



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

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

S.B. NO. 1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

**BEFORE THE:**

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES AND ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**DATE:** Tuesday, February 11, 2025      **TIME:** 9:45 a.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 229

**TESTIFIER(S):** Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or  
Angela A. Tokuda, Deputy Attorney General

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Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole and Members of the Committees:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) supports this bill and the protection it would afford to those providing or receiving lawful gender-affirming care in the state.

The purpose of this bill is to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, codified as chapter 323J, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to include gender-affirming health care services. The bill also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain or seek gender-affirming health care services in this State.

The Department notes that as currently drafted, the amendment in section 15, on page 47, lines 12-14, can be interpreted to mean that if a child is in Hawaii for the purpose of obtaining gender-affirming health care services, the Hawaii courts will automatically have jurisdiction to make an initial child-custody determination under section 583A-201(a)(2), HRS, regardless of whether a court of another state has jurisdiction or has declined to exercise jurisdiction. If the Committees' intent is to clarify that a child's presence for the purpose of obtaining gender-affirming health care services satisfies only the requirement for a "significant connection with this State" in section 583A-201(a)(2)(A), HRS, on page 46, lines 12-15, of the bill, then the reference to "subsection (a)(2)" on page 47, line 14, should be amended to "subsection (a)(2)(A)."

We respectfully ask the Committees to pass this bill with the recommended amendments. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



*The Judiciary, State of Hawai‘i*

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

**Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Tuesday, February 11, 2025, 9:45 AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

by

Dyan M. Medeiros  
Senior Judge, Family Court of the First Circuit

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

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**Bill No. and Title:** Senate Bill No. 1150, Relating to Health Care

**Purpose:** Expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender affirming health care services

**Judiciary's Position:**

The Judiciary takes no position on this bill but offers the following comments regarding those portions of the bill that seek to modify the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (“UCCJEA”) in chapter 583A.

The purpose of uniform acts according to the Uniform Law Commission is to seek “to establish the same law on a subject among the various jurisdictions.” The UCCJEA is intended to help “competing” states determine which state is in the best position to decide a custody dispute. It is not intended to determine which parent is awarded custody, but rather which state



Senate Bill No. 1150, Relating to Health Care  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
Page 2

should assume jurisdiction over the issue. The adoption of the UCCJEA and its predecessor, the Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Act (“UCCJA”), were intended to reduce forum shopping and litigation by parents in child custody disputes. The UCCJEA is currently adopted in 49 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands. While the Judiciary has not researched the UCCJEA in these other jurisdictions, it is possible that adopting the amendments in SB1150 will make Hawai‘i’s version of the UCCJEA inconsistent with other jurisdictions. This inconsistency could result in increased litigation and expense to determine which state should have jurisdiction, and a resultant delay in the court’s ability to issue appropriate and necessary orders, the very issue the UCCJEA was meant to avoid.

The Judiciary also seeks clarification as to what is intended by the proposed amendment to HRS section 583A-201. Is a child’s presence in the state for the purpose of receiving gender-affirming care intended to completely satisfy all the requirements of HRS section 583A-201(a)(2) or just the requirements stated in either HRS section 583A-201(a)(2)(A) or HRS section 583A-201(a)(2)(B)?

The proposed amendment to HRS section 583A-204 would allow Hawaii to take temporary emergency jurisdiction if a child is present in Hawaii and it is necessary to protect the child because the child has been “unable to obtain gender-affirming health care services”. We seek additional clarification regarding if this is intended to apply to any and all situations where a child is unable to obtain gender-affirming care no matter the reason (e.g. lack of health insurance, unavailability of care in the other state) or when due solely to a parent’s refusal to consent to gender-affirming care.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB1150.

# OFFICE OF INFORMATION PRACTICES

STATE OF HAWAII  
NO. 1 CAPITOL DISTRICT BUILDING  
250 SOUTH HOTEL STREET, SUITE 107  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: 808-586-1400 FAX: 808-586-1412  
EMAIL: oip@hawaii.gov

To: Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Carlotta Amerino, Director

Date: February 11, 2025, 9:45 a.m.  
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

Re: Testimony on S.B. No. 1150  
Relating to Health Care

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Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this bill, which would, among other things, amend protections for reproductive health care services to include gender-affirming health care services. The Office of Information Practices (OIP) takes **no position on the substance** of this bill, but **supports** the proposed **amendment to section 323J-4**, HRS, which would fix a potential conflict between the existing language of that section and chapter 92F, HRS, the Uniform Information Practices Act (UIPA).

That section currently prohibits government agencies as defined in the UIPA and their employees from providing any information “in furtherance of any out-of-state or interstate investigation or proceeding seeking to impose civil or criminal liability” for the provision, use of, or assistance related to reproductive health care services. Since the definition of “agency” is explicitly based on that used in the UIPA, the prohibition is clearly intended to apply to UIPA requests. The problem is that the prohibition on disclosing information applies not just to patient health information or similarly confidential information but to information in general, and

Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and on  
Commerce and Consumer Protection

February 11, 2025

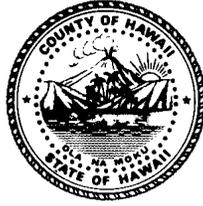
Page 2 of 2

it is not limited to a situation in which the agency or employee furnishing information actually knows that the record request was made in connection with an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability. An agency providing records as required under the UIPA could thereby find itself in violation of section 323J-4, HRS.

This bill (at page 8 line 2) would amend section 323J-4, HRS, to limit the prohibition to situations where an agency discloses **nonpublic** information under the UIPA in furtherance of an investigation or proceeding seeking to impose liability as described. This amendment makes clear that the general prohibition on disclosure does not bar an agency from disclosing public records, and OIP **supports** it.

Thank you for considering OIP's testimony.

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



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

## HAWAI‘I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai‘i 96720

DATE: February 7, 2025

TO: Senate Committees on Health & Human Services/Commerce & Consumer Protection

FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2

SUBJECT: SB 1150

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and members of the Committees,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB 1150. As a parent of a trans young adult, I have a personal stake in making sure my child and all other Hawai‘i residents are supported to make the best health care choices for themselves.

This bill is important as it expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. It also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Specifically, it includes:

- Protecting providers and recipients of gender affirming care from subpoenas intended for civil or criminal proceedings brought by out-of-state agencies.
- Protecting families from having their keiki removed by out-of-state agencies due to parents providing their keiki with access to gender affirming care.
- Protecting bodily autonomy. Medically necessary care decisions should remain between doctors and their patients.

SB 1150 is needed in the Aloha State to protect our beloved transgender community members, ‘ohana, and health care professionals that provide gender-affirming care. Our youth deserve nothing less.

Mahalo,

Jenn Kagiwada



## TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
February 11, 2025 at 9:45am

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the joint Senate Health & Human Services and Commerce & Consumer Protection Committees:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **STRONGLY SUPPORTS** SB1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports an inherent right to live a healthy life and believes all people have the right to access high quality healthcare. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports protection of transgender rights by advocating for legislation that safeguards gender affirming care and condemns anti-transgender measures.

This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

SB 1150 will provide significant legal and civil protections to individuals and entities providing and receiving gender affirming care. It will:

- Defends Hawai'i's Sovereignty: This is a STATE'S RIGHTS issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent.
- Protects Parents' Rights: Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals and legal in Hawai'i.

- Supports Families and Medical Professionals: Parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states.
- Ensures Medical Privacy: Ensuring that your medical records belong to YOU. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities.
- Defends Hawai'i's Healthcare Providers: Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws.
- Preserves Indigenous Values: This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pacifica Islanders, who have long embraced gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values.
- Reinforces Existing Protections: This legislation mirrors the protections for reproductive rights enacted under 2023's ACT 2, extending the same security to gender-affirming care.
- **✗ What this bill does not do: It does NOT authorize surgeries on minors; It does NOT permit prescriptions without parental consent; It does NOT force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender; It does NOT allow children to be removed from their families.**

We, the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, believe that providing and receiving life saving health care is a basic human right. Sadly, over the past several years, it has become clear that extremists across the nation have made it their legislative priority to target women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community by stripping away their rights, especially access to health care.

Dozens of states across the nation have either passed or are considering passing laws prohibiting gender affirming health care to people of ALL AGES. These laws target providers and recipients, making it a criminal offense to provide gender affirming care. Recently, there the Texas AG has gone as far as issuing subpoenas for medical records relating to gender affirming care - from medical providers outside his own state of Texas - to prosecute gender affirming care providers and recipients who may reside in Texas. Such moves are intended to have a chilling effect, frivolously overreaching state lines, in the pursuit to diminish and extinguish gender affirming care across the nation – even in states that do not have such discriminatory and misguided laws on their books. We must take action and take a stand to protect the human rights and human dignity of our LGBTQIA+ Community. The LGBTQIA+ community is under unprecedented attack across the nation, and it is our responsibility to stand up to bullies and protect the civil and basic human rights of our fellow residents.

In 2023, we passed a similar bill (SB1, now ACT 2) to address specific protections for reproductive rights. We are confident that, together, we can continue to make a difference and also pass protections for gender affirming care. Hawai'i will not bow to the politics of fear and hate. Please support this bill.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB 1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at [legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org](mailto:legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org).

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:00:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch	Testifying for Rainbow Family 808	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees,

My name is Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, and I am honored to submit this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill 1150. As a mother and a long-time civil rights advocate, I have dedicated my life to fighting for the rights and dignity of all individuals, particularly our most vulnerable communities. Today, I speak in support of this critical legislation that will ensure transgender individuals, especially our keiki, have access to the gender-affirming health care they need and deserve.

Gender-affirming health care is life-saving care. It is not a matter of preference or politics—it is a fundamental issue of health, well-being, and survival. The American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and numerous other leading medical organizations recognize that gender-affirming care is evidence-based and essential for the mental and physical health of transgender people. Denying access to this care places individuals at an increased risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide, while providing it improves overall health outcomes and quality of life.

Senate Bill 1150 expands the vital protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, ensuring that individuals seeking gender-affirming health care are protected from legal retaliation and discrimination. It also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain this essential care. This clarification is critical to safeguarding families who support their transgender children and ensuring they are not penalized or targeted for doing what any loving parent would do—ensuring their child receives necessary medical care.

As a long-time civil rights advocate, I have seen firsthand the challenges faced by transgender youth and their families. No parent should have to live in fear that seeking medically recommended care for their child could lead to legal consequences or family separation. No keiki should have to endure the trauma of being denied the care they need to live as their authentic selves. Senate Bill 1150 is a necessary step to reinforce that Hawai‘i is a state that values inclusion, medical autonomy, and the well-being of all its residents.

I urge you to pass Senate Bill 1150 and reaffirm that our laws will stand firmly on the side of compassion, medical integrity, and human rights. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Carolyn Martinez-Golojuch, MSW  
President and Founder  
Rainbow Family 808

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:16:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Crystal Joy Beal	Testifying for QueerDoc	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am Dr. Crystal Beal testifying on behalf of QueerDoc. I am a Board-Certified Family Medicine physician and transgender medicine specialist. QueerDoc offers gender affirming healthcare in Hawai'i. **We strongly support of SB1150.**

This bill is essential for the continuation of life-saving, medically necessary, and evidence-based care, especially in the face of escalating legislative attacks across the country.

We have seen hundreds of youth and families moving or traveling to

access gender affirming care as healthcare is less accessible or banned in other states. This week alone, I supported dozens of families with youth planning relocation. We know that family and community support - including state support - reduces youth suicidal ideation, attempts, and completed attempts. This legislation will save trans youths lives.

We are also worried about our patients' safety, our safety, and the safety of our homes and family members. We have experienced death threats for providing this medically necessary care. We need strong protection from our state officials. Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where all can receive access to medical care without fear of persecution and where providers feel safe to practice.

**We urge you to pass SB1150.**



## Advocating for the Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Community

February 7, 2025

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services; and Commerce and Consumer Protections  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:45 AM

RE: **Strong Support for Senate Bill 1150**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150 on behalf of the Hawai'i State Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Plus. (LGBTQ+) Commission, which was established by the 2022 Hawai'i State Legislature with the following purpose:

“...to improve the State's interface with members of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, plus community; identify the short- and long-range needs of its members; and ensure that there is an effective means of researching, planning, and advocating for the equity of this population in all aspects of state government.”

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission submits this testimony in **strong support** of Senate Bill 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain such care.

Act 2 was a monumental step toward ensuring that Hawai'i remains a beacon of safety and acceptance for LGBTQ+ individuals, particularly transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community members. SB 1150 builds upon this foundation, ensuring that individuals who seek gender-affirming care—recognized by every major medical association as **medically necessary and life-saving**—are protected from out-of-state legal attacks and discriminatory policies that seek to criminalize such care.

As we have seen across the nation, the transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community faces **unprecedented attacks** from certain factions of the federal government and state legislatures that seek to restrict access to gender-affirming health care. These efforts are not only politically motivated but also dangerous, putting lives at risk by denying individuals the ability to access the care they need to live authentically and safely. By enacting SB 1150, Hawai'i has the opportunity to **stand in direct opposition to these harmful policies** and reaffirm its commitment to protecting the rights, dignity, and well-being of all its residents.

For transgender, Māhū, and non-binary keiki and adults, access to gender-affirming care can mean the difference between life and death. Studies show that access to such care significantly reduces the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicide. Yet, across the country, from the Federal to certain states, extremist efforts seek to strip these individuals of their right to exist safely and

## HI State LGBTQ+ Commission Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1150

freely. We cannot allow such hostility to take root in Hawai'i.

SB 1150 sends a clear and unequivocal message: **Hawai'i will not be complicit in the criminalization of transgender, Māhū, and non-binary individuals seeking life-saving medical care.** Our state must continue to serve as a safe-haven for those facing persecution, and we must act decisively to prevent any attempts to undermine our protections.

The Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission urges this committee to **pass SB 1150 without hesitation.** We must ensure that every person in Hawai'i, regardless of their gender identity, can access the care they need free from fear, discrimination, and political interference.

Should you or any member of your staff have any questions regarding this testimony you can reach the Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission at [hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com](mailto:hawaiistatelgbtqpluscommission@gmail.com).

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)  
Vice-Chair  
[Hawai'i State LGBTQ+ Commission](#)



## Protect Democracy Move Forward

[www.indivisiblehawaii.org](http://www.indivisiblehawaii.org)

[info@indivisiblehawaii.org](mailto:info@indivisiblehawaii.org)

The Honorable Joy San Buenaventura, Chair, Senate Committee Health and Human Services and The Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair, Senate Committee Commerce and Consumer Protection

Hearing Date/Time: February 11, 2025, 9:45 AM  
Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 229  
Re: Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1150

Dear Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and the Members of the Committee, Members of Indivisible Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1150 which would provide necessary protections to transgender people.

Transgender people have always been among us and part of our society, and have long faced widespread discrimination. In its decision *Bostock v. Clayton Cnty*, 590 U.S. 644 (2020), the U.S. Supreme Court disallowed discrimination against transgender people in the employment context finding that such discrimination was barred by Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Despite this clear ruling and its plain application recognizing the protections against discrimination in countless other similarly worded statutes all over this country, the Trump Administration has issued an executive order ignoring *Bostock* and in effect simply attempting to erase transgender individuals altogether: "It is the policy of the United States to recognize two sexes, male and female." See Executive Order "Defending Women from Gender Ideology Extremism and Restoring Biological Truth to the Federal Government." This Executive Order clearly foreshadows additional actions coming against our transgender citizens.

Hawaii has long been in the forefront of assuring protections for its citizens against discrimination. SB1150 provides specific and reasonable protections for our transgender citizens. It is so important to provide these protections.

Sincerely,

Indivisible Hawai'i LGBTQIA+ Team

*We're a grassroots movement of thousands of local Indivisible groups with a mission to elect progressive leaders, rebuild our democracy, and defeat the Trump agenda. In Hawai'i, we have ten groups across four islands, representing over a thousand pro-democracy citizens.*



Where LGBTQIA+ Rights Meet the Labor Movement  
A constituency group of the Hawai'i State AFL-CIO

February 7, 2025

Senate's Committees on Health and Human Services; and Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:45 AM

RE: **STRONG SUPPORT for Senate Bill 1150**

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and fellow committee members,

Pride at Work – Hawai'i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work - Hawai'i strongly supports SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. This bill is critical to ensuring that all individuals, particularly transgender and non-binary youth, can access the medical care they need without fear of discrimination, criminalization, or legal repercussions. Furthermore, SB 1150 clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services, ensuring that Hawai'i remains a safe haven for those seeking medically necessary care.

An injury to one is an injury to us all. When our keiki, our 'ohana, or any member of the LGBTQIA+ community members face barriers to life-saving health care, it is a direct attack on our collective well-being and shared values of aloha and inclusion. The ability to access gender-affirming care should never be a political issue—it is a matter of dignity, safety, and fundamental human rights. We cannot allow discrimination and harmful policies from other states to dictate the health and safety of those who call Hawai'i home.

SB 1150 also will defend Hawai'i's healthcare providers: Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws. This protection is essential to ensuring that medical professionals can continue to provide necessary, evidence-based care without fear of legal repercussions from jurisdictions that seek to undermine these rights.

SB 1150 sends a strong message that Hawai'i stands firmly in support of gender-diverse individuals and their right to receive essential medical care without fear of legal consequences. By passing this bill, the Legislature reaffirms its commitment to justice, equity, and the protection of all who seek refuge in our island paradise.

We are not alone in supporting access to gender-affirming care. Ward Research, Inc. during their annual survey found that **sixty-four percent (64%) of Hawai'i's voters support access**

Pride at Work – Hawai'i's Testimony is Strong Support of Senate Bill 1150

**to gender-affirming care.** Which means that not only is passing SB 1150 the pono thing to do it is also the popular thing.

For these reasons, we urge the committee to pass SB 1150 without delay. Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

In solidarity,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)

President

[Pride at Work – Hawai'i](#)



Randy Perreira  
President

# HAWAII STATE AFL-CIO

888 Mililani Street, Suite 501 • Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

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

The Thirty-Third Legislature  
The Senate  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Committee on Health and Human Services

Testimony by  
Hawaii State AFL-CIO

February 11, 2025

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1150 – RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

The Hawaii State AFL-CIO is a state federation of 76 affiliate labor organizations representing over 69,000 union members across Hawaii in industries including healthcare, construction, hospitality, entertainment, transportation, and government. The AFL-CIO serves its affiliates by advocating for the rights of working families, promoting fair wages, ensuring safe working conditions, and supporting policies that strengthen Hawaii's workforce.

We are in support of SB1150 because it protects the rights of working families and healthcare providers in Hawaii. Expanding protections ensures medical professionals can provide care aligned with Hawaii's laws and values without fear of interference from out-of-state pressures.

The protections outlined in this bill are critical for maintaining access to care and supporting a workforce that relies on safe and secure healthcare environments. Safeguarding access to healthcare also ensures economic stability and fosters equity and inclusion, values that align with Hawaii's longstanding cultural principles and the labor community's commitment to justice.

We respectfully urge your committees to pass this measure to support Hawaii's working families and medical providers.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Randy Perreira".

Randy Perreira  
President



To: Senate Committee on Commerce + Consumer Protection, Senate Committee on Health + Human Services

Hearing Date/Time: February 11, 2025 9:45AM

Place: Hawaii State Capitol, Room 229

Re: Testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of SB1150

Dear Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and the Members of Committees,

Members of AAUW of Hawai'i thank you for this opportunity to testify in strong support of SB1150 which would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

AAUW stands for the civil rights protections for all including transgender people. Gender affirming care is safe health care backed by decades of research and supported by every major medical association.<sup>1</sup>

Please pass this important measure and thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,  
Younghee Overly  
AAUW of Hawai'i Public Policy Committee

*The American Association of University Women (AAUW) of Hawai'i is an all-volunteer, statewide chapter of a national organization and is made up of six branches: Hilo, Honolulu, Kaua'i, Kona, Maui, and Windward O'ahu. AAUW's mission is to advance gender equity through research, education, and advocacy. Our goal is economic security for women in Hawai'i .*

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<sup>1</sup> <https://transhealthproject.org/resources/medical-organization-statements/>

# Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)



To: The Honorable Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services; The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

From: Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN)

Subject: Support with Amendments – SB1150, Relating to Health Care Access Protection

Hearing: February 11, 2025, 9:45 AM

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Hawai'i Association of Professional Nurses (HAPN), we appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support of SB1150, which seeks to protect reproductive health care and gender-affirming health care services in Hawai'i. However, we respectfully request an **amendment** to include **provider-neutral language** ensuring that **all qualified licensed health care providers—physicians, advanced practice registered nurses (APRNs), physician assistants (PAs), and other licensed professionals—are explicitly covered under the bill's protections.**

## Rationale for Provider-Neutral Language

- **Broadening Access to Care:** Hawai'i's health care system relies on a diverse range of licensed providers, including APRNs and PAs, who serve as primary and specialty care providers, particularly in rural and underserved areas.
- **Consistency Across Statutes:** The bill currently protects certain professions (e.g., physicians, mental health counselors, psychologists, marriage and family therapists) from out-of-state legal consequences but does not explicitly extend these protections to APRNs, PAs, or other qualified health care providers.
- **Avoiding Legal Loopholes:** By using provider-neutral language such as “physician, APRN, PA, or other qualified licensed health care provider”, the bill ensures all providers offering lawful services in Hawai'i receive the same protections.

## Conclusion

Hawai'i has long been a leader in expanding access to health care and protecting both patients and providers. By adopting provider-neutral language in SB1150, we can ensure that all qualified health care professionals are protected under the law, preventing unnecessary legal or licensure risks for those delivering essential reproductive and gender-affirming health care services.

