituents and prioritize strengthening parental rights and upholding constitutional principles.

In ALL cases, the imposition of vaccination requirements reflects a top-down dictatorial approach rather than a collaborative and consultative process essential for building trust and cooperation. If these drugs are so effective and so useful, you would have parents volunteering to partake. Instead, your own stats reflect an opposition to these bodily intrusions.

When lawmakers chip away at the foundational principles of our country, it should be considered nothing more than a criminal threat to Hawaii. I urge lawmakers to oppose this proposal and to seek out bills for the upcoming sessions that strengthen rather than weaken parental rights and constitutional authority. Your compromised governor should know better.

Abbra Green

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:40:11 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dawn Singleton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill. Everyone has a right to their religious beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:58:04 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natasha Porreca	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill. Where there are risks, there must be a choice. It is scientifically proven that all vaccines and pharmaceuticals come with side effects and risks. Since you are the ones making the decision about this bill, have you carefully read all the fine print on every vaccine involved? I kindly urge you to do so before making your final decision (that's you, the decision makers, being fully informed). Now is the time to stand up against government overreach - the government has no place in telling us what we have to give our children- and they have no power to tell us what our religions accept and do not accept. the government is not GOD. Some people may not be concerned about what they put in their bodies, while others spend their entire lives ensuring that what they consume is natural and safe. Let each party do as they will, but taking away choice is not right, it's criminal.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:01:29 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sujata Gibson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. I am a mom and part time resident of Hawaii. I strongly oppose this bill. As a civil rights attorney, and part time professor of law, I have represented thousands of people with sincerely held religious objections to one or more vaccines. I pray that you will not pass this. There are many vaccines on the schedule that, like the Covid-19 vaccine, do not stop transmission. For example, and this is well documented, the IPV polio vaccine we use in this country, and the diphtheria, pertussis and tetanus vaccines are all nonsterilizing vaccines. And there are some that do. For example, the live vaccines like measles, mumps and rubella do stop transmission. For those, there are many ways to respect people's religious belief and still keep people safe. People who are vaccinated are not at risk if the vaccines work. If they do not, then this is academic. Moreover, if there is an outbreak of one of the diseases that there is a vaccine that can stop transmission for, you can temporarily keep unvaccinated children out of school until it resolves. Religious opposition is very real, and it is crucial that we respect people's right to practice religion. This does not have to be an either or.

Mahalo Nui,

Sujata Gibson

Gibson Law Firm, PLLC

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:11:00 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kestrel Sutton	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Capitol administrators and representatives for the people .

we the people have the right to choose to exempt from vaccines for ourselves and our children
Via religious exemptions or per choice of our free will

No entity shall have the right to choose for any person

I object to any governemnt state or representative having the right to choose individual health
choices

Health and freedom are independent

Constitutional rights and Osha , nuremberg code

mahalo, KSutton

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:28:37 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ed Smith	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

Oppose to HB1118

Parents should have choice and choose not to have their children vaccinated.

Vaccines may be dangerous to the child.

Vaccines should be a choice and not a mandate.

As a Christian, and parent, I should have the freedom of choice to choose not to have our children vaccinated. The Covid vaccine may have ingredients that is contrary to our religious beliefs and dangerous. HB118 is a bill that admonishes our beliefs and disrespects our God. No one nor the legislators are above our God.

This bill is not constitutional and I pray that you will make the decision to drop the bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:29:54 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lori Glorioso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a mother of 4 and a RN. I withdrew a child from a school that would not allow him to attend in-person classes due to not receiving a particular vaccine. He was on-line for an entire school year. The following year I enrolled him into a school that accepted his vaccine status. If parents are no longer allowed to exercise their right for a "religious exemption," many will NOT put their kids into Hawaii schools.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:38:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Mako	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Governing body,

There is nothing Pono about mandating vaccines and injectable therapies to our Keiki. I strongly oppose the government of Hawai'i and bill HB1118. I oppose the removing religious exemptions for vaccinations.

Malama ko Aloha!