We urge the committee to pass SB1150 with amendments to reflect this inclusive approach, ensuring Hawai'i's laws safeguard the full spectrum of licensed health care providers.

Mahalo for your time and consideration, and for your commitment to protecting both health care providers and patient access to essential services in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Dr. Jeremy Creekmore, APRN  
HAPN President

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:29:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dean Hamer	Testifying for Qwaves Media	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received or provided in Hawai‘i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful.

As a health professional who for 35 years directed a National Institutes of Health research laboratory that often tackled questions of gender and sexuality, I learned both how complex these matters are, and how important it is to rely on the advice of doctors and caregivers who are interested purely in health and wellbeing. The bans that other states are now imposing on gender-affirming care have nothing to do with health and well-being; they are purely an expression of religious and social beliefs.

Hawai‘i has a long history of taking an evidence-based, reasonable, and compassionate approach to health. Consider Liliuokalanis support of vaccination and quarantine for smallpox in the 1880s. Recall Hawaii’s groundbreaking facilitation of needle exchange in the 1980s. This is the type of tradition that should be continued, not abandoned.

Passing SB1150 is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai‘i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.



**TESTIMONY FROM THE STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII**

**HEARING BEFORE JOINT SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION AND HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**FEBRUARY 11, 2025**

**Testimony in Strong Support of Senate Bill [1150] RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs and esteemed Members of the Committee:

My name is Abby Simmons, Chair of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, and I am testifying on behalf of our Caucus in **strong support of SB1150**, the Health Care Access Protection Act.

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus, we urge you to pass this critical legislation to safeguard the rights, dignity, and well-being of LGBTQ+ individuals and families in Hawaii.

As states across the country enact laws that criminalize gender-affirming care, attack reproductive rights, and punish families for supporting their children, Hawaii has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to stand as a beacon of safety, equality, and inclusion.

**Why SB 1150 is Essential for Hawaii's LGBTQ+ Community**

1. **Protecting Access to Lifesaving Gender-Affirming Health Care**

Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, evidence-based care that is recognized by every major medical association, including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association. It is care that saves lives.

Yet, in multiple states, lawmakers have passed extreme bans on gender-affirming care, not only for minors but also for adults. Some states have gone further—threatening parents with legal action for supporting their children’s health needs and criminalizing medical professionals for simply following best practices.

Hawai’i must ensure that no person seeking gender-affirming care—whether they are a resident or a visitor—faces legal threats from another state.

## 2. Preventing Government Overreach in Family and Custody Matters

SB 1150 ensures that Hawai’i courts will not participate in the unjust separation of children from their parents based on another state’s politically motivated laws against gender-affirming care.

Every child deserves a family that loves and supports them. And every parent deserves the right to make informed, medically sound decisions in consultation with their child’s doctors. No family should have to live in fear that seeking necessary health care could result in legal consequences or the loss of custody.

## 3. Strengthening Privacy Protections for LGBTQ+ Individuals and Providers

Hawai’i has long valued medical privacy and patient confidentiality. SB 1150 ensures that health care providers cannot be compelled to share records or cooperate with out-of-state investigations targeting LGBTQ+ patients or their families.

- It prohibits Hawai’i agencies from participating in legal actions from other states that seek to penalize individuals for accessing or providing gender-affirming or reproductive care.
- It protects health care professionals from disciplinary actions taken by other states that do not align with Hawaii’s laws and values.
- It ensures that subpoenas, warrants, and extradition requests related to lawful medical care in Hawai’i will not be enforced.

These protections are essential to upholding the privacy, dignity, and human rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, their families, and the medical professionals who serve them.

#### 4. Affirming Hawaii's Commitment to Equality and Justice

Hawai'i has always been a leader in LGBTQ+ rights—from being one of the first states to challenge same-sex marriage bans to enacting strong anti-discrimination protections. Now, with SB 1150, Hawai'i can once again lead by example by refusing to be complicit in politically motivated attacks on bodily autonomy and medical freedom.

We cannot allow the legal chaos and fear-mongering of other states and the far right extremists to dictate what happens in our islands. We must send a clear and unwavering message:

Hawai'i is—and will always be—a place where LGBTQ+ individuals are safe, affirmed, and free to make personal medical decisions without fear of persecution.

#### **In conclusion:**

SB 1150 is a necessary and compassionate response to the escalating attacks on gender-affirming and reproductive health care across the country. By passing this bill, Hawai'i will:

- ✓ Ensure access to gender-affirming care for all who need it
- ✓ Protect families from unjust legal actions and custody disputes
- ✓ Shield health care providers from out-of-state prosecutions and disciplinary actions
- ✓ Uphold Hawaii's core values of inclusion, privacy, and medical freedom

For these reasons, we urge this joint committee to advance SB 1150 without delay. Mahalo for your time, your leadership, and your commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of LGBTQ+ individuals in Hawai'i.

Respectfully,

Abby Simmons (she/her)  
Chair & SCC Representative  
Stonewall Caucus  
Democratic Party of Hawai'i  
<https://linktr.ee/stonewalldph>

## TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 1150

**TO:** Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, & HHS Committee Members  
Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, & CPN Committee Members

**FROM:** Nikos Leverenz  
Policy & Advancement Manager

**DATE:** February 10, 2025 (9:45 AM)

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Hawai'i Health & Harm Reduction Center (HHHRC) **strongly supports** SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state's shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care.

17 states and the Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care. Hawai'i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai'i. Presidential executive orders have sought to erase and suppress trans people, including one on 1/29 [targeting trans students in K-12 schools](#) calling for forced outing, restrictions on participation in co-curricular activities, and banning any instruction regarding gender identity.

Hawai'i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. Yet there are still barriers to receiving care, and the outlook is grim given a White House occupant intent on demonizing trans people in service of an extremist authoritarian ideology—[one that has precedent](#).

HHHRC proudly serves O'ahu's trans community with our [Kua'ana Project](#). Our mission is to reduce harm, promote health, create wellness, and fight stigma in Hawai'i and the Pacific. We work with many individuals impacted by poverty, housing instability, and other social determinants of health. Many of our program clients and participants have also been deeply impacted by trauma, including histories of physical, sexual, and psychological abuse.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



Hawaii Lawmakers:

We, The Libertarian Party of Hawaii, vehemently denounce SB1150/HB615, or what we've dubbed "the Hawaii Kidnapping Bill". This proposed legislation is a flagrant violation of individual liberty and a gross abuse of governmental power that threatens the fundamental rights of parents and children alike.

Several clauses buried in this bill seek to essentially legalize child kidnapping across state lines, including by a non-parent, so long as the abduction is performed under the guise of obtaining 'gender-affirming' treatments. The proposed law would provide immunity for what would otherwise be a criminal act. By the time parents in other states figure out what's going on and seek a court order in their home state, their child could already be spirited away to Hawaii, where our judiciary has proven itself unwilling to follow the constitution nor the law.

This bill is a thinly-veiled act of political war against the rights of other states and families. The lawsuits will cost Hawaii dearly and may lead to bigger issues. By redefining crucial legal frameworks such as the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction & Enforcement Act (which governs interstate child custody cases), this bill creates loopholes that enable the systematic removal of children from their families under the pretext of 'Gender Affirming Care', which threatens Hawaii's participation in the UCCJEA, and will result in Hawaii no longer being able to reliably return children who are taken away from Hawaii in child custody disputes.

This bill not only disregards the sanctity of family but also infringes upon the basic freedoms of individuals to make personal and informed decisions regarding their healthcare. This bill undermines due process, disregards parental authority, promises expensive fights with other states, and poses a grave threat to the well-being of minors nationwide.

It mandates secrecy, criminalizes interference with kidnappers, and obstructs the extradition of those charged with criminal acts in connection with 'gender-affirming care'. Such measures not only defy ethical medical principles but erode transparency and accountability in our justice system.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii stands resolutely against this measure and any legislation that undermines individual rights, parental autonomy, and child welfare. We call upon legislators to reject this dangerous bill and uphold the principles of freedom and parental rights.

In Liberty,

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii

## **SB1150 Would Legalize Child Kidnapping for Sex Change**

by Austin Martin,

Chairman, Libertarian Party of Hawaii

The Hawaii Kidnapping Bill ([SB1150, 'Relating to Health Care'](#)) is among the worst proposed laws of this legislative session.

Set for a [February 11, 2025, hearing](#) before Senate HHS/CPN committees, SB1150 grants a de-facto immunity and asylum in Hawaii for any kidnapper who claims to be helping a child receive so-called 'gender-affirming' treatments.

The bill is copied word-for word from [HB2079](#) of 2024 which passed the House but died in the Senate. If SB1150 were to pass the Senate, the House votes may therefore already be lined up.

The bill's intent to legalize interstate kidnapping is outlined in the text:

*§583A-208 - Jurisdiction declined by reason of conduct:*

*(d) In making a determination under this section, a court shall not consider as a factor weighing against the petitioner any taking of the child, or retention of the child after a visit or other temporary relinquishment of physical custody, from the person who has legal custody if there is evidence that the taking or retention of the child was for the purposes of obtaining gender-affirming health care services for the child and the law or policy of the other state limits the ability of a parent to obtain genderaffirminghealth care services for the child.*

Most of this bill is a series of loopholes, redefinitions, and special opt-outs of legal norms all in service of making Hawaii a sanctuary for underage sex change surgery. Amendments to deep and highly specialized areas of the law work together in the service of legalizing the truly unthinkable.

The Hawaii Kidnapping Bill's unique and unmistakable true intent is to allow legal protections for any non-parent with sufficient access and means to remove a child of any age from their

home state, and to bring them to Hawaii in the name of receiving “Gender Affirming Care” – so long as they could not receive said ‘care’ in their home state.

The many sections of Hawaii Revised Statutes affected by the Hawaii Kidnapping Bill are designed to trigger a series of child-custody 'loopholes' that cause inter-state barriers to be systematically removed, so long as the instigator says the magic words: “Gender Affirming Care.”

Local parents are also stripped of Hawaii Family Court recourse because SB1150 places their failure to provide access to so-called ‘Gender Affirming Care’ in the same category as child abuse, or more specifically, medical neglect. There is no meaningful due process for any family that is accused of medical neglect. There is no provision for legal representation or even notification of parents.

The bill accomplishes its perverse ends by a 'reinterpretation' of a critical section of the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act ([UCCJEA](#)) which governs interstate child-custody proceedings, and amending over a dozen other laws, to exempt any petitioner from the oversight offered by Hawaii’s Family Court system.

The bill's proposed amendments to the UCCJEA redefine a family-court emergency, to allow any person “acting as a parent” to obtain emergency temporary custody against natural parents who decline to provide their children so-called “Gender Affirming Care.” Natural parents’ refusal to provide sex-change procedures would be treated as being of the same legal weight and severity as actual physical abuse or child abandonment.

The bill reads:

*§583A-204, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:*

*(a) A court of this State [has] shall have temporary emergency jurisdiction if the child is present in this State and the child has been abandoned or it is necessary in an emergency to protect the child because [the]:*

*(1) The child, or a sibling or parent of the child, is subjected to or threatened with mistreatment or abuse[.]; or*

*(2) The child has been unable to obtain genderaffirming health care services.*

This language plainly redefines a custody “emergency” to mean “unable to obtain genderaffirming health care services.”

The rewriting of this uniform, nationwide custody law also undermines and threatens Hawaii’s participation in the UCCJEA. The whole point of our Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act is uniformity. If Hawaii passes SB1150 and stops returning children to other states, we risk being unable to secure the return of any Hawaii child who is taken out of state to pursue a custody battle.

The court that prevails in exercising jurisdiction first, usually maintains jurisdiction for the rest of the case, both practically and statistically speaking. Under the proposed language from SB1150, once ‘emergency jurisdiction’ is sought and approved by the Hawaii Family Court, several critical timelines begin to toll for the legal residency of the child to determine which court will have the ultimate say in final custody determinations.

The next phase is the so-called ‘temporary orders’ hearing. This section of SB1150 creates another loophole that can be easily exploited by a motivated kidnapper to keep a stolen child for longer than the short-term ‘emergency jurisdiction’ alone would allow.

The loophole specifically reads:

*(d) The presence of a child in this State for the purpose of obtaining gender-affirming health care services shall be sufficient to meet the requirements of subsection (a)(2).”*

Subsection (a)(2) governs what a court must do when the child is not clearly a legal resident of the State.

The UCCJEA prohibits this kind of abuse of temporary placement - as the original language of (a)(2) along with requirements (A) & (B) below shows us:

*§583A-201 Initial child-custody jurisdiction.*

*(a) Except as otherwise provided in section 583A-204, a court of this State shall have jurisdiction to make an initial child-custody determination only if: ...*

*(1) This State is the home state of the child ...or...*

*(2) A court of another state does not have jurisdiction under paragraph (1), or a court of the home state of the child has declined to exercise jurisdiction on the ground that this State is the more appropriate forum under section 583A-207 or 583A-208, and:*

*(A) The child and the child's parents, or the child and at least one parent or a person acting as a parent, have a significant connection with this State other than mere physical presence; and*

*(B) Substantial evidence is available in this State concerning the child's care, protection, training, and personal relationships;...*

Under the proposed language from SB1150, these UCCJEA requirements are magically deemed “satisfied” and replaced—by using three magic words: “Gender Affirming Care”, if the child is from a state that has sex-change laws deemed insufficient by Hawaii and/or the natural parents are not providing sex-change ‘treatments.’ The kidnapper—who may be a non-relative— is treated by the Hawaii Family Court like a good Samaritan who will be granted temporary custody of a child stolen from his or her biological parents. No recourse nor due process is available for the affected victims and their families in their home state.

This bill goes to great lengths to enable outrageous practices across state lines. It aims to build long-term and short-term cases against parents who are otherwise perfectly fit - solely based on their sex-change viewpoint and/or the laws of their state. It allows any motivated adult to kidnap children with impunity from any state deemed insufficient in its sex-change laws.

In the recent [Geanna Bradley torture-murder case](#), her legal guardians allegedly exploited telehealth for months or even years to hide their alleged torture of Geanna. Yet SB1150 allows telehealth practitioners to prescribe sex-change hormones to juveniles:

*§329- Prescriptions; gender-affirming health care services. (a) Notwithstanding this chapter or any other law to the contrary, for the purposes of providing genderaffirming health care services, a practitioner who is licensed in this State may prescribe schedule III and IV controlled substances, including testosterone:*

*(1) While the practitioner is located outside the State; and*

*(2) Without conducting an inpersonconsultation with the patient; provided that the practitioner shall prescribe the controlled substances via a synchronous audio-visual telehealth interaction*

According to the text, a single telehealth Zoom call is all it would take: after that, upon filing a petition to exercise emergency jurisdiction to a Hawaii court, instantly, the kidnapping of any child legally becomes a civil case and no longer open to prosecution as a criminal matter - denying victims and their families the help of federal or state law enforcement to return their children before permanent harm is done, and also forcing the out-of-state family to travel to Hawaii to be present for hearings. If the kidnapper has a long enough head-start and the family doesn't suspect them, by the time they find out what is happening, it could already be too late.

In 2024, [testimony](#) in support of [HB2079](#) came from Oregon-based QueerDoc.com which describes itself as, “a telemedicine-based gender affirming clinic.” QueerDoc arrogantly announces, “the medicine and science are not up for debate” and enthuses about 100s of mainland telehealth practitioners who “can issue a prescription for estrogen, progesterone, and testosterone blocking medications at that telehealthappointment.”

Far from unbiased, QueerDoc has an agenda for our children. The clinic was founded by an MD who describes [herself](#) as “they” [and on her website touts](#) “lived experience as a nonbinary femme and are SUPER queer themselves, enjoying queer burlesque, vintage fashion, and their queer, kinky, poly family!”

If the home state claims the child was kidnapped and attempts to escalate a criminal case - the bill's authors, disgustingly, have thought of that possibility too:

*§323J-6 Denial of demands for surrender. Notwithstanding any provision of chapter 832 to the contrary, the governor shall deny any demand made by the executive authority of any state for the surrender of any person charged with a crime under the laws of that state when the alleged crime involves [the provision or receipt of,]:*

*(1) Seeking, receiving, paying for, or [assistance with,] inquiring about reproductive health care services[,] or gender-affirming health care services;*

*(2) Providing or responding to an inquiry about reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services;*

*(3) Assisting or aiding or abetting in any of the conduct described in paragraph (1) or (2);*  
*or*

*(4) Attempting or intending to engage in or providing material support for (or any other theory of vicarious, attempt, joint, several, or conspiracy liability derived therefrom) conduct described in paragraphs (1) to (3),”*

*§323J-7 Laws contrary to the public policy of this State.*

*(a) A law of another state authorizing a civil action or criminal prosecution based on any of the following [is] shall be declared to be contrary to the public policy of this State:*

*(1) [Receiving, seeking, or] Seeking, receiving, paying for, or inquiring about reproductive health care services[;] or gender-affirming health care services that are lawful under the laws of this State;*

*(2) Providing or responding to an inquiry about reproductive health care services[;] or genderaffirming health care services that are lawful under the laws of this State;*

*(3) [Engaging in conduct that assists or aids or abets the provision or receipt of reproductive health care services;] Assisting or aiding or abetting in any of the conduct described in paragraph (1) or (2); or*

*(4) Attempting or intending to engage in or providing material support for (or any other theory of vicarious, attempt, joint, several, or conspiracy liability derived therefrom) conduct described in paragraphs (1) to (3)[,in accordance with the laws of this State].*

SB1150 would forbid the entire State of Hawaii, including the Governor, from disclosing records or extraditing any kidnapper charged in another state, so long as the kidnapper alleges that the purpose of taking the child was to provide access to gender affirming care. It would forbid the courts from returning any child kidnapped from their home state under these auspices by nullifying any direct criminal charges. The authoritarian bill even forbids sending any information about whether the child has been subjected to life-changing procedures, like

sex-change surgeries, even if the biological parents obtained help from the other states' Governors, or if other authorities were to make formal legal demands. It would leave out-of-state parents completely in the dark and at the mercy of distant kangaroo courts. It even forbids the extradition of anyone charged with a crime in connection with 'helping a child to receive Gender Affirming Care', granting effective immunity for the actions of interstate kidnapers, so long as those actions are claimed to be in service of helping the child access Gender Affirming Care, even if they are wanted fugitives for those acts in another state.

Please let that sink in for a moment.

The Hawaii Kidnapping Bill also makes it a crime to interfere with the kidnapers or to disclose any data about the 'Gender Affirming Care' with anyone other than the kidnapper-petitioner, even if ordered by another court.

All this is predicated on nothing more than a single telehealth Zoom call as 'evidence' for the life-changing decision of an interstate judicial child custody determination.

It mandates nondisclosure by every last 'mandatory reporter' professional and care provider that could conceivably influence such a proceeding, placing a permanent professional gag order on whatever is done to the abducted children, no matter what authority or expert is doing the questioning.

It would be a crime under State law to comply with any oversight or investigation into the kidnappings from outside of Hawaii. Inside Hawaii, the situation would only be different if the family consented to give their children sex-changes; if not, then the provisions, when taken together, may form a direct bar to anyone requesting this information for any purpose contrary to promoting access to Gender Affirming Care. (The most relevant sections on this inquiry include: §323J-2, §323J-3, §323J-4, §451J-12). It appears that any family in Hawaii who does not consent to such care would not have access to records.

The authors of the Hawaii Kidnapping Bill have made a very distinct legislative package designed to facilitate abusive behavior. If it passes, the odds of an out-of-state family ever getting their child back from Hawaii legally would be slim. This law provides for atrocities against vulnerable, trafficked minors - with no legal protection or recourse for defendants and victims, and full protection for the perpetrators.





## **SENATE BILL 1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 · HHS/CPN HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** SB 1150, relating to health care, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming care services; and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

**Gender-affirming care is health care.** In recent weeks, the Trump administration has issued multiple executive orders targeting the rights of LGBTQ+ individuals, including orders banning transgender service members from the military, moving transgender women back into men's prisons, denying passports with gender markers, blocking schools from requiring teachers and other school staff to use names and pronouns that align with transgender students' preferred gender identify rather than the sex they were assigned at birth, and defunding gender-affirming care for transgender youth.

These efforts fly in the face of decades of research supported by every major medical association. The American Psychiatric Association, for instance, released a statement in 2018 saying, "Significant and long-standing medical and psychiatric literature exists that demonstrates clear benefits of medical and surgical interventions to assist gender variant individuals seeking transition. Access to medical care (both medical and surgical) positively impacts the mental health of transgender and gender variant individuals." Similarly, the American Public Health Association issued a statement in 2017

asserting that the APHA “urges Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation to protect the rights, legal benefits, and access to services of people of all gender identities and expressions.”

For its part, the American Medical Association, the largest association of physicians and medical students in the United States, has articulated its position on this issue on multiple occasions, most recently in 2023, when it said that the AMA “recognizes that treatments for gender dysphoria and gender incongruence are medically necessary” and that the organization “will work with stakeholders to advocate for laws and policies that protect access to care, oppose laws and policies that impede the provision of care, support protections against liability for physicians and institutions who provide care and patients who seek it, communicate about the importance of gender-affirming care, and advocate for coverage of gender-affirming care by public and private health insurers.”