-M. MAKO

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:41:05 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in Opposition to HB118

Aloha, my name is Rana Lee Lacana, and I am a proud homeowner, entrepreneur, and single mother with a college education. My journey has been one of resilience, dedication, and unwavering commitment to providing the best life possible for my son. He is thriving in school, receiving an education that nurtures his intellect, curiosity, and values.

I stand in firm opposition to HB118. As a mother, I have always made informed medical decisions for my child. All decisions I make are made with extensive research and careful consideration of what is best for his health and well-being. Hawaii has always been a place that represents medical freedom—and freedom to choose what aligns with our beliefs, our values, and our families’ needs. This bill threatens that freedom.

HB118 does not align with the Hawaiian spirit of aloha, respect, and personal sovereignty. Instead, it seeks to impose mandates that disregard parental rights and medical freedom. Parents are the authority on their precious children. If this bill passes, due to this belief in medical freedom, my son may be forced to leave his beloved school, disrupting his education, friendships, and stability. I will have no choice but to homeschool him—not because I want to, but because I refuse to compromise on his well-being and my right as a parent to make medical decisions for him.

Hawaii should not become a place that punishes families for making informed, personal choices. I urge you to reject HB118 and stand for the values that make this place unique—a culture of respect, autonomy, and true aloha.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Rana Lee Lacana

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:42:51 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kekahuna	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I don't think the state should be making the decision for children to be vaccinated it should be up to their parents.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:48:52 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Constance Raia	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose Bill HB118.

My faith and my child's body is not Josh Greens to decided what is and isn't allowed. He is not God and not representing anyone but personal interest.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:55:32 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fred Flores	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Peleke Flores of Waimea Kaua'i strongly oppose HB1118. As a kanaka maoli and being able to see the health of our people still surviving from the start of sicknesses brought by the outside cultures to our islands. We are still here. Our body our choice. We never got vaccinated through covid and are still living healthy. Whomever needs it take it if you don't need it dont take it. My mom got sick from the covid vaccination she is allergic to a certain ingredient in the vaccine. But the Dr. Couldn't tell her if that ingredient was in the vaccine. So he just signed her off with no liability. Messed up! NO TO HB1118! The part people are not talking about is has there been survival data of people who haven't got vaccinated survived from a sickness that vaccine was aimed to address? My grandpa was 92 years old in a care home and caught covid before the vaccine was available he made it through and survived. Philanthropist the wife of Kaluaikoolau (Kaua'i leper) survived without being vaccinated. The truth is vaccination are not the only way to survive a sickness.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:55:53 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Kondo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson and members of the committee, I am testifying today in opposition to this bill that would eliminate religious exemptions to childhood vaccinations for school enrollment.

I believe this bill infringes upon the fundamental rights of parents to make medical decisions for their children based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. Here's why:

- **Parental Rights:** Parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, including medical decisions. This right is deeply rooted in our legal tradition and recognizes the unique bond between parent and child.
- **Religious Freedom:** The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the free exercise of religion. For some families, vaccination conflicts with their religious convictions. This bill forces a choice between faith and education, placing an undue burden on religious freedom.
- **Medical Autonomy:** Parents should have the right to make informed medical decisions for their children, including the option to decline certain treatments based on their beliefs and values. This includes the right to seek alternative healthcare approaches.
- **Individualized Approach:** Blanket mandates fail to recognize that each child's health and circumstances are unique. Parents, in consultation with their healthcare providers, are best positioned to make informed decisions about their child's medical needs.

While I understand the desire to protect public health, this bill goes too far by eliminating a long-standing exemption that respects both individual liberties and diverse belief systems. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead seek solutions that balance public health concerns with parental rights and religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:57:42 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kaikane Glorioso	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment of the Constitution protects religious freedoms from government restriction. You do not need to agree with a religion or like certain religious beliefs, but nonetheless government should NEVER implement laws that act in opposition to religion and punish individuals for upholding their beliefs. We also should ask ourselves, "if this bill passes, then what?" Passing this one bill risks setting a precedent for future bills that restrict religious beliefs, making it increasingly easy to introduce new legislation that slowly encroaches on more and more beliefs. This is not a bill purely on vaccination, this is a bill on the boundaries that government can act within, and regardless of the government's perspective on vaccination (or even my own) we should NEVER become okay with restricting religion or telling individuals what beliefs they are and are not allowed to exercise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:00:08 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aaron Kondo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairperson and members of the committee, I am testifying today in opposition to this bill that would eliminate religious exemptions to childhood vaccinations for school enrollment.