Sadly, our society has seen a surge in far-right organizations and states attempting to ban gender-affirming care, arguing that being transgender is an “ideology.” As the Human Rights Campaign has stated, “These proponents have perpetrated a concerted disinformation campaign that has fueled not only discriminatory laws, but also threats and violence against providers of gender-affirming care.” As conservative states continue seeking access to patient data in an effort to not only suppress the right of transgender individuals to receive gender-affirming care, but eliminate transgender people’s existence within our country altogether, it is imperative that Hawai’i takes a strong stand to reaffirm the islands as a sanctuary for gender-affirming care and transgender rights, including by establishing a shield law for patients and medical providers who seek and provide gender-affirming care.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of fourteen attorneys general to reaffirm their pledge to protect access to gender-affirming care. The coalition released the following statement: “As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to restrict freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, lifesaving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves.”

Let’s follow the coalition’s lead, oppose fearmongering and discrimination, and enshrine the right to gender-affirming care for our transgender community in state law.

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



## SB 1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

FEBRUARY 11, 2025 · HHS/CPN HEARING

**POSITION:** Support.

**RATIONALE:** Imua Alliance supports SB 1150, relating to health care, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services; and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Everyone deserves access to the medical care they need. This includes gender-affirming care for transgender individuals. The Trump administration signed an executive order on January 28, 2025 that aims to block access to gender-affirming care for children and young adults. The order seeks to cut off federal funding from institutions that provide hormone therapy, puberty blockers, and surgical treatment for people under 19.

Washington, Oregon, and Minnesota have already filed lawsuits opposing the order. According to the three states, the order particularly targets medical care that is recommended for gender dysphoria, when a person's internal sense of gender identity conflicts with their sex assigned at birth. The lawsuit calls the order "cruel and baseless," and accuses the executive branch of "attempts to dictate medical care by executive fiat." The states argue that the order violates the Fifth Amendment's equal protection guarantee by singling out transgender individuals for discrimination.

On February 4<sup>th</sup>, Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of fourteen attorneys general to reaffirm their pledge to protect access to gender-affirming care. The coalition released the following statement: "As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect

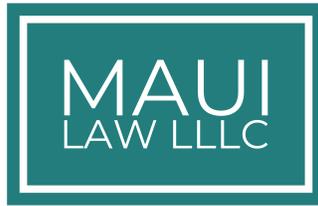
the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to restrict freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, lifesaving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves.”

The World Medical Association (WMA), an international group representing physicians from 114 National Medical Associations, states: "The WMA emphasizes that everyone has the right to determine one's own gender and recognizes the diversity of possibilities in this respect. The WMA calls for physicians to uphold each individual's right to self-identification with regard to gender...The WMA urges that every effort be made to make individualized, multi-professional, interdisciplinary, and affordable transgender healthcare (including speech therapy, hormonal treatment, surgical interventions and mental healthcare) available to all people who experience gender incongruence in order to reduce or to prevent pronounced gender dysphoria.”

In a coordinated push led by national anti-LGBTQ+ hate groups, legislators across the country have overridden the recommendations of the views of the medical establishment and introduced hundreds of bills that target transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth's access to age-appropriate, medically necessary care. By preventing doctors from providing care or threatening to take children away from parents who support their child in their transition, these efforts prevent transgender, non-binary, and gender-expansive youth from accessing medically necessary, safe health care backed by decades of research and supported by every major medical association representing over 1.3 million US doctors, according to the Human Rights Campaign.

LGBTQ+ youth, who comprise an estimated 40 percent of the runaway and homeless youth population in the United States, are exponentially more likely to fall prey to human traffickers because of discrimination, family and community trauma, and a longing for comfort and acceptance (an estimated 26 percent of LGBTQ+ adolescents are rejected by their families and put out of their homes simply for being open and honest about who they are). In providing care for victims of human trafficking, we have heard their stories hundreds of times. Eliminating access to gender-affirming care only worsens this cycle of alienation and abuse. **On the other hand, enshrining access into state law is a step toward ensuring that transgender youth can receive the care they need to live meaningful, fulfilling, and healthy lives.**

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



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February 9, 2025

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees:

My name is Jill Uehara and I am the owner and lead attorney of Maui Law LLLC.

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

As a former County of Maui Prosecutor, criminal defense attorney, and staunch advocate and member of LGBTQIA+ community here in Hawaii, I have experienced in both my professional and personal life the ramifications of limited access to gender affirming care.

I urge you to ensure protection for members of our community and providers assisting patients who are receiving health care that is often life saving and always absolutely necessary for those who seek it.

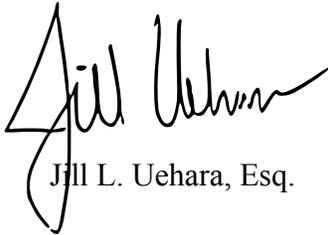
In 1978, Harvey Milk was elected to the San Francisco Board of Supervisors which made him the first openly gay elected official in the state of California. I implore you to consider his

words of wisdom and your position of power to protect the voices of those who are often overlooked and disregarded.

I cannot prevent anyone from getting angry, or mad, or frustrated. I can only hope that they'll turn that anger and frustration and madness into something positive, so that two, three, four, five hundred will step forward, so the gay doctors will come out, the gay lawyers, the gay judges, gay bankers, gay architects I hope that every professional gay will say 'enough,' come forward and tell everybody, wear a sign, let the world know. Maybe that will help.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jill Uehara". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Jill" being more prominent and the last name "Uehara" following in a similar style. The signature is positioned above the typed name.

Jill L. Uehara, Esq.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:11:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Testifying for Save Medicaid Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Save Medicaid Hawaii strongly supports SB1150

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:10:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
American American Academy of Pediatrics- Hawaii Chapter	Testifying for American American Academy of Pediatrics- Hawaii Chapter	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD,FAAP and I am writing on behalf of the Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics. We represent over 200 pediatricians in Hawaii and we are submitting this testimony in strong support of the SB 1150 Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. We strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom. Pediatricians have a duty to protect Keiki and this bill could save lives by giving transgender youth hope during these uncertain times.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Dr. Casandra Simonson MD FAAP

American Academy of Pediatrics- Hawaii Chapter



**LATE**

**HIPHI Board**

- May Okihiro, MD, MS  
*Chair*  
*John A. Burns School of Medicine,*  
*Department of Pediatrics*
- Titiimaea Ta'ase, JD  
*Secretary*  
*State of Hawai'i, Deputy Public Defender*
- Carissa Holley, MEd  
*Treasurer*  
*Hale Makua Health Services*
- Debbie Erskine  
*ARCH-MEPS Consulting LLC, Owner*
- Camonia Graham - Tutt, PhD  
*University of Hawai'i - West O'ahu*
- Jennifer José Lo, MD  
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- Misty Pacheco, DrPH  
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- 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 10, 2025

To: Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Health and Human Services

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

RE: Support for SB 1150, Relating To Health Care

Hrg: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:45 AM, Conference Room 229

The Hawai'i Public Health Institute,<sup>1</sup> **supports SB 1150**, relating to health care. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

**Gender-Affirming Care Promotes Overall Wellness**

A 2022 study by Stanford University School of Medicine found that positive mental health outcomes were higher for transgender people who accessed hormone replacement therapy as teenagers.<sup>2</sup> Moreover, a review of 53 studies published in the Journal of Gay & Lesbian Mental Health found that after receiving gender-affirming care, depression, anxiety, suicidality, suicide attempts, and gender dysphoria were significantly reduced.<sup>3</sup>

**Support from Health Organizations**

In 2016, the American Public Health Association (APHA) released a statement entitled "Promoting Transgender and Gender Minority Health through Inclusive Policies and Practices" that states, in part, that the APHA "urges Congress and state legislatures to enact legislation to protect the rights, legal benefits, and access to services of people of all gender identities and expressions."<sup>4</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.  
<sup>2</sup><https://med.stanford.edu/news/all-news/2022/01/mental-health-hormone-treatment-transgender-people.html>  
<sup>3</sup><https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/19359705.2021.2016537?src=recsys>  
<sup>4</sup><https://apha.org/policies-and-advocacy/public-health-policy-statements/policy-database/2017/01/26/promoting-transgender-and-gender-minority-health-through-inclusive-policies-and-practices>



Moreover, the American Psychological Association's (APA) Policy Statement on Affirming Evidence-Based Inclusive Care for Transgender, Gender Diverse, and Nonbinary Individuals, Addressing Misinformation, and the Role of Psychological Practice and Science asserts that "the APA underscores the necessity for access to comprehensive, gender-affirming healthcare for transgender, gender-diverse, and nonbinary children, adolescents, and adults."<sup>5</sup>

### **Attorney General Statement**

On February 4, 2025, Hawai'i Attorney General Anne Lopez joined a coalition of 14 attorneys general to reaffirm their commitment to protect access to gender-affirming care. In a publicly released statement the coalition noted, "As state attorneys general, we stand firmly in support of healthcare policies that respect the dignity and rights of all people. Health care decisions should be made by patients, families and doctors, not by a politician trying to restrict freedoms. Gender-affirming care is essential, lifesaving medical treatment that supports individuals in living as their authentic selves."<sup>6</sup>

Across the nation, we are witnessing sweeping efforts to restrict access to gender-affirming care for transgender individuals, including a presidential executive order that would end federal funding to medical institutions that provide gender-affirming care.<sup>7</sup> In response, our state has an obligation to protect the fundamental right to health care for the LGBTQ+ community, as well as the patients and medical practitioners who seek and provide such care.

We hope you will pass SB 1150 to safeguard access to basic health care for our island home.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nate Hix' in a cursive, flowing script.

Nate Hix  
Director of Policy and Advocacy

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<sup>5</sup> <https://www.apa.org/about/policy/transgender-nonbinary-inclusive-care.pdf>

<sup>6</sup> <https://governor.hawaii.gov/newsroom/2025-15-ag-news-release-attorney-general-lopez-and-13-other-attorneys-general-issue-joint-statement-on-protecting-access-to-gender-affirming-care>

<sup>7</sup> <https://www.aamc.org/advocacy-policy/washington-highlights/president-trump-issues-eo-intended-restrict-gender-affirming-care-minors>

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:44:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rick Ramirez	Testifying for Hawaii Health and Harm Reduction Center (HHRC)	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha all,

I am a healthcare provider writing in support of this measure. The importance of this bill and it's meaning cannot be understated. The Hawaiian Culture has always recognized Mahu and this bill supports the culture of the state in which we live. By being able to deliver safe efftive healthcare and medicines to those who need without fear of persecution is of the utmost importnat aspect. We request that the state uphold it's lineage by allowing all persons who are in Hawaii the ability to access evi-denced based healthcare without bias or discrimination. It is in this gthat we can truly be protective of the population. I fully support the passage of this bill and I hope that you will too.

Rick Ramirez, DNP, APRN, AG-ACNP-Bc, FNP-BC, ENP-C



oahupflag@gmail.com  
(808) 729-8609

pflag.org

To: Joint: **Senate Committee on Health and Human Services, and Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

From: **PFLAG O'ahu**  
**Camaron Miyamoto and Ryna Yamada**  
**PFLAG O'ahu Co-Presidents**

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to be "Camaron Miyamoto", written over a horizontal line.

Date: **Tuesday, February 11, 9:45am**

Re: **Strong Support of SB1150**

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

PFLAG O'ahu is writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai'i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Further, PFLAG O'ahu views passage of SB1150 is a necessary step to safeguard parental rights in Hawai'i. As parents of transgender, māhū and gender diverse children we know our children deserve the health care they need and we want. We must protect other gender diverse families too. In the event they choose to come to Hawai'i. Please pass SB1150.

PFLAG O'ahu is a new 501(c)3, a local chapter of the national organization. We are parents, families and friends of LGBTQ+ people We are grateful to have a Medical Doctor as our Governor who truly understands the importance of being able to continue lifesaving and medically necessary healthcare to transgender patients and who understands that important healthcare decisions should be made only between patients, their parents (if they are minors), and their doctor. We would very much appreciate meeting with you to share firsthand expert knowledge and lived experiences. The easiest way to reach to us is by contacting Camaron Miyamoto at (808) 729-8609 or by e-mail at [oahupflag@gmail.com](mailto:oahupflag@gmail.com)

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Camaron Miyamoto and Ryna Yamada  
PFLAG O'ahu Co-Presidents



To: Hawai'i Senate Commerce & Consumer Protection and Health and Human Services Committees  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:45 am  
Place: Hawai'i State Capitol, Rm. 229 and videoconference  
Re: Testimony of Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i in strong support of SB 1150

Dear Chairs and Members of the Committees,

Planned Parenthood Alliance Advocates – Hawai'i ("PPAA") strongly supports SB 1150, a bill that takes critical steps toward protecting gender affirming care providers. Fundamentally, providers and patients should not fear being investigated, jailed, or losing their license for providing or obtaining legal health care services.

Because of the national climate, gender affirming care providers and patients alike are living in fear of being criminally prosecuted by hostile states. In 2023 and 2024, we saw numerous states ban gender affirming care for both minors and adults, and this year, we are seeing attacks from the federal government. The law is crystal clear that gender affirming care provided in Hawai'i remains legal. Nonetheless, overzealous prosecutors and lawmakers in hostile states are pursuing laws that target providers and discipline outside of states' borders.

Lawmakers should also ensure Hawai'i health care providers do not have their licenses negatively impacted or face discipline locally due to the provision of gender affirming care health care, even if providers are subject to discipline, investigations, or criminal charges in other states. With gender affirming care bans for minors in place, providers in these states are being forced to violate their ethical duties and medical judgment for fear of prosecution, jail time, and loss of licensure. This bill aims to ensure that if a provider is prosecuted or otherwise disciplined in another state for providing patient-focused and medically appropriate care, they can continue to practice medicine in Hawai'i.

All people in our state need to be confident that Hawai'i law protects their right to access gender affirming care services, and providers should not be afraid to be jailed, lose their license, or be barred from ever practicing medicine again simply for providing basic, legal health care. Providers need to be confident that they can continue to focus on patient health and that Hawai'i will always be a safe place to do what is best for the person they are serving. We urge you to pass SB 1105 to protect our providers. Thank you for your consideration.



**Rosalee Agas Yuu, RN**  
President

1600 Ala Moana Blvd Suite 100  
Honolulu, HI 96815

Tel: (808) 531-1628  
Fax: (808) 524-2760

The Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Hawai'i State Senate  
Committee on Health and Human Services  
&  
Committee on Consumer Protection

Testimony by  
Hawaii Nurses' Association

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1150 – RELATING TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE**  
**February 11, 2025, 9:45 AM**  
**Conference Room 229, Hawaii State Capitol**

Aloha, Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and Honorable Members of the Senate Committees on Health and Human Services and Consumer Protection:

**The Hawai'i Nurses' Association – OPEIU Local 50 is affiliated with the AFL-CIO, was founded in 1917, and represents 4,000 nurses & health care professionals in the State of Hawai'i.** We appreciate the opportunity to testify today in **strong support** of SB1150 and to share our concerns regarding the broader national implications of restricting gender-affirming care.

**Protecting Patients' Right to Evidence-Based Care**

The Hawaii Nurses' Association is committed to ensuring that every patient has access to compassionate, evidence-based healthcare. Gender-affirming care is recognized by leading medical organizations—including the American Medical Association and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health—as a medically necessary treatment for transgender and gender diverse individuals. It is vital for the physical, mental, and emotional well-being of these patients.

A national ban on gender-affirming care would not only limit access to essential services but would also infringe on patients' fundamental right to receive appropriate and individualized care. Denying gender-affirming treatment risks exacerbating health disparities and may lead to increased rates of mental health challenges, such as anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation among transgender patients. By impeding access to care, such legislation would undermine the progress made in supporting the health and dignity of all individuals.

## **Implications for Nursing Practice and Licensure**

Equally concerning are the professional ramifications for nurses. Our practice is built on a foundation of ethical commitment to patient-centered care and adherence to evidence-based standards. Should a national ban on gender-affirming care be imposed, nurses who provide this care in alignment with current professional guidelines could find themselves in a precarious position. They might be forced to choose between fulfilling their ethical duty to their patients and complying with new legal constraints that contradict established medical practice.

This conflict is not only detrimental to patient outcomes but also poses a direct threat to the professional integrity and licensure of nurses. Imagine a scenario where a nurse, acting in the best interests of a patient, provides gender-affirming care only to face potential disciplinary action or even the loss of their professional license. Such a risk is unacceptable and fundamentally incompatible with the principles of nursing practice. Nurses must be free to practice in accordance with evidence-based guidelines without the fear of legal repercussions that compromise their ability to advocate for their patients.

## **A Call to Action**

In light of these concerns, the Hawaii Nurses' Association respectfully urges this committee to:

1. **Recognize the Critical Role of Gender-Affirming Care:** Ensure that any policies or legislation support patient access to medically necessary care and protect the clinical judgment of healthcare providers.
2. **Safeguard Nursing Practice:** Prevent any national mandates that would force nurses to choose between ethical, evidence-based practice and compliance with laws that restrict patient care, thereby protecting both patient rights and nurses' professional licenses.
3. **Promote Policies Grounded in Science:** Advocate for legislative measures that are informed by current medical research and the collective expertise of healthcare professionals, ensuring that all patients receive the care they need.

The Hawaii Nurses' Association stands firmly with our patients and our nursing professionals. We believe that upholding the right to gender-affirming care is essential not only for the health of transgender individuals but also for the integrity of our healthcare system. We respectfully request that this committee consider these critical issues as you deliberate on SB1150. Our collective goal must be to ensure that all patients receive the highest standard of care, and that nurses are empowered to practice without fear of punitive repercussions when they deliver evidence-based treatment.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rosalee Agas Yuu RN  
President, Hawai'i Nurses' Association

Submitted Online: February 10, 2025

**TO:** Senate Committee on Health & Human Services  
Senator Joy San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry Aquino, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Commerce & Consumer Affairs  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

**FROM:** Eva Andrade, President

**POSITION:** Opposition to SB1150 Relating to Healthcare

As an organization dedicated to protecting children and strengthening families, we believe that parents should be the first and foremost educators of their children. No law should create a system that purposely excludes them from crucial decisions affecting their child's well-being. We all agree that any policy impacting minors—especially those involving medical interventions and early childhood education—must be grounded in scientific evidence, ethical considerations, and the best interests of our keiki. Unfortunately, research does not support promoting gender ideology or medical transitions for minors.

**Research does not support medical interventions for gender-confused minors<sup>i</sup>.**

Medical interventions such as puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgeries are experimental and lack long-term safety studies. The FDA has not approved puberty blockers for gender dysphoria, and European countries (such as Sweden, Finland, and the UK) have reversed or restricted their use due to safety concerns. Our concern is that minors lack the maturity to consent to irreversible medical procedures that will have lifelong consequences. Allowing minors to make these decisions without parental consent is not only poor public policy but also a threat to family unity.

*Our bottom line is that parents—not schools or policymakers—should be the primary educators on moral and sensitive topics concerning gender and sexuality.*

**Medical transition has not been shown to reduce youth suicides<sup>ii</sup>.**

Advocates often claim that medical transition is necessary to prevent youth suicide, but peer-reviewed studies contradict this claim. In fact, quite the opposite may be true. Swedish longitudinal studies found that individuals who underwent medical transition had higher suicide rates compared to the general population. That means any promise made in saying that medical transition would resolve any mental health struggles is both misleading and dangerous, as gender dysphoria is often linked to other psychological conditions.

**Childhood gender dysphoria usually resolves by adulthood.<sup>iii</sup>**

There is research that shows that 80-95% of children with gender dysphoria eventually accept their biological sex by adulthood if not affirmed in a transgender identity. Psychologists recognize that gender confusion in children is often a phase, influenced by emotional development, peer relationships, and societal factors. Public policy should never encourage social and medical transitions that prevent a natural resolution while pushing our keiki toward unnecessary medicalization.

**The dramatic increase in gender dysphoria is likely being driven by social factors<sup>iv</sup>.**

In the past decade, cases of gender dysphoria have surged, especially among adolescent girls, a demographic not historically affected. Studies suggest social contagion and peer influence play a significant role in this rise, as online communities and social media promote transgender identities. We must be cautious and strongly hesitant of any attempt to ignore social influences or rush to medical interventions without understanding the broader context.

**Sex education for early elementary school children, including transgender ideology, has not been shown by research to be beneficial.<sup>v</sup>**

No scientific research supports the claim that introducing young children to transgender ideology improves mental health or well-being. Early exposure to complex gender concepts can cause confusion and distress in young minds.

In closing, it is our moral and societal responsibility to protect vulnerable keiki from experimental medical procedures and ideologies. We must work together to ensure that policies affecting minors are based on truth, compassion, and the best available research—not on ideological pressure or social trends.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

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<sup>i</sup> Ludvigsson, J. F., Adolfsson, J., Höistad, M., Rydelius, A., Kriström, B., & Landén, M. (2023). A systematic review of hormone treatment for children with gender dysphoria and recommendations for research. *Acta Paediatrica*, 112(11), 2279-2292. <https://doi.org/10.1111/apa.16791>

<sup>ii</sup> Tordoff DM, Wanta JW, Collin A, Stepney C, Inwards-Breland DJ, Ahrens K. Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Netw Open*. 2022;5(2):e220978. doi:10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978

<sup>iii</sup> Cretella, M., MD (n.d.). *Gender Dysphoria in Children*. American College of Pediatricians. Retrieved February 4, 2025, from <https://acpeds.org/assets/imported/corrected-REVISED-NOV-2018-Gender-Dysphoria-in-Children-1.pdf>

<sup>iv</sup> *ibid*

<sup>v</sup> Three Decades of Research: The Case for Comprehensive Sex Education, Goldfarb, Eva S. et al. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, Volume 68, Issue 1, 13 – 27

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:48:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Derek Turbin	Testifying for Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	In Person

Comments:

As the Chair of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, I Support SB1150.

Pursuant to the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i, the Party supports an inherent right to live a healthy life and believes all people have the right to access high quality healthcare. The Democratic Party of Hawai'i supports protection of transgender rights by advocating for legislation that safeguards gender affirming care and condemns anti-transgender measures.



## Hawai'i

Committee: Health & Human Services and Commerce & Consumer Protection  
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:45am  
Place: Conference Room 229 & via Videoconference  
Re: Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in support of SB1150 Relating to Health Care

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga and Members of the Committees:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU of Hawai'i") writes in **support of SB1150**. This bill expands protections established under ACT 2, Session Laws of Hawaii 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

The ACLU of Hawai'i is committed to defending LGBTQ+ individuals and their right to necessary health care services. We also believe in principles of federalism, which gives states the right to rely on its Constitution and enact laws to more expansively protect the civil rights and liberties of its residents. It also means that another State cannot force the State of Hawai'i to enforce its laws that are contrary to the public policy of Hawai'i.

Each person has the right to bodily autonomy and bodily integrity. ***Medical decisions should be left to individuals and their doctors. Patients and their doctors should be trusted to make private medical decisions, not politicians.*** Every family should have the freedom to love and support their child, transgender or not. Gender-affirming care is a critical part of helping transgender adolescents succeed in school, establish healthy relationships with their friends and family, and live authentically as themselves.

Transgender youth who are affirmed in their gender by their families do better in school, feel safer in their communities, establish healthy relationships with their parents and peers, and are better equipped to plan for their future. In contrast, denying them this support increases their likelihood of dropping out of school, increases their risk for substance use, worsens symptoms of depression and anxiety, and gravely increases their risk for suicide.

**SB1150** not only protects young individuals and their parents from other state jurisdictions from being separated based on the laws of those other states, this bill also provides for and protects the right to "medically necessary health care that respects the gender identity of the patient, as experienced and defined by the patient." This includes mental and behavioral health care.

The legal landscape across too much of the country is changing in harmful ways; as a result, many of our fundamental rights, dearly held and relied upon for generations, are being called into question.

The Executive Order that President Trump issued on January 28, 2025, directing all federal agencies to “immediately take appropriate steps to ensure that institutions receiving Federal research education grants end” gender affirming medical care for people under nineteen has an openly discriminatory purpose. **Its effect is to prevent transgender people from expressing a gender identity different from their sex designated at birth—and expressing governmental disapproval of transgender people who, by definition, have a gender identity that does not align with their sex designated at birth.**

These Orders are part of a government-wide effort by the Trump Administration to restrict legal protections and essential services for the transgender community. These orders contravene the State of Hawai‘i’s strong commitment to the protection of civil rights. **Article I, Section 5 of the Hawai‘i Constitution provides that “no person shall be denied the enjoyment of civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry.”**

Let’s be clear – these discriminatory orders taken at the federal level are already having a chilling effect on the transgender community and their allies. People are scared, and they need to know that they will be protected if they continue to exercise their right to necessary medical care for themselves or their families.

We appreciate the legislature’s commitment to safeguarding medically necessary treatments and **upholding freedom from unjustified government intrusions into bodily autonomy, a core liberty interest protected by due process.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify. Please pass **SB1150**.

Sincerely,

**Carrie Ann Shiota**

Carrie Ann Shiota

Policy Director

ACLU of Hawai‘i

[cshiota@acluhawaii.org](mailto:cshiota@acluhawaii.org)

American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i

P.O. Box 3410 Honolulu,

Hawai‘i 96801T:

808.522.5900

F: 808.522.5909

E: [office@acluhawaii.org](mailto:office@acluhawaii.org)

[www.acluhawaii.org](http://www.acluhawaii.org)

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai‘i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. The ACLU of Hawai‘i is a non-partisan and private non-profit organization that provides its services at no cost to the public and does not accept government funds. The ACLU of Hawai‘i has been serving Hawai‘i for over 50 years*



LAMBDA LAW HAWAI'I  
WILLIAM S. RICHARDSON SCHOOL OF LAW

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF [SB1150](#)

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
February 11th, 2025

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

**Lambda Law Hawai'i, a Law Student Association** at the William S. Richardson School of Law, at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, **strongly supports SB1150**. This bill expands the protections established under Act 2 of 2023 to include gender-affirming healthcare services. It also clarifies Hawai'i jurisdiction for child custody and child enforcement act cases for children whose parents choose to authorize gender affirming care (GAC) for their keiki. Finally, it protects healthcare providers who provide GAC from professional licensing penalties incurred in states who are hostile to such care.

**Gender affirming care covers a wide range of practices that are medically sound and supported by experts as best practice** for many people, including trans and nonbinary children and adults, but also encompassing cis children and adults. The **negative rhetoric that has been building against GAC**, which has been unfortunately imported into Hawai'i as of late, is **unfounded and biased** against trans people, who are a minority in our population. **We must ensure that this life-saving care is not criminalized in the Aloha State**, and that **parents** who choose to allow their children to pursue this care (as well as **doctors** who provide this care) **will not be subject to the punitive and cruel laws** of other states.

This bill would not force anyone to engage in any health care practices they disagree with, nor would it impose any obligations on parents, healthcare providers, or children to do anything they aren't already doing. This bill simply **protects a vulnerable population facing attacks from other states, and shields those who support them from criminalization and other penalization** as other jurisdictions attempt to reach into our own for such purposes.

No matter what the current U.S. President says, **trans and nonbinary people are here to stay, and we deserve and must be guaranteed access to the medicines and practices that we require to live happy and healthy lives.** Let us continue to be a leader in materially **respecting the dignity of all the people of Hawai'i, including māhū, fa'afafine, bakla, and LGBTQ+ people who make our communities that much stronger.**

**Please support SB1150.** Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

**Lambda Law Hawai'i**, a Law Student Association at the William S. Richardson School of Law  
*Mission: To advance equal rights for LGBTQIA+ individuals at WSRSL and beyond.*



### **Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection**

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

### **Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair

Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

For hearing by CPN/HHS committees on February 11, 2025, 9:45am

### **Testimony in Support of SB1150**

Chairs Keohokalole and Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino and members of the committees,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents over 10,000 working people in the hotel, foodservice and healthcare industries across Hawaii.

**We support the intent of SB1150.** The bill is comprehensive and covers different areas of law to protect an individual's rights for privacy and healthcare - in this case, gender-affirming healthcare.

The bill protects our state's sovereignty from other states that will try to compel us to surrender to intolerant views. We cannot set a precedent where our state can be subservient to another state's policies. We cannot surrender our state's sovereignty to the whims of other states. SB1150 is focused on the gender-affirming healthcare issue, but we do not know how far others will invade our state's rights in other areas of law if we don't act on this issue today.

The bill protects individuals' rights by affirming:

- A patient's healthcare information remains private.
- Our local government will not be subject to subpoenas or actions from other states or federal government for seeking lawful healthcare.
- Our local government cannot give out information to out-of-state entities for lawful healthcare.
- A patient's right to seek lawful healthcare.
- No Hawaii governor will surrender a Hawaii resident because another state alleged gender-affirming care was illegal.
- Confidentiality and privileged communications of healthcare patients.
- Medical practitioners won't be punished for providing lawful healthcare, nor allow other state's punishment to extend their disciplinary actions to Hawaii practitioners for lawful healthcare.
- Hawaii courts cannot waive its jurisdiction as an "inconvenient forum."

These are important rights that SB1150 protects, while also providing reasonable exceptions to those rules. **We urge you to pass SB1150.**

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

# TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB1150, RELATING TO HEALTH CARE

## SENATE COMMITTEES ON HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES AND COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION February 11, 2025 at 9:45am

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga and Members of the joint Senate Health & Human Services and Commerce & Consumer Protection Committees:

It has become clear that extremists across the nation have made it their priority to target women and members of the LGBTQIA+ community by stripping away their rights, especially access to health care.

Dozens of states across the nation have either passed or are considering passing laws prohibiting gender affirming health care to people of ALL AGES. These laws target providers and recipients, making it a criminal offense to provide gender affirming care. The LGBTQIA+ community is under unprecedented attack across the nation, and it is our responsibility to stand up to bullies and protect the civil and basic human rights of our fellow residents from overreach from other states on the continent.

In 2023, we passed a similar bill, now enacted in ACT 2, to address specific protections for reproductive rights. I believe that, together, we can continue to make a difference and also pass protections for gender affirming care.

SB 1150 will provide significant legal and civil protections to individuals and entities providing and receiving gender affirming care. It will:

- Defends Hawai'i's Sovereignty: This is a STATE'S RIGHTS issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent.
- Protects Parents' Rights: Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals and legal in Hawai'i.
- Supports Families and Medical Professionals: Parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states.

- Ensures Medical Privacy: Ensuring that your medical records belong to YOU. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities.
- Defends Hawai'i's Healthcare Providers: Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws.
- Preserves Indigenous Values: This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pacifica Islanders, who have long embraced gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values.
- Reinforces Existing Protections: This legislation mirrors the protections for reproductive rights enacted under 2023's ACT 2, extending the same security to gender-affirming care.
- **What this bill does not do:**
  - **✗ It does NOT authorize surgeries on minors;**
  - **✗ It does NOT permit prescriptions without parental consent;**
  - **✗ It does NOT force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender;**
  - **✗ It does NOT allow children to be removed from their families.**

Hawai'i will not bow to the politics of fear and hate. Please support SB 1150.

Mahalo for you time and consideration.

Sarah Simmons  
Volcano, HI

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE JOINT HEARING OF THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION & THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RE: SB 1150 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 11TH, 2025

TUIA'ANA SCANLAN, CHAIR  
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I LABOR CAUCUS

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate committees,

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Labor Caucus **strongly supports SB 1150**, relating to health care.

We are dedicated to the goal of a classless society that leaves no part of our State's labor force without the benefits of healthcare, sick leave and workplaces free from hazard. We pledge an end to all forms of workplace discrimination, and, therefore, we support pay equity and equal opportunity for all regardless of race, color, creed, gender, gender identity, gender expression, national or ethnic origin, ancestry, or sexual orientation

This critical legislation is a bold step to safeguard the healthcare rights of the working families of Hawai'i and Hawai'i residents. SB1150 will uphold the values we cherish as a community. This is a state's rights issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent. Unlike what opponents of this bill might say, this bill does not authorize surgeries on minors, it does not allow children to be removed from their families, and it does not force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender.

Through SB1150, parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states. Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare and legal professionals in Hawai'i.

Individual medical records belong to that individual. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities. Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws. This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pasifika Islanders, who have long embraced

gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary “ideals”. This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values—another form of colonization.

We strongly urge your committees to pass HB1244. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:47:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Rice	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

My testimony is brief. I am here to urge you to place your full support behind SB1150. Gender-affirming care is life saving. Reproductive healthcare is a human right.

Opposition to these critical medical services lacks evidence and empathy. It would have profound negative effects on the residents of Hawai‘i and is in direct conflict with Hawaiian values.

Me ko‘u mahalo,

Sarah Rice

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:30:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dr. Casandra Simonson, MD	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

2/8/25

SB1150- In Support

Thank you to the Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee Members,

My name is Dr. Casandra Simonson MD FAAP and I am testifying on my own behalf and not representing anyone else. I have been a community pediatrician serving Native Hawaiian and underserved keiki in Maui for over 10 years and here today to talk to you about the importance of supporting SB1150.

Teenagers can be hard to talk to. It's a lot of shrugs and "ums", and "huhs"? But sometimes my patient is a teenager with a secret. Sometimes it is a boy with a secret suitcase of women's clothing ready and waiting for when they turn 18. Sometimes it's a transgender teen whose father is in the military. A teen who told me her Dad would hurt her, badly, if he ever found out. According to some, I am the one hurting children, mutilating them without their parents' consent. Not only can I not do that, I can't do anything without both parent's or guardian's consent. Many parents choose to try to help their child. That is their right and in my opinion as a pediatrician, it is the right choice. Gender affirming care is about safety. There are people suffering, hiding, waiting for escape. Some only find escape by suicide.

Being transgender isn't contagious. Being transgender doesn't hurt anyone else. Transgender care is between the patient, their family, and their doctor and no one else.

We have the opportunity in Hawaii to be a safe place, a strong place, an independent place. We have a chance to reflect on our values. The state should protect and respect parents right to seek care for their children. In the future, when people look back on this time in dismay and disbelief, supporting SB1150 will ensure your voting record be on the right side of history.

Thank you so much for your time and consideration.



February 7, 2025

RE: SB1150

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, the Health Care Access Protection Act, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai'i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai'i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai'i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

I am a gender affirming care provider in Honolulu, who serves the transgender and nonbinary youth and adult populations, and it is imperative that I along with other healthcare providers are allowed to continue the necessary care for these patients. I have seen my patients come into my office full of despair, and through providing them with gender affirming care, I have witnessed them transform into who they truly are. Since the federal executive order threatening to ban gender affirming care, I have seen my patient's mental health deteriorate, with concerns if I will still be here to provide them with the care they so desperately need.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai'i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Ryan, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Pronouns: She/They

Founder and Medical Director

Evolve Health, LLC

1188 Bishop St., Ste. 1603

Honolulu, HI, 96813

Phone: (808) 452-1731



[https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/SB1150\\_.HTM](https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/sessions/session2025/bills/SB1150_.HTM)



# IATSE LOCAL 665

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

Thirty-Third Legislature, State of Hawai'i  
Regular Session of 2025  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Testimony by IATSE 665  
February 11th, 2025

## **SB1150 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Senate committees,

My name is Tuia'ana Scanlan, IATSE International Trustee and President of IATSE Local 665, the union representing technicians and artisans in the entertainment industry in Hawai'i. **IATSE 665 strongly supports SB1150**, relating to health care.

This critical legislation is a bold step to safeguard the healthcare rights of Hawai'i residents and uphold the values we cherish as a community. This is a state's rights issue, ensuring that the laws we enact in Hawai'i are protected from interference by laws passed in other states on the continent. Unlike what opponents of this bill might say, this bill does not authorize surgeries on minors, it does not allow children to be removed from their families, and it does not force anyone to transition or "make" anyone transgender.

Through SB1150, parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states. Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children—decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare and legal professionals in Hawai'i.

Individual medical records belong to that individual. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities. Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i will be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws. This bill safeguards the cultural heritage of Pasifika Islanders, who have long embraced gender diversity, from external pressures to conform to western gender-binary "ideals". This is about stopping the erosion of indigenous cultural values—another form of colonization.

**IATSE 665 strongly supports SB1150. We urge your committee to do the same.** Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

In Solidarity,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Tuia'ana Scanlan', written in a cursive style.

Tuia'ana Scanlan  
International Trustee  
President, IATSE 665  
(he/him/his)

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:38:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sara Haack	Testifying for Sound Mind Psychiatry LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1150. Access to gender affirming care is critical and at times life saving. As a psychiatrist, I can affirm that when adolescents and adults have access to the gender affirming care they need, their mental health has the chance to thrive. Conversely, when this care is not accessible, it can be incredibly damaging to one's mental well-being.

Trust physicians, healthcare providers, individuals and their families to make carefully considered and evidenced-based choices on what is best for their health. We make these decisions with great thought, medical training, and always with the patient's best interest at heart.



# KUMUKAHI

## HEALTH + WELLNESS

### Board of Directors

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Luahiwa Namahoe

Martin Rathbun

Nicholas VandenRaadt, RN BSN

February 10, 2025

Re: Support of SB1150

**LATE**

Dear Chairs and Members of the committee,

On behalf of our organization, Kumukahi Health + Wellness, I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

**Gender-affirming care (GAC)** encompasses a range of medical, mental health, and social services that support transgender and non-binary individuals in living authentically. It includes but is not limited to counseling, hormone therapy, puberty blockers (for adolescents), and, in some cases, surgery. All major U.S. medical and mental health organizations (e.g., American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics) recognize GAC as medically necessary and evidence-based.

### Chief Executive Officer

Peter Tuiolosega Silva

Our organization is the only dedicated neighbor island gender affirming clinic on the neighbor islands, which opened in 2021 in Hilo and Kona. We opened because we heard the need for medical services on island. Many Hawai'i Island residents could not fly to O'ahu for gender affirming care and were turning to non-medical grade hormonal drugs that they got from friends or the internet. With the current anti-transgender executive orders, our patients are once again talking about stockpiling medication, going underground for medication, or completely stopping in fear of being targeted by the law. TG women experience higher incidence of HIV & STIs (UNAIDS, 2020) because of these survival methods. This is why we support GAC in our clinic:

**East Hawai'i Office**  
101 Aupuni Street, PH 1014C  
Hilo, HI 96720  
Phone: 808-982-8800  
Fax: 808-982-8802

**West Hawai'i Office**  
74-5620 Palani Road  
Suite 101  
Kailua-Kona, HI 96740  
Phone: 808-331-8177  
Fax: 808-331-0762

### Evidence-Based Standards

- GAC follows well-established clinical guidelines, such as those from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and the Endocrine Society (Coleman et al., 2022).
- Treatment decisions are individualized, often requiring assessments from multiple healthcare professionals (mental health providers, endocrinologists, and surgeons as applicable).

[kumukahiHEALTH.org](http://kumukahiHEALTH.org)

A NEW DAY FOR H.I.H.A.F.



# KUMUKAHI

## HEALTH + WELLNESS

### Positive Health Outcomes

- Studies link access to GAC with reduced depression, anxiety, and suicidality among transgender and non-binary individuals (Almazan & Keuroghlian, 2021; Tordoff et al., 2022).
- Adolescents who receive timely interventions show improved overall well-being and lower risk of self-harm (Tordoff et al., 2022).

### Accessibility and Barriers

- Many transgender individuals face insurance coverage limitations and societal stigma, hindering timely access to GAC.
- Structural barriers (e.g., restrictive policies, insufficient provider training) exacerbate health disparities and reinforce mistrust in the healthcare system (Chong et al., 2021).

### Puberty Blockers and Hormones

- Puberty blockers are reversible treatments that allow adolescents time to explore their gender identity.
- Hormone therapy is prescribed after thorough evaluation, and its benefits include alignment of physical traits with one's gender identity.

### Policy Implications

- Restricting access to GAC can worsen mental health outcomes, especially for youth'
- Supporting policies that protect and expand coverage for GAC can reduce discrimination and improve health equity.

**Gender-affirming care (GAC) for minors** involves a range of supportive, evidence-based treatments—such as counseling, social transition, puberty blockers, and, in some cases, hormone therapy—aimed at alleviating gender dysphoria and promoting overall well-being. All major U.S. medical organizations, including the American Medical Association and the American Academy of Pediatrics, recognize the necessity of age-appropriate, individualized care for transgender and non-binary youth.

In the Hawai'i YRBS Report 2019, Hawai'i County had the highest population of young people identify as LGBTQ+, with 2.1% high school students and 1.9% of middle school students that identify as transgender or non-binary. At Kumukahi, we have had so many parents calling us, concerned for their child who was suicidal because they were not getting support in their identity journey. They report other parents and schoolmates calling them “butchie,” “mahu,” or “sissy,” and they are desperate to help their child to get behavioral and medical support to they need. We know that TG youth are less likely to live in the family home and TG people are more likely to not continue education, use injection drugs, and experience sexual and physical abuse (DOH Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report, 2020). This data demonstrates a need



# KUMUKAHI

## HEALTH + WELLNESS

for a program aimed directly at improving the quality of life for this vulnerable group. This is why we support GAC in our clinic:

### Improved Mental Health

- Research consistently shows that minors receiving timely GAC experience reduced rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation (Tordoff et al., 2022).
- Early support during adolescence fosters healthier social development and overall quality of life (Chong et al., 2021).

### Puberty Blockers

- Safe, reversible treatments that temporarily pause puberty, allowing youth time to explore their identity without permanent physical changes (Coleman et al., 2022).
- Studies have found that access to puberty blockers correlates with decreased suicidality among transgender youth (McEwing, 2020).

### Evidence-Based Guidelines

- Standards of care from the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) and the Endocrine Society outline best practices for minors at different stages of development (WPATH, 2022).
- These guidelines emphasize thorough assessments by interdisciplinary care teams, mental health providers, and family involvement.

### Long-Term Benefits

- Early interventions can prevent negative health outcomes later in life, including chronic depression, anxiety, and suicidality (Tordoff et al., 2022).
- Consistent, supportive care empowers youth to thrive academically, socially, and emotionally.

### Policy Implications

- Restrictive legislation limiting minors' access to GAC can exacerbate health disparities and psychosocial risks (White Hughto et al., 2015).
- Policymakers can support minors by advocating for insurance coverage, funding healthcare professional training, and safeguarding the right to access age-appropriate treatments.

We, in Hawai'i, have a long-standing history of protecting our diverse communities, and we do not need out-of-state policies determining what we know is best for our Hawai'i people. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.



# KUMUKAHI

HEALTH + WELLNESS

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Peter Tui Silva'.

Peter Tui Silva  
CEO

**Written Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
and  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025 at 9:45 am  
Conference Room 229 and videoconference  
By  
Laura Reichhardt, APRN, AGPCNP-BC  
Director, Hawai'i State Center for Nursing  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa**

**Testimony of Support on S.B. 1150**

Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and members of the Committees: The Hawai'i State Center for Nursing (HSCN) supports the intent of this measure and provides testimony in support related to Section 10 and 11 as it relates to nursing practice and patient safety.

This measure expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Section 10 and 11 in this measure enable the Hawai'i Board of Nursing to consider the context for which disciplinary action has been take on nurses with licenses in other states who are applying for or licensed in Hawai'i.