I believe this bill infringes upon the fundamental rights of parents to make medical decisions for their children based on their sincerely held religious beliefs. Here's why:

- **Parental Rights:** Parents have the right to direct the upbringing and education of their children, including medical decisions. This right is deeply rooted in our legal tradition and recognizes the unique bond between parent and child.
- **Religious Freedom:** The First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution protects the free exercise of religion. For some families, vaccination conflicts with their religious convictions. This bill forces a choice between faith and education, placing an undue burden on religious freedom.
- **Medical Autonomy:** Parents should have the right to make informed medical decisions for their children, including the option to decline certain treatments based on their beliefs and values. This includes the right to seek alternative healthcare approaches.
- **Individualized Approach:** Blanket mandates fail to recognize that each child's health and circumstances are unique. Parents, in consultation with their healthcare providers, are best positioned to make informed decisions about their child's medical needs.

While I understand the desire to protect public health, this bill goes too far by eliminating a long-standing exemption that respects both individual liberties and diverse belief systems. I urge the committee to reject this bill and instead seek solutions that balance public health concerns with parental rights and religious freedom.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:05:59 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terra Sutton	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

RE: Proposed HB1118 Related to non-medical exemptions to immunization requirements.

1. I 100% OPPOSE the changes proposed to restrict vaccination exeptions, removing parental/guardian ability to care for the needs of their child. Any parent has the right to care for the health of their child and decide when a foreign substance is injected, breathed or taken in any way to the body of their child. In this case, the vaccinations, especially recent have become so much more harmful than any virus. In addition, most children have been exposed to sars-cov 2 and have build natural immunity. If the vaccines worked well, the population would already be at "herd immunity". Sadly, the MRNA vaccinations have weekend immune systems dramatically and in many many many cases caused leathal and terminal damage to children and adults. Anyone behind requiring these vaccinations to continue is committing a crime and imposing harm on another. The medical profession must uphold their oath, "do no harm" and end the required vaccination campaign altogether.

2. I porpose to remove all ability of the health department to impose vaccination requirements for any person.

Of this HB1118; Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 302A-1156

Page 1, REMOVE Lines 1-18. Incorrect information.

Page 2, REMOVE Lines 1-20

Page 3, REMOVE Lines 1-5, REMOVE PROPOSED EDITS Lines 6-20 (keeping lines 21-22)

Page 4, Keep Lines 1-7. RE: Section 321-11: REMOVE Lines 13-17

Page 5, REMOVE words, " or therapy", Lines 5-6. REMOVE lines 7-20

Page 9, REMOVE proposed strikethoughs, Lines 6-15

Page 10, CHANGE Line 22 to read ...3 YEARS after.... (instead of 3 months)

Page 11, REMOVE EDIT (Added language), Line 10. Start sentence at "No person..."

Page – Justification Sheet. REMOVE all content relating to “PURPOSE” as it is not desired. REMOVE all paragraphs, except paragraph 2, relating to “JUSTIFICATION” as it is untrue. This untruth endangers our children, their parents and our communities.

Thank you. Terra

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:21:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Hiroko garner	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill as it breaks the constitutional rights to freedom of religion.

February 7, 2025

Hello Honorable Staff,

I am testifying in opposition to HB1118 bill that removes personal and religious exemptions, meaning students must get required vaccines to attend school.

I would like to remind you that the First Amendment guarantees freedoms concerning religion. It prohibits laws from “establishing a national religion or impeding the free exercise of religion for its citizens.” Many individuals throughout the history of time have fought for religious freedom and America is great and built upon religious freedoms. Religious freedom is a BASIC HUMAN RIGHT and promotes diversity and tolerance in society. To pass such a bill is unethical and criminal because it will be denying one of our citizen’s their basic human right. People know this and that is why throughout history people have fought for this. The pledge of allegiance teaches us that the flag “represents the values of our form of government, in which everyone is equal under the law.” Also, we are ”one Nation under GOD,...’a country formed under God who people are free to believe as they wish.”