Protecting healthcare providers who perform legal, safe, evidence-based healthcare from out-of-state or interstate investigation due to political disagreements is an important action which aids in recruiting and retaining our local healthcare providers. This measure codifies statutes to be consistent with the current, evidence-based practice standards. In addition, this measure aims to protect patients' access to care that is established in law in Hawai'i, as well as protect the qualified healthcare providers who offer these healthcare services.

The Legislature is a critical part of ensuring our state has access to healthcare providers. States that have enacted supportive laws for healthcare providers see growth in the number of healthcare professionals in their state, particularly in rural and shortage areas.<sup>1</sup> Conversely, when states enact laws that impede a provider's ability to provide safe, timely, evidence-based healthcare, it can lead to healthcare "deserts" in which providers leave the practice, region, or state.<sup>2</sup> The impact is that patients lose access to care.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. While HSCN takes no position on the substance of this measure, HSCN appreciates the opportunity to comment on the content pertaining to nurses.

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<sup>1</sup> [https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256\(17\)30176-X/fulltext](https://www.journalofnursingregulation.com/article/S2155-8256(17)30176-X/fulltext)

<sup>2</sup> <https://idahocapitalsun.com/2024/04/05/idaho-is-losing-ob-gyns-after-strict-abortion-ban-but-health-exceptions-unlikely-this-year/>

*The mission of the Hawai'i State Center is to engage in nursing workforce research, promote best practices and disseminate knowledge, cultivate a diverse and well-prepared workforce, support healthy work environments, champion lifelong learning, and strategically plan for sound nursing workforce policy.*

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:31:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Geena Thielen	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chairs Keohokalole, Buenaventura and Members of the Committees,

My name is Geena Thielen and I am testifying in support of SB1150 Relating to Healthcare. Since being sworn in last month, President Trump has unleashed a flurry of Executive Ordeers targeting the rights of Transgender people. While these orders have specific implications, the over-arching goal is to eradicate transgender people's existence. We have always been here and we will always be here. Targeting a marginalized minority for discrimination is the oldest ploy of the worst types of leaders. This is a moment in time reminiscent of George Wallace having his stand in the school house door and John F. Kennedy using the power of Executive order to make him move. The difference is this time the roles are reversed and our President is on the wrong side of history. Will you stand against him? Or will you allow his agenda to be carried out unimpeded?

Mahalo,

Ms. Geena Thielen

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:56:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Harris-Uldall	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I am writing today in strong support of the proposed bill, SB1150, to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. This expansion is not just necessary—it is critical to ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender identity, receive the compassionate, respectful, and affirming care they deserve.

Today, I work closely with LGBTQ+ youth through Spill the Tea Café as a Master’s Social Work Intern. Spill the Tea Café is a space dedicated to providing a safe and affirming environment for young people in our community. According to the Hawai’i Department of Health (2024), data on the health of sexual and gender minority high school students revealed that 1 in 20 local high school students identify as lesbian, gay, or bisexual, and 1 in 10 local students are questioning their orientation. Connecting these numbers with the 500+ youth we serve, our commitment to providing trauma-informed and gender-affirming care in our practices makes a world of difference to the youth we support. Many of our teens have faced rejection, discrimination, and systemic barriers that prevent them from accessing the care and support they need. At Spill the Tea Café, they find a place where they are seen, respected, and embraced for who they are. They share stories of relief and empowerment—of finally having a space where they are not just tolerated but celebrated.

In both my professional and personal life, I have witnessed firsthand the harm caused by inadequate and insensitive health care. I cannot stress enough the importance of this legislation. About ten years ago, when I was in high school, I had a close friend who struggled immensely within the healthcare system. Every doctor's visit was problematic—misgendering, invasive questioning and a fundamental lack of recognition of their identity were routine experiences. Rather than receiving the care they needed, they were met with scrutiny and judgment. Their physical and mental well-being suffered because the very system designed to care for them instead became a source of distress. From my friend’s experience a decade ago to the current teens at Spill the Tea Café, this is not an isolated incident—it is a reality for far too many.

This bill is about more than just policy; it is about saving lives. Gender-affirming health care should not be controversial—it is evidence-based, life-saving care that ensures individuals can live authentically and with dignity. Expanding protections will not only improve health outcomes but also send a powerful message that Hawai’i values all of its residents, including transgender and non-binary individuals.

I urge you to support this bill and take a stand for gender-affirming care. Let's ensure that no one has to endure the harm our teens are experiencing, and let's continue fostering spaces where all LGBTQ+ youth can thrive.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:50:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cheryl burghardt	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

ALoha

I SUPPORT SB 1150 which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. Clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Today and always it is important for us to protect all of the people of this place to ensure that all people have the health care services needed.

Mahalo

C. Burghardt

Kou Oahu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 5:56:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB1150. Please pass this bill.

Mike Golojuch, Sr.

From: Renee Dieperink

Date: 2/6/25

Re. **SB1150 re. Gender-affirming care**

Position: **OPPOSE SB1150**

After listening to so many de-transitioners, I feel it is barbaric to allow these procedures to minors. Let them wait at least until they are adults.



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 7:22:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele Golojuch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill will save lives. The suicide rate of children and young adults who don't receive appropriate mental and medical support is sky high. I support this a hundred percent.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 8:39:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mecca Monson-Gere	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for fighting for families who are at this moment so afraid. The recent administration change does not reflect the values of Hawaii. All people deserve our love and shouldn't be denied support- mental, physical or medical. Furthermore the medical staff, parents and family whose aim is to protect them shouldn't live in fear of doing so. Please support gender-affirming care and remove it from being a custody issue. Help us continue to be a state that cares.

Mahalo,

Mecca Monson-Gere

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:38:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephen Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a transgender person in Hawai'i, this bill is of vital importance to me. The unprecedented wave of hatred from President Trump is alarming to transgender people and their allies, and this bill would limit the President's ability to restrict gender-affirming care. Transgender people deserve to make decisions about their bodies and their healthcare. This bill would protect those rights and would help keep Hawai'i a safe place for trans people.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 9:43:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anne Farahi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill to support everyone's choice to feel comfortable in their own skin.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:28:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Heidi Shimada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150 because gender-affirming care is important to everyone regardless of how they choose to identify. We all deserve to feel comfortable in our own skin. Even as a cis woman, hormone regulation through IUDs help even my menstrual cycle so I'm not bleeding two weeks on, two weeks off. For some, gender affirming care can treat erectile dysfunction or balding or excess hair. Allowing others to be their true selves doesn't diminish our own identities. We need to take care of our whole community in Hawaii and allow gender-affirming care for everyone, including our trans neighbors.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:32:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nikki-Ann Yee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support** of SB1150, a critical measure that will protect patients, providers, and families from out-of-state persecution, professional discipline, and family separation when seeking or providing gender-affirming care in Hawai‘i. This bill ensures that covered entities in Hawai‘i do not release sensitive information or comply with out-of-state legal actions—such as subpoenas—originating from jurisdictions that criminalize or restrict gender-affirming health care.

Hawaii would also align itself with 17 other states and Washington, D.C., that have enacted similar protective laws. As attacks on transgender rights escalate nationwide, Hawai‘i must join this effort and SB1150 upholds Hawaii’s commitment to health care access, patient privacy, and human rights. This bill would safeguard Hawaii’s role as a safe haven where people and families can receive access to gender-affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Nikki-Ann Yee

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/6/2025 10:45:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Grey Murphree	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a PhD candidate living in Mānoa, and gender affirming care has saved my life. I have been on testosterone for over three years, and I had a gender-affirming mastectomy two years ago at Kapiolani Medical Center. This care has vastly improved my quality of life, and I am incredibly grateful for it. I love living in Hawai'i for many reasons, a major one being the legal protections for trans and nonbinary people. This bill would strengthen those protections, which is especially important now given this administration's targeted attacks on trans people.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:31:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Richard S Velasquez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Now more than ever, please support this bill, this bill protects a persons right to make one of the most personal medoical decisions they will ever have to face

Please vote yes

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 6:09:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rebecca Soon	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Members of the HHS & CPN Committees:

Mahalo for the courage to advance this measure, critical for supporting and protecting the medical rights, personal autonomy, and family values of Hawai'i. I offer this testimony is strong support of SB1150.

In 2024, Ward Research found that 64% of Hawai'i voters support gender-affirming care (10% not having enough information). The attacks on our transgender community are not only a violation of their individual rights and our state rights, they go beyond into the realm of inhumane. Please support this measure and in doing so, continue to protect the rights of all people in Hawai'i and the values we cherish deeply of compassion and aloha. Mahalo nui.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:11:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Joe Wilson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received or provided in Hawai‘i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai‘i do not release related information to or comply with requests from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

As Director of Lei Pua ‘Ala Queer Histories of Hawai‘i, I have seen countless examples of persecution against gender and sexual minorities in the islands across the centuries, always rooted in a similar meanspirited ideology aimed at dividing communities and denying the humanity of individuals who are simply trying to live their best life. But in these examples, I have also seen the inspiration that emerges when good people rise up to say no, not now, not in our name.

I hope you and your committees will be such voices of the history being written now, rising to protect vulnerable members of our communities against the bigotry and hatred rippling across the U.S. and around the world.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai‘i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai‘i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your attention and consideration.

With aloha,

Joe Wilson

Kaunala

Senate District 23 North Shore O'ahu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:26:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amber Vinson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amber Vinson, LMFT HI #205

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:32:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Skyler Riela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Skyler Riela (they / them)

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:33:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jo-Ann M Adams	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a State we must protect our citizens. The current administration has targeted the transgender community. Mahu are an integral part of our indigenous culture and must be protected.

We are the Aloha State!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:06:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rosemary Bearden	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Rosemary Bearden and I strongly support SB1150. I have lived in Hawai'i my entire life, and I have grown up with and met many transgender people. As a person who has talked to many transgender people on the subject, I am absolutely certain that gender-affirming care is in many cases necessary for transgender people. Access to gender-affirming care should most definitely be protected. Without it, thousands of trans people across Hawai'i will suffer. The effects that removing access to gender-affirming care has on transgender people should not be understated. I have known transgender people who have become depressed and suicidal due to having no access to the gender-affirming care they desperately needed. If Hawai'i values the lives of its citizens, it should pass SB1150. Thus, I vehemently support SB1150.

Another reason I strongly support SB1150 is that when I was a minor I had a couple of transgender friends (also minors) who experienced varying levels of support from their parents. From these experiences, I am certain that the parents who actually support their children and allow them to receive gender-affirming care are absolutely NOT detrimental to their children, but rather the complete opposite. Thus, I strongly support SB1150, because it states that children will not be removed from their parents because their parents support them and allow them access to the care they need to live and be happy.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:13:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiare Sua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,**

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which will help protect patients, providers, and families from **out-of-state persecution, professional discipline, and family separation** when gender-affirming care is received or provided in Hawaii. This bill ensures that covered entities in Hawaii **do not release private health information or comply with subpoenas or legal actions** from jurisdictions seeking to penalize individuals for accessing or providing this essential care.

We have seen states weaponizing the legal system to **punish people simply for receiving medically necessary, evidence-based care**. Families are being forced to make impossible choices—stay in a state that criminalizes them, or uproot their lives to protect their children. **Providers are being threatened for upholding their ethical duty to care for their patients.** This bill ensures that Hawaii remains a **safe and affirming place**, where people can access the care they need without fear of being targeted.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia have already put similar protections in place. **Hawaii must not wait.** We have an opportunity to take a clear stance: We will not be complicit in the harm being inflicted on transgender individuals and their families. **We will protect our people. We will protect our providers.**

I urge you to pass SB1150 to **keep Hawaii a place where healthcare decisions are made between patients and their providers—not politicians in other states.**

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Sincerely,  
Tiare Sua**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:26:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Kapua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Cathy Kapua

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 11:39:51 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Grise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to you in strong support of SB1150 in order to protect access to gender affirmind care.

Mahalo!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:02:30 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anthony Makana Paris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1150**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the committees:

I respectfully submit my support for SB 1150, a vital bill that helps protect the healthcare rights of Hawai‘i residents while preserving the values that define our community. This legislation is an important step in safeguarding the sovereignty of our state and ensuring that we can continue to make healthcare decisions that are in line with our needs and beliefs.

SB 1150 provides essential protections for our families by allowing parents in Hawai‘i to make medical decisions for their children without fear of interference from outside states. It ensures that healthcare decisions, made under the guidance of licensed professionals, remain in the hands of those who know and care for our children best. Additionally, this bill strengthens our commitment to medical privacy, keeping healthcare information secure from external influence, and shields our healthcare providers from punitive actions when practicing in accordance with Hawai‘i’s laws.

This bill also respects the rich cultural traditions of not only Native Hawaiians but throughout the Pacific, who have long embraced gender diversity. By supporting this legislation, we honor the cultural heritage of our communities and protect them from outside pressures to conform to foreign ideals.

It is important to note that SB 1150 does not permit surgeries on minors, force medical decisions upon families, or allow for coercion in healthcare choices. Rather, it ensures that the healthcare decisions we make in Hawai‘i remain our own, reflecting our values and protecting the well-being of our people.

I humbly ask for your support of SB 1150, as it is a thoughtful and compassionate measure to preserve the rights, privacy, and cultural integrity of all Hawai‘i residents.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Anthony Makana Paris

Kapolei, O'ahu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:04:12 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynne Constantinides	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Lynne Constantinides, am in support of HB1150 for the following reasons:

1. Parents in Hawai'i will be safeguarded from out-of-state courts attempting to interfere with their decisions regarding medical care for their children decisions made under the supervision of licensed healthcare professionals and legal in Hawai'i.
2. Parents, guardians, and medical providers will be empowered to make informed, compassionate decisions for their keiki without fear of retaliation or legal threats from other states.
3. Your medical records belong to YOU. This bill expands protections to keep Hawai'i residents' healthcare information private and secure from external entities.
4. Doctors and healthcare professionals practicing in Hawai'i must be shielded from punitive actions by other states when delivering care that aligns with Hawai'i's laws.

It is our American right to healthcare **freedom, privacy,** and justice. Please pass this bill secure our rights in Hawaii.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:19:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mia McGrath	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We must protect our trans and Mahu community. Infinite diversity in infinite combinations is the only way humanity can grow.

To:

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair

Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1150, which seeks to expand protections to include gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdictional matters in child custody cases involving such services.

The challenges faced by transgender and gender-diverse individuals in accessing necessary health care services are at an urgent and dangerous level under the current national administration. SB1150 represents a significant step toward ensuring that all individuals, regardless of gender identity, can access the health care they need without fear of discrimination or legal complications in Hawai'i.

Furthermore, the bill's provision to clarify jurisdiction in child custody cases involving gender-affirming health care is crucial. It provides legal clarity and ensures that decisions are made in the best interests of the child, free from unnecessary legal hurdles.

This bill isn't about creating new healthcare practices—it's about **protecting Hawai'i residents** from external threats and upholding the healthcare standards we've chosen for ourselves. It's about preserving our **freedom**, our **privacy**, and our **cultural integrity** in the face of growing interference from the continent.

I urge you to support SB1150 and contribute to making Hawaii a more inclusive and just state for all its residents.

Sincerely,

Kathleen O'Dell, PhD

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:44:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelli Bolger	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express my strong support for SB 1150.

This bill is crucial for safeguarding the health and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse youth in Hawaii. Gender-affirming care is medically necessary, evidence-based care that can significantly improve the lives of transgender individuals. Expanding the protections of Act 2 to specifically include these services ensures that transgender youth have access to the care they need, free from discrimination and legal challenges based on misinformation. Furthermore, clarifying jurisdiction under the UCCJEA is essential for providing legal certainty and stability for families.

I urge you to support SB 1150. This bill promotes the health, safety, and well-being of some of our most vulnerable community members.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 12:53:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kestrel swift	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a resident of Hilo Hawaii and I STRONGLY support SB1150. As a transgender woman this bill protects me and my rights as a citizen at a time when my existence has come increasingly under attack. I urge you to support this bill and show that you believe all of your constituents deserve to be healthy and true to themselves.

Please vote yes on SB1150. It would mean a lot to me.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 1:06:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carla Allison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1150 and ask you to do the same.

Now more than ever Hawaii needs to protect Gender-Affirming Care providers and access for our community members. Can we call ourselves the Aloha State if we do not?

Please Live Aloha by taking action and supporti SB1150.

Gratefully,

Carla Allison

Honolulu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 1:49:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Our children are our responsibility and not the Government. Please let us make the decisions we feel are right for our children. The government has no right to decide what is right for all our children we as parents were given that right from God. Please back off and let us be responsible for our children. I'm praying you will find understanding be fair-minded and vote no! Mahalo!

Terri Yoshinaga

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:01:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Lets protect our youth with proper guidance from their parent(s)/guardian(s), not with secrecy. These are minors who are not yet fully capable of making life changing decisions on their own. Lets instead include their parent or guardian so that there can be open conversation within a family to help the child make the very best decisions for their future.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:10:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express the urgent need for transgender-affirming care for both youth and adults. As we continue to evolve in our understanding of gender identity, it is crucial to recognize that access to appropriate healthcare is not just a medical issue—it's a matter of human rights and dignity.

For many transgender individuals, especially youth, the journey of self-discovery can be fraught with challenges. The mental health statistics are alarming: transgender youth are at a significantly higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Studies consistently show that when these young people receive gender-affirming care—whether through therapy, hormone treatments, or social support—they report improved mental health outcomes, increased self-esteem, and a greater sense of belonging. This care is not merely an option; it is a lifeline.

For adults, the necessity of gender-affirming care remains just as critical. Many adults who transition find that aligning their physical bodies with their gender identity leads to transformative improvements in their quality of life. This care allows individuals to live authentically and safely in a world that often misunderstands and marginalizes them.

I also want to address the false notion that the use of puberty blockers is a form of "chemical castration." This misconception is harmful and misleading. Puberty blockers are designed to delay the onset of puberty in adolescents, providing them with the time and space to explore their gender identity without the immediate pressure of undergoing irreversible physical changes. Importantly, these blockers do not permanently alter a person's body; they simply pause the natural process of puberty, allowing for informed decisions later on. This thoughtful approach is crucial for the well-being of transgender youth, enabling them to navigate their identities in a supportive and non-pressuring environment.

It is essential to emphasize that medical care should be between doctors and patients, not dictated by government policies. Healthcare decisions are deeply personal and should be based on the expertise of medical professionals and the individual needs of patients. Involving government in these intimate decisions can lead to harmful consequences and undermine the trust that is fundamental to the doctor-patient relationship.

Denying transgender-affirming care is not just detrimental; it can have dire consequences. Without access to the necessary medical and psychological support, individuals may face increased risks of mental health crises, isolation, and despair. This is not just about healthcare—

it's about acknowledging the humanity of transgender individuals and affirming their right to live authentically.

In conclusion, transgender-affirming care is essential for the well-being of both youth and adults. It is time for us to stand together in support of these necessary healthcare services, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive and live their truth. Let us protect the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship and advocate for the rights of all individuals to receive the care they need.

Please expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Thank you,

Lisa Pollak

Kauai, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:24:08 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvonne Geesey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:27:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of this bill because I work as an RN at the hospital. Withholding medical services from anyone is harmful and malicious. I hope the integrity of the state of Hawaii does the right thing in supporting all communities here in the Islands regardless of race, gender, sexual orientation, or gender identity.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:39:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express the urgent need for transgender-affirming care for both youth and adults. As we continue to evolve in our understanding of gender identity, it is crucial to recognize that access to appropriate healthcare is not just a medical issue—it's a matter of human rights and dignity.

For many transgender individuals, especially youth, the journey of self-discovery can be fraught with challenges. The mental health statistics are alarming: transgender youth are at a significantly higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Studies consistently show that when these young people receive gender-affirming care—whether through therapy, hormone treatments, or social support—they report improved mental health outcomes, increased self-esteem, and a greater sense of belonging. This care is not merely an option; it is a lifeline.

For adults, the necessity of gender-affirming care remains just as critical. Many adults who transition find that aligning their physical bodies with their gender identity leads to transformative improvements in their quality of life. This care allows individuals to live authentically and safely in a world that often misunderstands and marginalizes them.

I also want to address the false notion that the use of puberty blockers is a form of "chemical castration." This misconception is harmful and misleading. Puberty blockers are designed to delay the onset of puberty in adolescents, providing them with the time and space to explore their gender identity without the immediate pressure of undergoing irreversible physical changes. Importantly, these blockers do not permanently alter a person's body; they simply pause the natural process of puberty, allowing for informed decisions later on. This thoughtful approach is crucial for the well-being of transgender youth, enabling them to navigate their identities in a supportive and non-pressuring environment.

It is essential to emphasize that medical care should be between doctors and patients, not dictated by government policies. Healthcare decisions are deeply personal and should be based on the expertise of medical professionals and the individual needs of patients. Involving government in these intimate decisions can lead to harmful consequences and undermine the trust that is fundamental to the doctor-patient relationship.

Denying transgender-affirming care is not just detrimental; it can have dire consequences. Without access to the necessary medical and psychological support, individuals may face increased risks of mental health crises, isolation, and despair. This is not just about healthcare—it's about acknowledging the humanity of transgender individuals and affirming their right to live authentically.

In conclusion, transgender-affirming care is essential for the well-being of both youth and adults. It is time for us to stand together in support of these necessary healthcare services, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive and live their truth. Let us protect the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship and advocate for the rights of all individuals to receive the care they need.

Please expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Thank you,

Amy Jindra

5915 Olohena Rd, Unit A

Kapaa, HI 96746

Kauai, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 2:56:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Stephanie Austin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support this very important bill!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:04:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachael Hensley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express the urgent need for transgender-affirming care for both youth and adults. As we continue to evolve in our understanding of gender identity, it is crucial to recognize that access to appropriate healthcare is not just a medical issue—it's a matter of human rights and dignity.

For many transgender individuals, especially youth, the journey of self-discovery can be fraught with challenges. The mental health statistics are alarming: transgender youth are at a significantly higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Studies consistently show that when these young people receive gender-affirming care—whether through therapy, hormone treatments, or social support—they report improved mental health outcomes, increased self-esteem, and a greater sense of belonging. This care is not merely an option; it is a lifeline.

For adults, the necessity of gender-affirming care remains just as critical. Many adults who transition find that aligning their physical bodies with their gender identity leads to transformative improvements in their quality of life. This care allows individuals to live authentically and safely in a world that often misunderstands and marginalizes them.

I also want to address the false notion that the use of puberty blockers is a form of "chemical castration." This misconception is harmful and misleading. Puberty blockers are designed to delay the onset of puberty in adolescents, providing them with the time and space to explore their gender identity without the immediate pressure of undergoing irreversible physical changes. Importantly, these blockers do not permanently alter a person's body; they simply pause the natural process of puberty, allowing for informed decisions later on. This thoughtful approach is crucial for the well-being of transgender youth, enabling them to navigate their identities in a supportive and non-pressuring environment.

It is essential to emphasize that medical care should be between doctors and patients, not dictated by government policies. Healthcare decisions are deeply personal and should be based on the expertise of medical professionals and the individual needs of patients. Involving government in these intimate decisions can lead to harmful consequences and undermine the trust that is fundamental to the doctor-patient relationship.

Denying transgender-affirming care is not just detrimental; it can have dire consequences. Without access to the necessary medical and psychological support, individuals may face increased risks of mental health crises, isolation, and despair. This is not just about healthcare—it's about acknowledging the humanity of transgender individuals and affirming their right to live authentically.

In conclusion, transgender-affirming care is essential for the well-being of both youth and adults. It is time for us to stand together in support of these necessary healthcare services, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive and live their truth. Let us protect the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship and advocate for the rights of all individuals to receive the care they need.

Please expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Thank you,

Rachael Hensley

Kauai, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:35:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Summer Muramoto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Growing up in Hawai'i, we are all aware of the concept of *Aloha*. The concept of treating everyone with love, respect, and understanding your neighbor.

Growing up in a place where people are kind to one another regardless of gender, sexuality, or physical appearance has been a privilege that many wish to have in their state. I believe because of Hawai'i's *aloha* state of mind, we have managed to maintain care for people of all backgrounds.

That is until now that this may be at risk. The Trump Administration has unleashed a hateful agenda that targets marginalized communities. That hate has spread across the nation, and has seeped into our islands that we call home. People who grew up uncomfortable in their bodies now face another struggle aside from already being scrutinized. Doctors who want to help those people will no longer be able to help them. Times are growing darker in the rainbow state. What will Hawai'i be if there is hate? When there is no *aloha*?

Taking away peoples rights to receive gender-affirming care and those to provide gender-affirming care is an action of control and humiliation. Who are we to control the lives of others? People who will never understand those affected by banning gender-affirming care fail to see these people as their neighbor, someone's child, someone's best friend, someone's parent. Where is the *aloha* in that? Hawai'i needs to prove that we still are the *aloha* state; That we care about our community more than hatred for others. We need to show up for our community that feels like they are being closer and closer to being silenced. Otherwise, we are complicit in the negative outcomes on the way.

Thank you and I hope that you find *aloha* in your heart and mind when you consider this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:47:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB 1150 because gender affirming healthcare is not medically necessary and should not be considered healthcare but rather cosmetic.

Jesse Swanson

HC2 box 6928, Keaau Hi 96749

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:50:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Philip Steinbacher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**As the Kaua‘i representative to the Hawai‘i LGBTQ+ Advisory Commission, I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services. It is imperative that Hawai‘i takes steps to protect access to gender-affirming health care, as it improves the mental and physical health of transgender, nonbinary, and gender diverse people. Gender-affirming care has consistently been shown to improve quality of life, improve health outcomes, and reduce rates of suicidal ideation and suicide attempts. All of Hawai‘i’s citizens have an inalienable right to live safe, open, happy, and authentic lives, and we must secure and protect access to medically necessary health care that respects the gender identity of all as experienced and defined by each individual. I urge your support of this critical and compassionate legislation.**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:54:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meredith Ing	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a parent and as a former DOE teacher with over 20 years of experience in public education, I cannot stress enough how important it is that we expand protections to include gender affirming care. We must support ALL the citizens of our great Aloha State, and most especially our keiki. I have seen firsthand how crucial it is for vulnerable children to get the support that they need and that they deserve, and how detrimental and sometimes even tragic it can be when we do not. Please do the right thing for our community and vote for SB1150.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 3:58:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Melody Peralta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support the expansion of protections to include gender-affirming care, provided that the care is authorized by a parent or legal guardian . As a parent, I believe that every child deserves to live authentically and receive the medical care they need to thrive. Gender-affirming care, when guided by healthcare professionals and with the approval of parents, is an essential aspect of ensuring that transgender children grow up with the support and resources they need to live healthy, happy lives.

In Hawaii, we've always prided ourselves on being a place of inclusion, love, and acceptance. This expanded protection will not only ensure that our children have access to the care they deserve, but also that families can make the best choices for their children's well-being without fear of discrimination or legal challenges. I urge you to stand with our children, families, and the medical community to ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible and supported here in Hawaii, and is protected from action by other states.

Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:36:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Celina Hayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB1150 as one of your constituents and as a community physician who cares for your constituents.

I urge you to support this bill to protect the health and safety of our community. This is imperative to keep our state safe.

It is your responsibility to help protect our community and this bill will do that.

Without the protections of this bill, there is a risk that our community members will not be able to access necessary life-saving treatments.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Celina Macadangdang Hayashi, MD

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:39:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Diliaur Tellei	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill and respectfully urge the committee to pass it.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 4:42:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Piotrowski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure to protect healthcare access.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 5:54:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kaua Kama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 1150

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

I am writing in strong support of SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to ensure that gender-affirming health care services receive the same legal safeguards as reproductive health care. This bill also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving minors who obtain gender-affirming care, providing critical legal certainty for families seeking essential medical care.

As a non-binary trans masculine person and someone who has experienced the challenges of navigating gender-affirming care, I understand firsthand how vital these services are to the well-being of transgender and non-binary individuals. Gender-affirming care is lifesaving—it allows people like me to live authentically, improving mental health outcomes and reducing the risk of depression and suicide. Medical organizations, including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Pediatrics, and American Psychiatric Association, all recognize gender-affirming care as necessary and evidence-based.

Unfortunately, across the U.S., we are seeing a disturbing rise in legislative attacks on trans youth and their families. Without legal protections, families who come to Hawai‘i seeking necessary medical care for their children may face legal retaliation from hostile states. SB 1150 ensures that Hawai‘i continues to stand as a beacon of safety—protecting trans youth, their families, and the medical professionals who provide this care.

This bill upholds Hawaiian values of aloha and mālama by ensuring that all people, including our keiki, are treated with dignity and respect. Hawai‘i has long been a place of inclusion, and passing SB 1150 reaffirms our commitment to protecting vulnerable communities from harm.

I urge you to pass SB 1150 and continue making Hawai‘i a place where all people—especially trans and non-binary youth—can live safely and thrive.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,  
Kauailinoe Kama



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 8:33:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
June Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is June R. Perry, and I'm a trans woman presently living and working on O'ahu.

In my present capacity as an environment health and safety specialist, I personally and singularly safeguard the integrity and cleanliness approximately 30% of the total food volume imported to O'ahu.

Gender affirming care is safe, effective, life saving medicine and should be protected and available to all those who need it.

Political grandstanding and disingenuous theatrics are not acceptable reasons to prevent people from accessing health care that has been proven to be safe and effective for decades.

Without access to gender affirming health care, many people, within and outside the LGBTQIA community will see the quality and comprehensiveness of their health care reduced.

Everyone benefits from more access to more health care, and enshrining protection into Hawai'i state law will improve the lives of all who live here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:09:03 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am opposed to allowing 14 and 15 year old children get access to "gender'affirming care" without parental permission. Please do not pass this bill as it is harmful to teenagers.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 9:15:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katrina Saito	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Katrina Saito and I am a transgender woman.

The current presidential administration has already demonstrated its willingness to push policies that harm and oppress transgender people regardless of legality or constitutionality. Now more than ever, state-level legislations are critical in protecting transgender people, especially children. Medical providers nationwide are already pre-emptively withdrawing care for transgender children in fear of federal retaliation, which has already verifiably caused an increase in depression, self-harm, and suicide in transgender youth. This bill is a hugely important step in minimizing that harm within our state.

Thank you so much for supporting SB1150 in what is the most difficult and painful time in many trans peoples' lives.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:07:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roqulynn Jarrett	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because gender affirming care is lifesaving medical care and a human right.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/7/2025 10:17:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Based on scientific evidence and ethical concerns, I kindly urge you to:

-Oppose policies that promote medical transitions for minors until long-term, peer-reviewed research supports their safety and effectiveness.

-Support policies that protect parental rights in education and medical decision-making.

-Ensure that public school curriculums prioritize age-appropriate, evidence-based education that does not introduce controversial gender ideologies to young children.

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB1150. Instead, I encourage policymakers to focus on approaches that prioritize children's well-being, parental rights, and scientific integrity.

Thank you,

Amanda Chang

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:46:32 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
TERI SAVAIINAEA	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and Committee members,

I *oppose* SB1150.

Kind regards,

Teri Kia Savaiinaea

District 45, Wai'anae Resident

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:15:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am fully in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai‘i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and our co-workers. In these turbulent times, we need to protect rather than target each other. Please support this bill.**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:35:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elizabeth Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am supporting SB1150 so that my own kindhearted granddaughter and all people who do not fit into the restrictive and repressive definition of gender are not discriminated against. Hawaii could and should be an example of tolerance for LAW abiding citizens, no matter their gender, skin color, or culture. Thank you

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:45:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Morgan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1150. Only the parent, not the state, has the right to determine if their child should receive gender affirming health care.

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:53:27 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
marie louise	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Malu der Kinderen

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:06:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am 100% in favor of this SB1150. There is a plain attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. These are our neighbors, our children, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:27:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB1150 which would protect access to gender affirming care. Gender affirming care is safe health care and we should make sure this health care is available to those who need them.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 8:48:23 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathan Leo Braulick	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I suport this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Please stand up and protect them.**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:08:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:40:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leah Morse	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

Thank you for your consideration,

Leah Morse

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:05:33 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure. Trans people should be able to access life saving care.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:14:52 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:15:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sara Cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a parent I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No parent should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care and doing what my healthcare provider and our family feel is appropriate for my child.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Sara Cothren Cook, PhD

Waikoloa, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:23:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suellen Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Transgender population is a long respected & integral part of Hawaii's culture. We must continue to support same rights & access to healthcare as are offered to all Hawaii citizens

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:24:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
MaryAnn Wagner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is MaryAnn Wagner and I live in Hilo with my family. I am giving testimony today because one of my children is trans, so this bill has very personal ramifications for our family. When my child first came out as trans, one of the first thoughts that I had was to be thankful that we live in Hawai'i, where so many people are open, accepting, and kind. In the years since he came out, we have witnessed firsthand the aloha that has been shown to him by our friends, everyone at his school, his doctors, and even people we don't know, many of whom also have friends or family who identify outside of the binary definition of male and female.

When the President signed the executive order mandating that the federal government only recognize male and female genders, it was done as a show of force to create fear in a marginalized group who already experiences fear more regularly and at higher levels than the general population. My child was scared. My husband and I were scared. And my first thought was how grateful I am that my child chose to go to college in Hawai'i, as opposed to going to the mainland. With one swipe of a pen, that executive order essentially shrank our child's safe space in this country, which has been a devastating loss to deal with.

Hawai'i has been a refuge for our family, and many other families like ours who have a child who doesn't fit into this new mandated binary. In order for Hawai'i to remain a safe place for our children, regardless of gender, we must safeguard their access to the healthcare that they need. That need should not be based on what a demagogue 5,000 miles away says is necessary, but should be based on decisions made between the child, their family, and their doctor. We are grateful every day that we don't live in a place where our child would feel scared to be who he is. Please protect him and all of the other children in Hawai'i by passing SB1150 and allowing them to live life free to be who they are.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 1:21:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:04:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a transgender female; We have come so far from past to present. We are also a human being; We are part of the community and we are not going anywhere.

I need my health care like every other human; it doesn't matter what color, race and gender we are all equal. We have a voice and please hear us.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 2:18:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**SUPPORT!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:09:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Selene LeGare	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out-of-state persecution, professional discipline, and family separation when they receive/provide reproductive/gender affirming healthcare that is legal here in Hawai'i.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring the safety and security of patients. It will also help prevent our communities -- which are already experiencing healthcare provider shortages -- from losing more of this essential workforce.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Selene LeGare

Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection, and the  
Hawai'i State Senate Committee on Health and Human Services Joint Hearing  
Tuesday, Feb. 11 at 9:45 am  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

RE: S.B. 1150 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

Testimony in SUPPORT

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino,  
and Members of the Committees,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a resident of Wailuku, Maui. As a friend, family member, and ally of trans people, I submit this testimony today in strong SUPPORT of S.B. 1150, relating to health care.

I hope that the members of the Committees agree with me that every person has the fundamental right to access the health care they need without fear of discrimination, prejudice, or barriers to treatment that supports their mental, physical, and emotional well-being. Unfortunately, across the country right now, extreme politicians desperate to gain power are attacking the LGBTQ+ community, particularly transgender and non-binary youth, and weaponizing critical issues to rally support around anti-LGBTQ+ legislation. I ask that you act now to protect the people of Hawai'i from these escalating and harmful attacks.

The health care that transgender people need, sometimes referred to as gender-affirming care or transition-related care, is health care for transgender people of all ages. It includes a range of services, including mental health care, medical care, and social services. At all ages, clear, well-established, evidence-based standards of care exist. Gender-affirming care helps transgender and non-binary people live openly and authentically as their true selves. Just like any other form of health care, it also helps transgender and non-binary people live safe and healthy lives.

Gender-affirming care is treatment for a diagnosis of gender dysphoria, which impacts many transgender and non-binary people. Gender dysphoria happens when one's gender identity does not match their sex as assigned at birth. According to the Human Rights Campaign, trans people's health care is always delivered in age-appropriate, evidence-based ways, and decisions to provide care are made in consultation with doctors and parents, just like health care for all other people. Collectively representing more than 1.3 million doctors across the United States, every major medical and mental health organization — including the American Medical Association, the American Academy of Pediatrics, and the American Psychological Association — recognizes that it is medically necessary to support people in affirming their gender identity.

Gender-affirming care for transgender people is best-practice, medically necessary health care. And research has consistently found that receipt of gender-affirming care can significantly improve the lives of people who receive it.

A [recent study](#) from the Trevor Project shows that transgender youth with access to hormone replacement therapy medications have lower rates of depression and are at a lower risk for suicide. A [study by Stanford University School of Medicine](#) found that positive mental health outcomes were higher for transgender people who accessed hormone replacement therapy medications [as teenagers](#), versus those who accessed it as adults. A third study, published in the [New England Journal of Medicine](#), found that two years after initiating hormone replacement therapy medications, transgender youth reported higher levels of life satisfaction and positive affect, and lower levels of gender dysphoria, depression, and anxiety. [Previous studies](#) have also found that transgender and non-binary youth who are able to receive puberty blockers report [positive psychosocial impacts](#), including increased well-being and decreased depression. Other recent studies have found that receipt of puberty blockers can [dramatically reduce risk of suicidality](#) — in some cases by [over 70%](#) — among transgender youth, compared to those who were unable to access desired treatment.

Similar results have been seen for transgender adults: In two separate systematic reviews, one focused on 53 studies exploring mental health following [gender-affirming surgeries](#), and the second focused on 29 studies exploring mental health impact across [multiple forms of gender-affirming care](#), authors found that quality of life and happiness increased among trans adults following receipt of gender-affirming care, and depression, anxiety, suicidality, and suicide attempts, and gender dysphoria were reduced.

Previous studies have found that de-transitioning is quite rare —with some studies finding levels of de-transition and regret as [low as 1%](#) or [2%](#). Transgender youth who meet criteria for gender dysphoria and who undergo social or medical transition are actually [the least likely to de-transition](#) — and those vast majority of transgender youth remain consistent and persistent in their gender identity over time: [One recent study](#), published in the academic journal *Pediatrics*, followed over 300 transgender youth after first initiating social transition, and found that over 92% remained consistent and persistent in their gender identity 5 years later. However, evidence-based standards of care exist to ensure that no one, regardless of their age, undergoes any permanent, irreversible changes without informed consent and careful consultation with medical and mental health care providers.

Based upon the foregoing, I request that you pass S.B. 1150 to help protect members of our Hawai'i community from attacks on their civil rights.

Thank you.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:17:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. It is more important than ever that we protect the trans community and ensure their access to health care. Data shows that trans youth who are not supported in their communities are far more likely to self-harm and die by suicide. Gender-affirming health care is life-saving care.

I respectfully ask this committee to do the right thing and vote to expand protections to include the most vulnerable in our state.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Lynn Robinson Onderko

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:18:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JANE TOLLEFSRUD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:29:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:39:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Zahava Zaidoff	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and committee members,

Mahalo for hearing this bill. As a parent, trainer, and counselor I see first hand the benefits of gender affirming care for minors and must share that is absolutely imperative to the mental, emotional, and physical health of our keiki.

Birth control is gender affirming care. Prostate exams in gender affirming care. Male pattern baldness is gender affirming care. There is zero desire to erase males and females from society. We are simply acknowledging the autonomy by which keiki, their parents and guardians, and their medical professionals need to have over medical issues.

With the rhetoric across the county, Hawaii needs to show our keiki that they matter now, more than ever.

Please support this bill to ensure that ALL of of our keiki and get what they need.

Mahalo for standing up for our most vulnerable families and children.

Zahava "Zee" Zaidoff

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:43:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
glenn oshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Keeping families together is the strongest of options and cost effective too! Please support.  
Thank you

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:44:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Jaime L. Ribao  
Wailuku, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:49:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
DeWaine Tollefsrud	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I Support this measure with all my heart! We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They have always been here and always will be. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please! I mean, what are people so afraid of?

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:51:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Ribao	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Shannon Ribao

Wailuku, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:53:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Melissa Sotelo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act. I offer this testimony from my perspective as both a nursing professor at a local university and a practicing cardiac care nurse with ten years of bedside experience in both Hawaii and Portland, Oregon.**

**As a resident of Kaneohe and someone who has provided healthcare in multiple settings, I have witnessed firsthand how access to comprehensive healthcare, including gender-affirming care, profoundly impacts overall health outcomes. In my cardiac care practice, I have treated patients who delayed seeking necessary medical care due to concerns about acceptance and coverage of their complete healthcare needs. These delays often result in preventable hospitalizations and more severe cardiac complications - situations that could have been avoided with earlier intervention in an accepting and supportive healthcare environment.**

**My experience working in Portland, Oregon provided me with clear evidence of how streamlined access to comprehensive healthcare, including gender-affirming care, positively impacts community health. There, I observed efficient systems where comprehensive care teams could provide necessary treatments without insurance barriers. The contrast with Hawaii's current system highlights the critical need for this legislation.**

**Hawaii has a rich cultural history of acceptance and inclusion. Our islands have long recognized and celebrated gender diversity, as evidenced by the respected role of māhū individuals as cultural practitioners, healers, and leaders. This tradition of acceptance is beautifully displayed in cultural celebrations like the Merrie Monarch Festival. SB1150 aligns our healthcare policies with these deeply held cultural values of aloha and inclusion.**

**In my role educating the next generation of nurses, I strive to instill in my students an understanding of culturally competent care that honors all patients' dignity and identity. However, even the most compassionate healthcare providers cannot fully serve their patients when structural barriers, such as lack of insurance coverage, impede access to necessary care.**

**The consequences of delayed or denied care extend far beyond immediate health concerns. As a cardiac nurse, I have seen how the stress and anxiety of fighting for insurance coverage, combined with delayed treatment, can lead to deteriorating physical and mental health. When patients feel they must choose between financial stability and necessary medical care, we have failed them as a healthcare system.**

**This bill is particularly important as it protects families seeking healthcare, ensuring that Hawaii maintains jurisdiction in cases where families come here for gender-affirming care that may be restricted in other states. This aligns with our state's values and our commitment to protecting access to essential healthcare services.**

**The Health Care Access Protection Act represents an opportunity for Hawaii to demonstrate leadership in healthcare equity, building upon our cultural foundation of aloha and acceptance. By enacting this legislation, we would remove significant barriers to healthcare access and allow medical professionals to provide comprehensive care that aligns with current medical best practices.**

**Our state motto, "Ua Mau ke Ea o ka 'Āina i ka Pono" (The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness), calls us to act with justice and compassion. Supporting SB1150 would demonstrate our commitment to these values by ensuring that all Hawaii residents have access to the healthcare they need to live healthy, authentic lives.**

**I urge this committee to pass SB1150. This legislation represents an important step toward creating a more equitable and inclusive healthcare system that truly embodies the spirit of aloha.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.**

**Melissa Sotelo**

**Mel8@hawaii.edu**

**Professor of Nursing**

**Registered Nurse**

**Kaneohe, Hawaii, 96744**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 3:55:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kanishka Agarwal	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Trans people deserve equal human rights and that includes gender-affirming care. Thank you.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:50:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, Legislators,

Re: SB 1150 'Relating to Medical Care'

This bill would make Hawai'i a kidnappers 'city of refuge' for intentional removal of a child from his or her legal guardians' custody to have surgical mutilation or endocrine injections done to the child. It violates parents' natural rights to the control of their children and sets Hawai'i at odds with uniform national child custody law.