Remember that the oath that you took states, “I do solemnly swear (or affirm) that I will SUPPORT and DEFEND the Constitution of the United States, and the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, and that I will faithfully discharge my duties as to best of my ability.”

Please fulfill your duty to support and defend the Constitution of the United States by opposing this bill HB1118. This bill is in violation of the Constitution of the United States.

I pray that you will take responsibility for your actions and for who you represent.

Thank you,

Dreana Aiu (resident of Northshore, Oahu)

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:24:35 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Natalie Pfund	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose one size fits all medicine. Every medication from vaccines to Tylenol to opioids have side effects. Each medication has an insert in the packaging that allows any person to know this as full truth. Science is now developed enough that we can study genetic predisposition to injuries for all medications, allowing safe prescribing or other health measures to all people. One size fits all medicine as a practice, means the yes voters are okay with medical collateral damage. In this case that collateral damage is injured children. Vaccines can and do cause injury. Let's figure out who is at risk.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:24:48 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Aisley Sakamoto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members,

I am Aisley Sakamoto and I STRONGLY OPPOSE 1118 HB RELATING TO NON-MEDICAL EXEMPTIONS TO IMMUNIZATION REQUIREMENTS.

As a mother of 6, I appreciate the informed consent process and believe it is a critical aspect of the freedoms of choice. This freedom along with the right to religious choice needs to be protected.

An important thing to question is how many children or individuals were vaccinated (or not) in the measles outbreaks mentioned by previous testimonies and in other outbreaks mentioned. The herd immunity argument cannot be claimed without this specific information and data.

Please oppose this bill as it is obviously not in the interest of the community at large.

Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:29:25 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ashley Moffat	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please, please, please stop this bill. This is not a one size all issue, every body is different. Some people react negatively to vaccines. As a mother, I want to know I can keep my children safe from the negative effects that I have see in them when they had to be vaccinated. Please uphold our right to choose. Mahalo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:35:43 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Don Baluran	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:45:49 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sue Arakawa	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I respectfully oppose this bill due to the language of dismissing my constitutional right to freedom of religion .

please do not let this Bill pass due to its prejudice of religion .

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:58:44 AM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

As an aunt and concerned citizen, I would like to express my support for HB1118 , which proposes to repeal the non-medical exemption from immunization requirements. Vaccines are an important tool to help keep our children healthy, and it is important for the safety and wellbeing of everyone in our community that children receive recommended vaccines before enrolling in school. Mahalo.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:05:57 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Reid Woodward	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Takayama, Vice-Chair Keohokapu-Lee Loy, and Committee Members,

As a (concerned citizen), I strongly support HB 1115, which would establish a State Vaccine Purchasing Program. As you know, vaccines are one of the safest, simplest, and most cost-effective ways to keep our keiki healthy. The State Vaccine Purchasing Program would increase access to vaccines for all of Hawai'i's keiki, decrease costs associated with buying and storing vaccines, and decrease administrative burdens for our primary care doctors. Thank you in advance for your consideration and support.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:08:15 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ji Young Choy	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello. I am a mother of three. I believe in the constitution and the land of the free. We should have say in what goes into our bodies as well as the bodies of the children we are responsible for. The state should not take power over religion and our personal freedoms. Please do the right and humane thing and do not pass this bill that strips parents and individuals of our God given rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:08:47 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joseph Pugh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Because I have common sense and understand the importance of vaccines.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:52:14 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Tully	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this HB1118 Bill! TITLE VII it is our RIGHT to choose Religious Exemption! Donot take our RIGHT away. Please!