The strange ideas behind the need for a bill like this are abhorrent to most reasonable people. If a child cannot lawfully get a tattoo, smoke a cigarette, buy intoxicating liquors, or consent to medical care in the absence of his or her parents or legal guardians, then a child similarly cannot consent to a sex change operation or endocrine injection procedure. To allow anyone other than their parents to do so, or to consider the parents unfit if they do not do so, is an abuse of public authority and violates the rights of citizen parents.

The very name of the bill is an Orwellian deception.

The popularity of this sort of thing is akin to the madness of crowds, or mass hysteria, indicated by its rapid spread among impressionable teen cohorts influenced by imagery and testimonials on their cell phones.

It is admittedly not based on good clinical or other medical science.

I urge legislators to kill this bill.

Mahalo,

Boyd Ready

Haleiwa

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:52:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

It has been devastating to the transgender community, their loved ones and providers of gender affirming care. The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry and are having real life consequences on the health and wellbeing of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, cause chaos and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

It has taken many generations for Hawai'i to return to the importance of Māhū in our culture. Please do not let us go backwards.

Mahalo for your support of SB1150,

Jennifer Lum, 'Ewa Beach

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 4:57:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Aulii Nathaniel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services; and Commerce and Consumer Protections

RE: SB1150 Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and committee members,

My name is ‘Auli‘i Nathaniel and I am writing to testify in strong support of SB1150 Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

When the last state we lived started targeting trans children and their families, we were lucky to come home to the safety of Hawai‘i. We could breathe easier and focus on the important aspects of raising our children - their education, social development, getting them to eat vegetables sometimes - without the fear that someone would decide to turn us into the state for respecting who our child is. They are just kids and should be able to worry about normal kid stuff - not threats to their right to exist freely. With increasing threats toward this vulnerable population growing, Hawai‘i must remain true to our values and protect the safety and wellbeing of our mahū, trans, and nonbinary community. This care and general respect does not just improve lives but outright saves lives.

On behalf of many parents who want nothing more than the chance to raise healthy happy kids, I urge you to pass this SB1150 and protect our community members and values.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

‘Auli‘i Nathaniel

Volcano, Hawai‘i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:12:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bret Mossman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair person and members of the committee. I am writing to provide strong support for this bill. At a time when the federal government is failing to protect the rights of our most at risk members of our community Hawai'i must stand up.

Mahalo for your time,

Bret Mossman

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 5:21:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
P Noel Bobilin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Deer chair and members of the committee,

i am writing in strong support of the healthcare access protection act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender affirming Health Care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions.

As a parent I have seen firsthand the importance of gender affirming care for transgender and non-binary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out of state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful Health Care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Noel Bobilin, Fern Forest, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 6:55:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tamara Luthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% in favor of this SB1150. There is a plain attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. These are our neighbors, our children, our friends and co-employees. Stand up and protect them please!

It has been devastating to the transgender community, their loved ones and providers of gender affirming care. The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry and are having real life consequences on the health and wellbeing of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, cause chaos and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

please support this bill. Mahalo.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 7:12:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Children legally can't consent. No on this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:09:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julia M. Yano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

With sincere respect, I ask that you do not support this bill.

It would take away a parents right to raise their children according to their own deeply held convictions.

Please vote no on SB 1150.

May wisdom guide your decision.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:21:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Joell Edwards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Joell Edwards , Wainiha

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:23:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Audrey Higbee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:25:13 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support access to gender affirming care. Trans/māhū people have always been a part of our communities. Gender affirming care not only aligns people with the gender expression they wish to be perceived as, but it saves people's lives. Gender affirming care is life giving and life saving care.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 9:46:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Wanda Anae-Onishi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura & Keohokalole and Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga,

I am an ally writing in strong support of SB1150 to protect patients, providers, and families from persecution when gender affirming care is received and provided in Hawaii to out-of-state residents who live in states where such care may be unlawful. Passing this bill will ensure that Hawaii remains a safe place for people seeking gender affirming care. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:07:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
gabrielle davidson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:18:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:19:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 10:43:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

This legislation ensures Hawai'i remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care.

As a mental health practitioner, I have an ethical duty to speak out for our most vulnerable populations. Not acting to ensure that recipients and provider of gender affirming care will be detrimental to these individuals and families. Other states, such as Florida, encourages and enforces calling Child Protective Services if there is even suspicion that a parent is advocating for their child to get gender affirming care--valid or not--that can result in a child being removed from the care of their parents. Not acting leaves this harmful potential to land on our shores and cause unnecessary harm, trauma, and burden to our communities. Transgender people have always existed and will not cease to exist ever--it is whether or not we are doing anything and everything we can to protect Hawai'i and what we stand for which is the right to self determination.

I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Meghan Walles, LCSW

Makawao, Maui

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:25:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai‘i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. This bill provides one way to support and protect them.**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/8/2025 11:40:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allison DeYenno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha – I fully support this bill. We must protect access to gender-affirming care for the māhū, transgender and non-binary community. They, along with their providers, deserve full protection for this life-saving care. Mahalo

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:36:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christabel Marron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Christabel and I am a resident of Oahu. I am testifying in support of bill 1150. Gender affirming care should be between the patient (or guardian) and provider and the government should not have the ability to interfere with a persons health plan. It is important we put protections in place to ensure we do not begin to criminalize healthcare and individualized health plans. Thank you for your time and consideration on these very important matters.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:43:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

As a concerned citizen, I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Thaddeus Pham (he/him)

Makiki, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:15:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Vanessa Ott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Aquino, Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Esteemed Members of the Senate HHS and CPN Committees,

I support any law that give people the right to choose whatever type of health care they want, and medical practitioners the freedom to provide health care services without fear of legal prosecution or civil suits for providing medically sound health services. This goes for gender-affirming care, opioid prescriptions, abortion, and other healthy medical treatments.

Therefore, I support the intent of SB 1150.

I particularly like §323J-7 [Laws contrary to the public policy of this State] which, in short says:

A law of another state authorizing a civil action or criminal prosecution based on any of the following shall be contrary to the public policy of this State:

- (1) Receiving, seeking, receiving, paying for, or inquiring about reproductive health care services or gender-affirming health care services;
- (2) Providing or responding to an inquiry about reproductive health care services or gender affirming health care services;
- (3) Assisting or aiding or abetting in any of the conduct described in paragraph (1) or (2); or
- (4) Attempting or intending to engage in or providing material support for (or any other theory of vicarious, attempt, joint, several or conspiracy liability derived therefrom) conduct described in paragraphs (1) to (3).

Mahalo,  
Vanessa Ott

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:05:34 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
micah inoue	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

As someone who has provided and continues to provide care to Hawaii's affected youth in community, schools and youth corrections I understand just how important providing aspects of Gender Affirming Care can be. It can be as simple as using ones' identified name and/or pronouns to as complex as a interdisciplinary team being able to help ones' body and mind be in more congruence with one another. Having been priviledged to work in some of these teams, it has allowed me to see just how much receiving in the simplest forms of Gender Affirming Care can affect ones' mental health. Many reports show upwards of 60-80% life satisfaction and quality of life improvements upon receiving such care. Whereas, many youth go from actively suicidal to seeing hope. To penalize such providers such as myself and/or others from implementing such care will adversely affect the care we provide to Hawaii's most vulnerable along with the care our counterparts in the continent give their care as well.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Micah Inoue

To the Callous Architects & Supporters of “The Hawaii Kidnapping Bill”(SB1150/HB615):

SB1150/HB615 stands as a grotesque monument to moral bankruptcy and governmental overreach. Under the deceptive guise of 'gender-affirming' treatments, this proposal sanctions a horrifying assault on parental rights and the sanctity of the family.

The callous disregard for the emotional trauma inflicted on children forcibly removed from their homes under your proposed bill is both sickening and deeply disturbing. By legalizing interstate kidnapping and undermining parental authority, it perpetuates a blatant violation of basic human decency.

I condemn in the strongest terms the audacity shown by those who dare to prioritize a twisted agenda over the fundamental rights and well-being of innocent minors. This movement is a heinous affront to liberty, justice, and the sacred bond between parents and their children.

I urge you to reconsider your path and heed the cries of concerned parents and citizens who stand united against this monstrous assault on family values and individual freedoms. Let compassion, reason, and respect for human dignity guide your decisions, not the dark shadows of tyranny and manipulation.

In Moral Outrage,

Abbra Green  
A Concerned Mother

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:15:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill needs to pass. Equal Healthcare to all!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:31:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Eve Furchgott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Decisions about gender-affirming care are complex & difficult, and belong with the families involved — not government or outside agencies. These entities must not be allowed to come between parents and their children.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:41:00 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

For those of you who have children or grandchildren please consider the questions:

1. Am I ok with my child or grandchild being taken from me to another state or even out of my care so he or she can make permanent body and life altering decisions at the early age of 14?
2. Does the state love my child or grandchild more than I do? Enough to take custody of my beloved and allow him or her to make such decisions at an immature age.
3. Is there enough scientific studies to support long term safety and benefits for gender changes at this age?

If any of you hearing this bill does not have children, then can you honestly say you know what's best for children who aren't yours? Would you be able to experience or truly understand the heartache and pain of a parent who would lose parent rights over their own beloved child?

Please vote no to this bill and please your position in serving our community to protect our keiki and parental rights. Mahalo for your time and commitment to Hawai'i.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:46:15 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Estella Berg	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As the parent of a transgender child, I can attest to the extensive amount of research and soul searching parents go through when choosing the appropriate care for their child. No politician is going to know my child better than his parents and doctors and they have no right to infringe on our healthcare decisions. Please protect us from the extremism and bigotry which is suddenly aimed at us.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:41:27 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Patrick Faris	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Thank You for your time and consideration,**

My name is Patrick Faris, and I was born male in the Midwest in 1983. I have lived on the Big Island of Hawaii for the past decade. From a young age, I was drawn to feminine ideas. I could list instances of playing "Pretty Pretty Princess" or my natural feminine expressions in art, music, and dance. As I grew older, I realized these expressions were not considered normal within the limited binary of gender expression that our colonized mindset would have me believe was normal.

In addition to my feminine expressions, during the early 90s as I entered puberty, it became clear that my desires for love were more homosexual. Although I didn't fully understand it at the time, it was drilled into me that such desires were wrong and that I would burn in hell for being different. At the age of 13, my family placed me in state care, where I was diagnosed with "Gender Identity Disorder" in the mid-90s. This medical diagnosis was used to treat me medically to make me "normal," as outlined in my court papers. The mental and physical abuse I received from state control in Iowa was appalling. Looking back now in my 40s, nothing about me has changed. I am still gay, I still like feminine things, and I still identify as non-binary. However, I have seen life become easier for others who have lived in similar situations. In 2013, GID (Gender Identity Disorder) was changed to Gender Dysphoria. Changing the name of something does not mean it isn't used to identify and categorize a person, which can justify unfair treatment. It is crucial that supportive care is offered to children and adults as they discover who they are as individuals.

I would like to draw a distinction between my sexuality and sexual identity. Sexuality is what we should be doing consensually in relationships as adults, while sexual identity often has little, if anything, to do with our sexual identity. This is where social conservatives, particularly those with religious roots who follow the atomic family model as the only moral standard, want to blur the line. My gender fluidity as a child had nothing to do with my sexuality. Anyone who paints that story is more interested in blurring those lines for their own prejudice than understanding the expressions of nature, which are a spectrum from feminine to masculine and everything in between. Gender expression is personal, and denying its fluidity is to deny any person who does not fit 100% into these categories. Such people are dangerous to the complexity of humanity and the understanding of nature itself.

For five years of my childhood, I struggled with identity battles, experiencing depression and anxiety that was life-threatening. This lack of support showed in my grades and self-harm. This all changed as I neared my 18th birthday and received more support from those who saw me, not the societal construct of limited labels. I obtained a job as a makeup artist for MAC Cosmetics and grew into a productive adult, for which I am eternally grateful. I fear for kids today because, in the 90s, I grew up in a very silent generation. I have watched kids and young adults hide who they are, creating fake lives that only hurt others and themselves, or worse, ending their own lives prematurely from lack of support.

Aside from my personal observations growing up in state care, I would like to address the medical insights I have learned firsthand from friends who are trans of all kinds. Not every trans person undergoes hormonal or physical treatments. The majority of us live in our bodies as we were born but accept those pieces of us that are a mix of physical and psychological traits. There are people who take hormones to support their changes, and these should not be taken lightly. Proper psychological and physical medical professionals should assure the best care and address the risks, some of which limit physical transitions. This is one reason why support should not be erased but supported. Humans, especially children, will experiment with alternative means that may not be safe, like silicone injections and off-market hormone therapy. Male-to-female or female-to-male transitions with hormones can affect physical developments like muscle growth, which can be faster than bone density. Contrary to what some social conservatives say, once hormone therapy is started, muscles may be stronger than bone density can support, and muscle fatigue can be a problem. These medical transitions should be taken seriously between patient and doctor, and in the case of children, all options should be open to the child as they come into their own identity, not the imposed identity of parents, school, or politicians.

Doctors should always consider the well-being of any patient, and this should be addressed between the doctor and patient, even as a child. The fact that laws are being put into place to defy this right on any topic is an overreach of government into the lives and bodies of individuals. Anyone who stops and thinks about this knows it is wrong. It would be like telling a man they can only wear boxers or briefs or telling a woman they have to wear a wired bra versus a sports bra. These are the biased constructs of a colonized mindset. Everyone who looks honestly at them knows they exist.

The youth do not have the jaded view of their bodies that adults do. If any man looks back at their childhood, they will see those moments of creative nature they had to hide because they feared being too feminine. Any woman who looks back at their childhood may see those moments when their courage to be bold was silenced because ladies were seen and not heard. Trans is an issue today, though trans has always existed in human culture and nature as a whole. The more we force ourselves into black-and-white definitions, the more issues we have.

I am writing in support as an adult who sees confusion being weaponized as fear of something most people don't understand. These are very sensitive subjects to individuals. I remember my father beating me for being too girly. I remember doctors trying to justify mentally abusive treatment to make me "normal" because that was what was normal to them. Please know that normal doesn't exist, however comfortable the idea of it is. We are all on a spectrum.

Mahalo again for your truest consideration,

Patrick Faris

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:53:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
martha chantiny	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am completely in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai‘i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please! mahalo nui**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:29:35 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

To my Elected Officials,

I am writing as a mother, teacher, child care provider, and responsible citizen of our community and state. It is my first and foremost duty to protect the children that I have and the children/families that I serve. I implore you to oppose policies that promote medical transitions for minors and ask that you support policies that protect parental rights in education and medical decision-making. Why would you take away this part of a parent's "job" and require us to do our "job" and be responsible for our children's actions and well-being in every other area?

I also want you to ensure that public school curriculums prioritize age-appropriate, evidence-based education that does not introduce controversial gender ideologies to young children. Does the government, an outside entity, decide what my child learns and believes? Would you want that for your own children? Or would you like a say in that very important responsibility?

For these reasons, I strongly urge you to vote NO on SB1150. Instead, I encourage you to focus on approaches that prioritize children's well-being, parental rights, and scientific integrity.

Again, as a concerned citizen, I ask that you do not support taking away a parents right to raise their children according to our own deeply held convictions. Please vote no on SB 1150 Relating to Health Care.

Respectfully,

Pegeen Echavaria

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:55:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kailana Moa-eli	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

"Aloha, my name is Kailana. I support SB1150 because I believe that every being and cause deserves love and compassion."

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:01:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Storm Stoker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 1150

Chair, esteemed members of the committee,

I speak today in unwavering support of SB 1150, a bill that extends life-saving protections to those seeking gender-affirming care. This is not just legislation; it is a shield against suffering, a declaration that dignity belongs to all.

The numbers speak with urgency: 82% of transgender individuals have considered suicide, yet access to gender-affirming care reduces that risk by 73%. When given the chance to live as their true selves, trans youth experience a 60% decrease in depression. These are not just statistics—they are lives lifted from the brink, futures reclaimed from despair.

Gender-affirming care is not controversial; it is compassionate. It is endorsed by every major medical association, including the AMA, AAP, and APA. It is not a debate—it is a duty.

Gender affirming care also affects CIS people and can include breast reduction in boys and men who develop breast tissue. Breast reduction for girls and women whose backs are affected by overdevelopment of their chest. Puberty blockers for girls who would begin puberty at inappropriately young ages etc..

SB 1150 does not just protect health care; it protects hope. It ensures that no one is denied the right to exist in their own skin, free from fear, free to thrive. I urge you to stand on the side of justice, of humanity, of life itself. Pass SB 1150.

Mahalo,

Storm Stoker

Makiki



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 12:39:19 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meriah Nichols	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To Whom It May Concern:**

I am writing to express my strong support for SB1150, a vital bill that ensures access to gender-affirming care for transgender, nonbinary, and gender-diverse individuals in [State].

Gender-affirming care is not only evidence-based but also life-saving. This type of care includes medical, mental health, and social support interventions that help individuals align their physical and emotional well-being with their gender identity. Decades of research affirm that gender-affirming care reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender and nonbinary individuals. It also improves overall quality of life, self-esteem, and health outcomes.

Conversely, barriers to gender-affirming care put lives at risk. Transgender and gender-diverse individuals already face disproportionate rates of discrimination, violence, and mental health challenges. Denying or restricting access to necessary care exacerbates these inequities and undermines their right to live with dignity.

SB1150 is crucial to ensuring that everyone in our state has equitable access to the care they need. By supporting this legislation, we can affirm the humanity of transgender individuals, uphold their rights, and demonstrate our commitment to creating an inclusive and compassionate community.

I urge you to stand in support of SB1150 and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible to those who need it. Thank you for your attention to this critical issue, and for your dedication to the well-being of all constituents.

Sincerely,  
Meriah Nichols

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:04:42 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rev. Dr. Robert W. Nelson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure 100%. Transgender people live in Hawai'i. They are employed in many walks of life. We live and work and go to the same church with them. They are in our schools both as teachers and as students. Please stand up and defend them.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:08:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Matson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Committee Members,

Mahalo for scheduling and hearing this important bill. I have numerous friends and family members who have needed and will need gender affirming care in the future. Even I, myself, may need access to some of this care as a mostly cis, heterosexual female. Undergoing IVF for a surrogacy I am currently carrying has required usage of various hormones that can be classified within the "gender affirming care" spectrum. I may also need access to these hormones during menopause. The concerning conversion at the National level currently seeks to dumb down and stigmatize the nuances of this important aspect of necessary and life-saving healthcare and limits access and safety for all. We are counting on you at our State level to protect us and our friends, neighbors, and children by providing access to ALL healthcare in a fair and equitable way. Decisions regarding what hormones to take and surgeries to proceed with need to be left to medical professionals and those seeking care and not limited or restricted by the Federal or State government due to misinformation and discrimination against transgender individuals. Please protect our access to healthcare and pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Shannon M.

Hawai'i Island Resident

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:18:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:19:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terri Gately	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**"I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!"**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:43:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MANDY CHUN	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:43:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill and encourage you to do the same.

Thank you

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:52:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kylie Borges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Kylie and I'm a diasporic Kanaka currently residing in San Jose, CA. I am writing to express my *strong support for SB1150*, the Health Care Access Protection Act. This critical legislation is crucial to protecting the health and well-being of individuals in Hawai'i who seek reproductive health care services and gender-affirming health care services.

SB1150 ensures that:

- Hawai'i protects its residents: The bill prevents the enforcement of laws from other states that could penalize individuals or providers for accessing or providing these essential services within our state.
- Confidentiality is upheld: It strengthens patient privacy by limiting the disclosure of sensitive medical information related to reproductive and gender-affirming health care.
- State resources are not used against residents: The bill restricts state agencies from cooperating with investigations or proceedings in other states that could target individuals or providers for lawful care provided in Hawaii.
- Licenses are protected: It prevents the state from taking disciplinary action against licensed professionals based on actions that would be legal in Hawaii, even if they were considered violations in another state.

I urge you to support SB1150 and work diligently to ensure its swift passage. Protecting access to essential healthcare is a fundamental right, and I believe this legislation is vital to upholding that right for all residents of Hawai'i.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Kylie

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 1:57:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catalina Bú Morrisroe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and committee members,

My name is Catalina Bú Morrisroe, and I am a teacher. I am in full support of SB 1150. This bill is essential in providing protection for gender-affirming care providers and our māhū, transgender, and non-binary community members in accessing such vital services.

As a teacher, I have seen firsthand the positive impact that gender-affirming care has. These life-saving services are affirming identities, improving mental health, and reducing self-harm risk. SB 1150 builds on Act 2 by explicitly including these services, sending a clear message that Hawai'i protects its transgender and gender-diverse residents.

Of equal importance, the bill clarifies child custody jurisdiction to shield families from hostile, out-of-state laws that criminalize supportive parents. These are decisions families should make with healthcare professionals, undisturbed.

This isn't about special rights; it's about basic human rights. It's about access to healthcare, protecting providers, and showing aloha to our transgender and gender-diverse community. Please pass SB 1150. It's a matter of life, death, dignity, and respect.