BLTully

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 1:07:46 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Anna Giunta	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Oppose HB 1118 and 1437 that will allow our government to take any of our constitutional rights.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:22:37 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Racquel Alfsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not allowing religious exemptions is unconstitutional. This would unlawfully value the secular over the religious, restricting the free exercise of one's beliefs.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:54:48 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelly Johnson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am strongly against removing a parents choice for religious exemption. I have two healthy children and I would like to keep it that way. I will be forced to homeschool otherwise.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:20:55 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chelsea Tehane Williams	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children’s health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens’ ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:33:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
renee kam	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To Whom it May Concern,

I am writing to express my strong opposition to HB 1118, which seeks to eliminate personal and religious exemptions for vaccinations in Hawaii. This bill is an alarming overreach that disregards fundamental constitutional rights, stripping parents and individuals of their ability to make medical decisions in alignment with their deeply held beliefs.

Religious freedom is a cornerstone of our Constitution, and forcing individuals to choose between their faith and education is unacceptable. Many families have sincere religious objections to vaccines, and removing this exemption would violate their rights. The government should not interfere with these deeply personal decisions.

Furthermore, medical freedom is essential. Parents, not the state, should decide what is best for their children's health. HB 1118 assumes a one-size-fits-all approach to medicine, ignoring the reality that medical decisions must consider individual risks, prior adverse reactions, and unique health conditions.

Additionally, this bill fails to acknowledge those who have already been granted religious or personal exemptions. While it allows some exemptions to be grandfathered in, this unfairly creates two classes of students—those who are allowed to exercise their religious rights and those who are not. This is discriminatory and unjust.

I urge you to oppose HB 1118 and stand for medical freedom, religious liberty, and parental rights. Hawaii should respect its citizens' ability to make informed health choices rather than mandating medical procedures against their will.

Thank you for your time and for representing the people of Hawaii. I respectfully ask you to vote NO on HB 1118.

Sincerely,

Renee C Kam

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:38:04 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators.

i am strongly opposed to this measure. Please DO NOT take away religious and personal exemptions and strip away parental rights. This measure violates the US Constitution 1st amendment, 14th amendment and 9th amendment. You took an oath to uphold the Constitution. Please, DO NOT pass this bill. There is strong opposition throughout your constituency.

Respectfully submitted,

Joy Dillon, Hilo resident

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:00:33 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Thompson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is another draconian bill that MUST NOT be passed and if it does expect significant legal challenges. Not only is it unconstitutional, it is highly discriminatory, and dangerous!!!

When I became vaccine damaged in 2007, as an investigator for over 30 years I did extensive research on the "science". The fact remains unvaccinated children remain much healthier with a robust immune system and more free of disease and allergies as compared to children on the vaccine schedule.

The US has a health epidemic of a massive proportion that has developed over the last 50 years. Our health care costs are much higher, yet we are sicker. The vaccine schedule aligns with the increase of disease, as does autism. I studied the Amish population and along side veterinarian practicing alternative livestock treatments. They do not vaccinate and numbers for disease and autism are significantly lower.

Not only do vaccines contain toxins and heavy metals (even aborted fetal tissue) that pass the blood brain barrier (especially when coupled with glyphosate which has contaminated most of our food supply); I have witnessed with my own eyes groups of teenage girls being vaccinated in Mexico for HPV have horrific seizures after injection and some died. Meanwhile other countries are pulling back their schedules and refusing aid due to symptoms of polio after being vaccinated with the polio vaccine. HPV is carried by over 2/3 of the population and is treatable. I was treated in 2003 successfully with a very simple treatment. Many diseases can be beaten with a strong immune system and that immunity is passed onto offspring. I have learned EVERY modern day disease (and I can provide proof) has been weaponized thru gain of function research, many vaccines were developed thru these programs.

My suggestions below, if you are not owned and controlled - educated yourselves and introduce legislation that will have actual benefit to our keiki.

STOP and all gain of function research from being allowed in the state of Hawai'i

END the use of glyphosate

DISALLOW Hawai'i representatives from taking campaign donations by big pharma?

How could you NOT know by now Covid was a scam - the covid shots are bioweapon, just as the release of lab bred mosquitoes, neither of which work anyway.

Finally, if the vaccine does what it is supposed to do then why is an unvaccinated keiki a threat to a vaccinated one?

Do what is right, not what is easy. Mahalo for your service.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:37:31 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Safia Gravel	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please oppose HB1118. Please oppose the forced medical intervention and injection of our future generations. Please protect bodily sovereignty and our human rights. Please support our rights as parents to make informed decisions for our children. Please oppose one size-fits-all medical intervention. Please understand that each individual body is unique and comes with its own strengths, weaknesses, and vulnerabilities. What may be harmless for one body could result in permanent disability or death for another. Please protect the universal right to education. Please support true public health which comes, first, and foremost, from the environment we live in, the air we breathe, the water we drink, the food we eat, and the substances we are exposed to. Coercion and force is has no place in medical treatment. Please remember the Hippocratic Oath. Please remember our constitutional rights and freedoms. Please remember our human rights. Please keep the body in it's owner's hands. Please protect our rights to make choices about our bodies. Please consider the precedent being set by taking away these rights. Please oppose HB1118.

Safia Gravel,

Mother and protector of children and future generations

Hilo

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:04:13 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Freund	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Goes against the idea of freedom, feels like a continuation of colonialism.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:04:19 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Barber Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a devout Buddhist my Temple has opposed forced vaccination especially on children and this bill is federally unconstitutional and subverts the Geneva Convention Law and forced medical procedures.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:45:40 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Delia Olsen	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, esteemed members of the Hawai‘i State Legislature,

I am writing to strongly oppose HB1118, which seeks to eliminate non-medical vaccine exemptions in our state. This measure threatens the fundamental rights of parents to make informed healthcare decisions for their children and disregards the potential harm that a one-size-fits-all vaccine mandate could cause.

Children who have never received vaccines are at an increased risk of adverse reactions if subjected to multiple doses in a short period. Forcing these interventions without consideration of individual health circumstances is not only reckless but could lead to unintended health consequences. Every child is unique, and medical decisions should be made on a case-by-case basis, not dictated by a blanket policy.

Furthermore, with the current rate of autism affecting 1 in 30 children, we should be exercising more caution—not less—when it comes to mandating medical interventions. Parents have the right to assess risks, consult with healthcare professionals they trust, and choose the best course of action for their families. Removing this choice undermines parental rights and disregards legitimate concerns about vaccine safety and efficacy.

Hawai‘i has long valued personal freedom and informed consent in healthcare. I urge you to vote against HB1118 and uphold the rights of parents to make the best decisions for their children’s health.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Delia Olsen

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:57:29 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Liza Kobayashi	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Legislatures and Leaders of Hawai‘i,

My name is Liza Kobayashi. I am a mom and a former public high school Biology and Science teacher in Hawai‘i and I am opposed to HB1118.

In our nation’s history, vaccines were and still are important. From the 1800s, when Edward Jenner innoculated a boy using cowpox that worked to protect him from small pox, many vaccines were created that many of us who are senior citizens, were vaccinated as children. For that, I am thankful.

But the vaccines that are produced today are not like the ones we used back then. Today, the vaccines produced in our nation uses recombinant DNA and whole-genome sequencing techniques to create them. This has made the issue of whether to allow our children to get vaccinated or not when they’re under 18 a lot more complex. Also, depending on the company creating and producing vaccines, other questionable things can also be added in which not everyone in our country is comfortable or at peace with. And right now, there are local Hawaii citizens found on both sides of this issue.

Encouraging all public school students to get vaccinated is **very different from forcing and making it mandatory** for every public school student to be vaccinated. Most people across Hawaii are okay if the gov’t wants to **encourage** all students to get vaccinated. It’s another issue when this is forced.

From a logistical point of view, there are many issues that need to be addressed if this bill becomes a law.

What if parents, especially of lower elementary students, aren’t comfortable having their children get these vaccinations? How is this bill, if made into law, going to be regulated? What is going to happen to students and families if they don’t comply? Will they be forced out of public schools? Will they be fined or arrested? Will there be a mass exodus of wonderful students that exit the public school system? How is this going to impact our culture of Hawai‘i which is based and founded on the prinicple of the Spirit of ALOHA and ohana?

Will this fuel the fire for more division in our beloved state of Hawai‘i?

Let's also revisit what is already LAW in our land - the Law of the Aloha Spirit.

§ 5-7.5 "Aloha Spirit". (a) "Aloha Spirit" is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "Aloha", the following **unuhi laulā loa** may be used:

"**Akahai**", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"**Lōkahi**", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"**Olu'olu**" meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"**Ha'aha'a**", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"**Ahonui**", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i. "Aloha" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "Aloha" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "Aloha" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "Aloha" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) **In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit".** [L 1986, c 202, § 1]

As I reflect on the Law of ALOHA that our governor, and all legislatures are called to reside and give consideration to the spirit of ALOHA, to me, this bill, HB 1118 is NOT rooted in Aloha. Nor will it perpetuate aloha. And if passed, what this bill would produce would be the opposite of all that ALOHA represents and would cause further division among the people of Hawai'i.

Finally, the logistical costs of trying to regulate and enforce this bill, if passed into law, would honestly be a waste of time and resources, including our taxpayer's money, especially when there are so many more pressing issues and problems that we need to focus and invest our time and resources into.

Because of all these reasons, I strongly oppose this bill.

Would you please give deep consideration to these things. You are so important. And your decisions will have long-lasting impacts on the people of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time.

Aloha,

Liza Kobayashi

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 7:19:41 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanae Hatchell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose. Parents should not be forced to vaccinate their children just like women should not be forced to keep unwanted pregnancies.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:07:07 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Madeleine D Fernandez	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill! It is unconstitutional! The COVID-19 vaccine is pure poison! Millions have died because of it and/or suffered horrible effects from the mRNA "vaccine." This is a death sentence to Hawaii's people!

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:22:27 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Courtney DeConto	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a pediatric nurse practitioner, I recognize the vital role vaccines play in protecting public health. However, I also believe in the importance of parental choice when it comes to their children's medical decisions. In cases where a true community health concern arises, existing policies already address the risk of outbreaks by requiring students with vaccine exemptions to be excluded from school during such events. Parents and guardians who seek religious exemptions do so with full awareness of this protocol, which effectively mitigates concerns about under-vaccinated individuals contributing to the spread of illness. It would be a tragedy to further restrict parents in making decisions they believe are in the best interest of their children.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:39:28 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill for the reason of potential government over reach. There is no room for this kind of medical tyranny using legal measures, bills to commit medical battery puts the state in tort with its citizens. The costs for compliance to a potential law are grave. It's clear this bill is put forth in a manner that violates the rights of consent of a states citizens and should be tossed. Bodily autonomy would be better. Sincerely, Gaylene Barron

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:06:21 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Tekurio	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The First Amendment to the United States Constitution prevents Congress from making laws prohibiting the free exercise of religion. We have already experienced first hand Hawaii's lack of regard for our religious freedoms during Covid. This is just one more attempt at reducing our constitutionally protected rights. I oppose Bill HB1118.

HB-1118

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:11:05 PM

Testimony for HLT on 2/7/2025 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elika Daley	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Elika Daley and I have lived in Hawaii for over 27 years. I have raised my 7 children here. My kids ages range from 18 years old to 7 years old. They are healthy and have no allergies or health conditions. I've raised them to be conscious of their eating habits and abstain from anything that will hurt their bodies. I've done a LOT of research in vaccines, their efficacy, and potential injuries that can be caused by vaccines so I've chosen not to vaccinate any of my children. I believe it is our god given right to choose what we decide to put in our bodies as well as the bodies of our children who we are ultimately responsible for. If something happens to my child, such as a vaccine injury, who will ultimately care for them? The government?? No. We will be responsible for anything that happens to our kids. We should have a say in this matter. It should not be forced on us by the Government who literally will take no responsibility in any injuries, should they happen.

I am strongly opposed to HB1118. It is unfair that we did not know this law was even getting voted on. We should have had more warning so more people would be aware of this bill. It's unlawful and against our civil rights. PLEASE kill this bill!!!!