Mahalo,

Catalina Bú Morrisroe

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:04:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
teri skillman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am 100% in favor of this SB1150. There is a plain attack on transgender people by the Trump Administration. We have transgender people in Hawaii in every walk of life. These are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-employees. Stand up and protect them, please!

It has been devastating to the transgender community, their loved ones, and providers of gender-affirming care. The Executive Orders by this new administration are based in extremism and bigotry, and are having real-life consequences on the health and well-being of our community. The sheer volume and the language used is intended to shock, overwhelm, and cause chaos, and despair. The message of community organizations needs to be that we cannot and will not obey in advance and will do all we can to fight these orders by staying engaged, finding new ways to slow and legally side-step implementation, and by uplifting each other with kindness and support.

HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

Get facts at <https://www.hrc.org/resources/get-the-facts-on-gender-affirming-care/>

Track lawsuits against Trump's EO at <https://www.justsecurity.org/107087/tracker-litigation-legal-challenges-trump-administration/>

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony,

Teri Skillman

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 2:59:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Raphael Moller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in solid support of the Healthcare Access Protection Act, which ensures access to all folks in Hawai'i for gender-affirming health care, without fear of discrimination, marginalization or disenfranchisement . This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, respect and protection for all individuals.

It is about emphasizing the transcendental importance of gender affirming health care for all transgender and non-binary individuals. Medical professionals agree that such care improves the mental health and fitness, as well as the well being of all folks who need this scope of services, and it protects the dignity of all.

Hawai'i has a record of protecting its residents of all harmful out of state policies, and this bill is a continuity of such criteria. Please make sure that all humans are treated with justice and aloha. Everyone deserves to live a life free of prejudice and discrimination, and access to humane healthcare.

Thank you so much.

Sincerely,

Raphael Moller, Mountain View, Hawai'i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:38:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyson M Miles	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha e Honorable Members of the Legislature,**

I am ABSOLUTELY 100% IN FAVOR of this measure, and how it expands the protections for providing gender-affirming care to transgender individuals. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. We have seen them debased, villainized and attacked by Executive Orders that deny them their humanity, and even attempt to make teachers criminally liable for even using a child's preferred pronouns because they affirm the child's preferred gender. All the extremism and bigotry we have seen will have real life consequences on our transgender youth, many of whom we sadly already lose to suicide. There are real effects to their mental health and well-being, and denying them gender-affirming care is cruelty.

Stand up and and pass this measure, indicating that we as Hawai'i will not comply in advance with cruelty and that we will support and help our transgender keiki. HB615 and SB1150 would expand Act 2, SLH 2023 (Reproductive Health Care Services) to include gender-affirming health care services. It would also prevent a state agency from removing a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming health care services.

Once again, I 100% support this measure. Stand with us, and stand up and protect our neighbors, friends and family please!

Do what is PONO.

Sincerely,

Alyson M. Miles

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 3:59:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Valerie Clack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let's sup[port Hawaii laws on gender affirming care. This bill will expand the protections established unerd Act 2 SLH 2023 to include gender affirming healthcare services and clarifies Hawaii jurisdiction for child custody and enforcement act cases for children with a parent authorizing gender affirming care. This bill would also further protect our healthcare providers and residents accessing gender affirming care.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:04:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jen Mather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Chair San Buenaventura and Honorable Committee Members,

My name is Jen Mather and I am writing in SUPPORT of SB1150 as a mother of one transgender teen currently undergoing gender-affirming care and one queer teen. I am deeply committed to ensuring the safety and well-being of my children and the dedicated healthcare providers who support them. I believe SB1150 affirms Hawai‘i’s commitment to protecting access to necessary and life-saving health care.

Gender-affirming care is not just beneficial—it is essential. The American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Psychological Association (APA), and numerous other reputable medical organizations recognize gender-affirming health care as evidence-based, medically necessary, and life-saving. The AAP has explicitly stated, "For many transgender youth, gender-affirming care is associated with lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation." Denying this care puts lives at risk and contributes to unnecessary suffering among transgender youth and their families.

As a parent, my primary responsibility is to provide my child with the support and care they need to thrive. My child, like so many others, has struggled with gender dysphoria—a condition recognized by the medical community—and has found relief, confidence, and happiness through gender-affirming treatment. I have witnessed firsthand the profound and positive transformation that comes from access to competent and compassionate medical care through Transcend Maui - a holistic, wrap-around health care service through Mālama I Ke Ola.

SB1150 is a necessary measure to ensure that families like mine can continue to make informed medical decisions without fear of legal repercussions or government interference from other states. It sends a powerful message that Hawai‘i stands as a sanctuary for bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and fundamental human rights.

Furthermore, this bill provides critical protections for the health care providers who serve transgender individuals. These professionals should not be subjected to criminalization or professional disciplinary actions from other jurisdictions simply for providing legal and ethical medical care in Hawai‘i.

By passing SB1150, Hawai'i will reaffirm its commitment to upholding the dignity and rights of transgender individuals, parents, and medical professionals. I urge this committee to stand on the side of medical integrity, parental rights, and, most importantly, the lives of transgender youth.

Thank you for your time and for considering my testimony. I respectfully urge you to recommend the passage of SB1150 to the Senate floor without hesitation and help to advocate for its passage through the House, as well.

Me ka ha'aha'a  
Jen Mather  
Wailuku, Maui

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:24:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janice Palma-Glennie	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha,

come on. why are we even talking about this? This should be in the rearview of history with abortion rights.

but here we are, so please support thsi bill with all your kokua.

mahalo and sincerely,

janice palma-glennie

kailua-kona

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 5:52:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Abigail Otto, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Committee,

My name is Abigail Otto, MD. I am an OBGYN in Honolulu with the University of Hawaii. I am writing to voice my support for added protections as it related to to transgender care in Hawaii. Transgender care is life-saving and affects many of my patients. Added protections for physicians, parents and patients is essential in ensuring the safe delivery of affirming care.

**Please vote YES on SB1150.**

Sincerely,

Abigail Otto, MD

OBGYN

University of Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:02:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose bill SB1150

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:12:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

You've exposed your true nature and purposes to bring harm to the children of Hawaii. Come on Hawaii vote these pilauticians out and bring back the righteousness of God to our government! God have mercy your souls, Lee and Hashimoto and all those who try to bring about harm to the children, the weak and our kupuna!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:13:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB1150.

I urge you to stand against Senate Bill SB1150, which threatens to undermine the fundamental rights of parents in making healthcare decisions for their children. This bill, by attempting to legislate on matters of gender-affirming care, could set a dangerous precedent where state authority supersedes parental discretion. Probably should abolish the DOE as well. How many funds have been given to DOE, politicians to push this bill here in Hawaii. Follow the cash. Exposure needed.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:17:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

The State SHOULD NEVER allow parental obstruction. Parents should always be informed and make decisions on anything regarding their child. I vehemently OPPOSE this bill. Anyone who votes to pass this DOES NOT DESERVE THE OFFICE THEY HOLD!!!!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:20:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Oppose SB1150! We have bigger problems to address. What is wrong with you elected officials?! NO to SB1150!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:20:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

It is NOT ok to let state agencies take children away from their parents for allowing those children to express their chosen gender. Letting your kids express their gender in whatever way they choose is not a crime.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:22:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I OPPOSE SB1150! This is absolutely a waste of time. What is wrong with you elected officials?! There are bigger problems we need to be addressing! I vote NO to SB1150!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:24:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150. This is the most irrational and non logical bill I've ever seen in Hawaii. I oppose anyone being able to essentially kidnap a minor to get them any kind of surgery without parental consent. Parents are responsible for their children up until the age of 18. It's wrong to say that an adult is responsible for all of their child's actions, but not responsible for their medical wellbeing. It's up to the parent to decide what the best thing for their child is until the child is developed enough to make their own decisions.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:31:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I stand in strong opposition to this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:38:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is just unbelievable that it would even be considered. I would liken this to child abuse. I implore that sound minds prevail and this goes in the garbage where it belongs. Shame on you!

Jamie D. Agapoff M.D, M.S. (she/they)  
Email: jamie@jamieagapoff.com

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. I am a Board Certified Psychiatrist and a World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) GEI SOC8 Certified Member, who trained locally, is licensed in the state, and continues to teach, mentor, and collaborate on research with local providers.

Right now, the bodily autonomy and rights of transgender people across the U.S. are being threatened or limited in frightening ways. In the last few years, hundreds of bills have been proposed or made into law. This is happening despite strong evidence that supporting transgender people and providing them access to gender affirming care saves lives and improves mental health outcomes [1]. For example, research from the Family Acceptance Project show that LGBTQ youth who experience low family acceptance of their LGBTQ identity report higher levels of depression, substance use, suicidal ideation, and suicide attempts [2]. Conversely, a large national sample of LGBTQ youth found that being respectful of a youth's gender identity was associated with just over 40% lower odds of them attempting suicide in the past year [3]. The measures outlined in SB1150 would help safeguard Hawai'i's transgender community.

In 2023, the State of Hawaii's Department of Health released a statement on rights and public health, acknowledging that all TGD persons "...should have an equitable opportunity to achieve their optimal state of health and well-being." It recognized the unique contributions of māhūwahine, māhūkāne, transgender, gender diverse people, and other populations to the diversity of Hawai'i, and the importance of protecting them from discrimination. SB1150 will help.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care. As a physician who provides gender affirming care, I believe SB1150 is essential to protect TGD persons and their families.

Sincerely,  
Jamie D. Agapoff M.D., M.S.  
WPATH GEI SOC8 Certified Member

References:

1) Coleman, Eli, et al. "Standards of care for the health of transgender and gender diverse people, version 8." *International Journal of Transgender Health* 23.sup1 (2022): S1-S259.  
<https://doi.org/10.1080/26895269.2022.2100644>

2) Ryan, Caitlin, et al. "Family acceptance in adolescence and the health of LGBT young adults." *Journal of child and adolescent psychiatric nursing* 23.4 (2010): 205-213.  
<https://doi.org/10.1111/j.1744-6171.2010.00246.x>

3) The Trevor Project. Behaviors of Supportive Parents and Caregivers for LGBTQ Youth. (2022)  
<https://www.thetrevorproject.org/research-briefs/>

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:43:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE this Bill as this does not address the root of this questionable practice. There is NO reason to have this exist. This life altering, both physically and mentally, will cause more harm than good for the child, their family, and society.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:45:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ryan Chase  
Honolulu, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:45:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kahiau Niheu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Senator Chris Lee  
Senator Troy Hashimoto  
Committee on HHS/CPN  
Hawai‘i State Legislature

Dear Chair Lee, Vice Chair Hashimoto, and Members of the Committee on HHS/CPN:

My name is Kenneth Kahiau Niheu, BSN, RN, DNP (c), and I am currently a Doctor of Nursing Practice candidate at the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of Senate Bill (SB) 1150, the “Health Care Access Protection Act,” introduced by Senator Chris Lee and Senator Troy Hashimoto.

As a registered nurse with years of clinical experience and a future advanced practice provider, I believe in the importance of ensuring that all individuals receive evidence-based and culturally sensitive health care. This measure is especially significant in a climate where some out-of-state laws may penalize or restrict lawful medical services provided here in Hawai‘i.

**Support for the Bill**

- 1. Protecting Access to Medical Care**  
Services related to reproductive health and gender-affirming treatments can be critical—and sometimes lifesaving—for many individuals. By clarifying that Hawai‘i will not enforce out-of-state restrictions, SB 1150 preserves the right to access necessary care without fear of external legal or financial repercussions.
- 2. Maintaining Professional Integrity**  
Nursing is rooted in compassion, advocacy, and adherence to best-practice standards. Health care professionals should be able to provide patient-centered care without being hindered by out-of-state legal threats that conflict with our professional duty to promote health and well-being.

3. Safeguarding All Members of Our Community  
Hawai'i's diverse population, including our kūpuna, keiki, and LGBTQ+ individuals, deserves assurance that they can obtain vital services securely and confidentially. By removing legal barriers and ensuring nondiscrimination, this legislation fosters healthier families and communities across the State.
4. Upholding Hawai'i's Values of Aloha and Inclusivity  
Our traditions of aloha and respect call on us to ensure that no one is denied essential care. By affirming that such services are both lawful and protected, SB 1150 reinforces Hawai'i's reputation as a welcoming place that champions equity and compassion for all.

## Conclusion

At a time when health care access is under threat in various parts of the country, Senate Bill (SB) 1150 exemplifies Hawai'i's forward-thinking commitment to uphold the rights and dignity of everyone who calls our islands home. I respectfully urge this Committee to pass this bill and continue to lead the nation in championing inclusive, high-quality care.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Mahalo,

Kenneth Kahiau Niheu, BSN, RN, DNP (c)  
Doctor of Nursing Practice Candidate  
University of Hawai'i at Hilo  
kkniheu@hawaii.edu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 6:57:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Erika Phelps Nishiguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care. I am a Developmental Behavioral Pediatrician, a subspecialty in pediatrics, and many of my patients are both neurodivergent and do not fit into the gender or sexuality binary.**

**Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the health and well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. Without appropriate gender-affirming care, these individuals experience much higher rates of anxiety, depression, and even suicide. In keeping with my oath to do no harm, I must be able to appropriately care for these individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful and ethical health care.**

**This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Erika Phelps Nishiguchi, MD**

Honolulu, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:01:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nic Barton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a high school teacher, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. I have countless students who are part of the above demographic. Make no mistake: gender-affirming care saves lives of teenagers. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. I have witnessed students who openly express their gender identity and been able to access medical care become more open, active, and comfortable in the classroom. Being confident and comfortable in who they are results in better academic and social performance, not to mention the dramatic increase in life. No one, but especially the children that we have sworn to care for and protect, should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nic Barton

Honolulu, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:11:53 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Do not approve this you have no right to mutilate children.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:12:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Christina Even  
Waikoloa Village, Hawai'i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:12:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Andrew Rivera

Kahului, Hawai'i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:19:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly Darling	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote in support of SB1150. Hawaii's healthcare providers and residents need protection from anti-LGBT legislation and actions taken by other states. Unfortunately hateful and bias initiatives enacted by other states may harm marginalized populations here in Hawaii. The Hawaii legislature must stand up for it's trans and queer citizens by standing against other states infringing on our sovereignty and liberty. Vote "yes" on SB1150.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:22:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin D. Ganitano	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose SB1150 wholeheartedly. This atrocity is unconstitutional.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:31:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kirk Powles	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

### Why Gender-Affirming Healthcare is Dangerous and Why the State Should Not Take Children From Parents Who Refuse It

**\*\*The Dangers of Gender-Affirming Healthcare:\*\***

Gender-affirming healthcare, particularly for minors, is a dangerous and reckless practice that undermines traditional values and the well-being of children. We are talking about life-altering surgeries and hormone treatments that could permanently change the course of a young person’s life—without any clear understanding of the long-term consequences. These treatments aren’t just risky—they’re irreversible, and they’re being handed out like candy to kids who may not even fully understand what they’re doing.

Hormone therapies and surgeries come with major risks: infertility, sexual dysfunction, and physical changes that can’t be undone. The fact is, many children go through phases and may grow out of feelings of gender dysphoria. What happens when a child regrets transitioning later in life? These treatments aren’t just medically dangerous—they’re a form of experimentation on kids who don’t have the maturity to make such huge decisions. And there’s no guarantee that these treatments will even make them happy. People aren’t fully able to understand what this will mean for them when they’re older.

**\*\*The Medical and Psychological Dangers:\*\***

It’s not just the physical side of things that’s concerning. What about the psychological impact? We know that kids’ brains aren’t fully developed, and they often don’t have the ability to make long-term decisions about their bodies. Some may just be following a trend or influenced by their peers—there’s no way to know for sure. In fact, many of these children may go through phases of questioning their gender, only to realize as they mature that they were just confused or influenced by societal pressures.

Parents should be the ones to guide their children, not doctors pushing dangerous treatments. Gender is not something you can just “change.” It’s rooted in biology. Encouraging kids to undergo these kinds of procedures is a step away from reality and common sense.

**\*\*Parental Rights and the State’s Overreach:\*\***

The real problem, however, is when the state steps in and removes children from their parents because they refuse to go along with the left-wing, progressive agenda that's pushing these treatments. No parent should have to fear losing their child just because they want to protect them from something they believe is harmful. Parents know what's best for their children—not bureaucrats, not doctors, and not politicians who have their own ideological agenda.

If the government starts taking children from their parents for refusing gender-affirming care, we're crossing a dangerous line. It's not just about healthcare—it's about control. The state should not have the power to tell parents how to raise their children. Family decisions should be left up to the parents, not the government. If a parent feels that gender-affirming care is too risky or not appropriate for their child, they should have the right to make that decision.

**\*\*We Can't Let the Left Push This Agenda on Our Kids:\*\***

The left's radical push for gender-affirming care is part of a bigger agenda to undermine traditional family values and confuse our children. They want to create a generation that is more focused on identity politics and social issues than on hard work, patriotism, and the values that made this country great.

We can't let them destroy the future of our kids by pushing them into life-altering medical procedures before they even understand what they're doing. Children should be allowed to grow up and make decisions about their identity when they're older and better able to understand the implications.

**\*\*Conclusion:\*\***

We need to protect our children from the dangers of gender-affirming healthcare, and we need to protect the rights of parents to make decisions for their families. No government should have the power to remove children from loving parents just because those parents disagree with a politically motivated agenda. The safety, well-being, and stability of families must always come first. The state should not interfere in parental rights or force kids to make permanent, irreversible decisions before they can even fully understand them.

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**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:34:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This child abuse must stop.

Everything about this bill is not what the people want.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:38:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:40:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Shanda Brack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i.

It is critical that Hawai‘i take immediate action to protect health care providers and transgender individuals from out-of-state legal actions. Furthermore this bill will protect us from national policies threatening access to medically necessary care.

As a nurse practitioner, I can attest that nearly all reputable medical and psychological organizations recognize that gender affirming care is essential for the well being of transgender folks. This care is lifesaving and critical. Numerous studies have demonstrated improvements in health, mental health and life satisfaction. Additionally they show how gender affirming care reduces health disparities with a clear reduction in risk of nearly every metric including suicidal ideation and attempts. As someone who provides gender affirming healthcare, this bill would protect my colleagues and myself while providing medical care to all members of our community.

As a friend and family member of several trans and gender expansive persons, access to gender affirming care affects me personally. I want my family to have access to safe and affirming healthcare. As a healthcare provider, I can assert that access to gender affirming care improves peoples' lives.

Many of my patients have told me they are worried that the state of Hawai‘i does not value them. In addition to protecting patients' access to healthcare, this bill will show them and everyone who has a transgender family member that Hawai‘i will defend each citizen regardless of the current political climate.

The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to dehumanize or undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Shanda Brack, APRN she/her

Waipahu, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:45:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Carol Parrish	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Carol and I am the mother of a transgender individual who transitioned when he was 15 years old, he did this in 2006. I am very sad and concerned that I have to testify to something pertaining to the 1.5% of the population that seems to have many up in arms.

My son is alive and thriving today with a wife, a great job, friends and a bright future. The current administration seems hell bent of making sure that others may not be this fortunate.

First, let me begin by telling you that this Mom did everything right. We followed the Harry Benjamin Guidelines to the letter so his future would be free from scrutiny of hateful people. My son was in a dark place before writing a letter to his Dad and me. Reading that letter made me understand that his happiness, his very life depended on us being supportive of him.

His courage to come to us and try to explain what was going on in his body, his mind and his classes at school was beyond measure. At 15 he was scared but knew he was loved, unconditionally loved. Not all, in fact very few, transgender youth have the support of their parents. For whatever reasons they may have, religious, family, societal or just plain fear of the unknown...hatred, there is this little gem too.

If not for the opportunity to access the proper healthcare in this crucial time, he may have been lost to suicide. I am so very grateful to the healthcare professionals we were blessed to share our journey with.

I write you today to urge you to vote for compassionate care for those who where not blessed with something most of us take for granted, identity. Imagine knowing you are different but unable to articulate how least while why, you just know...

I urge you to support SB1150.

Mahalo for your time and your vote.

Respectfully,

Carol Parrish



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:47:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Torrey Lock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Please vote in SUPPORT of SB1150 to help protect Hawai'i's māhū and LGBTQ+ community. This extremely vulnerable population is currently under threat from the current federal government. The anti-LGBTQ+ rhetoric is not just harmful to the gender and sexually diverse community, but to the Hawai'i community at large. Hawai'i has a clear and honorable history of protecting the most vulnerable populations, and should stand strong against the current federal executive administration and do what is right to protect those under attack.

Gender related health care saved my life, and the lives of many others. Because of Hawai'i's acceptance, culture, and existing healthcare practices, many people are here today, leading fulfilling lives, supporting their families, and contributing to the local economy. I do not say it lightly or figuratively that this type of healthcare saves lives.

Please, vote to support SB1150 and stand on the right side of history.

Mahalo,

Torrey Lock

Waiialua, HI 96791

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:46:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Guillaume Dommergues	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Being different isn't easy. And being the parent of a child who is different isn't easy. Families of trans kids already navigate the daily worries of how their kids will be treated at school, how they see themselves, and whether society will embrace them. They face enough uncertainty—they don't need legal hassles.

The less legal uncertainties these families and their doctors face, the better.

Please vote **YES!**

Guillaume Dommergues

Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:50:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Fha96744@gmail.com	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose this bill that gives the government rights to take children from their parents and homes for gender reassignment for children. It is not medically necessary. I stand opposed to this bill!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:54:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah Delgadillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello Senators,

Please support SB1150 to protect our Hawaiian citizens access to gender affirming care to to protect healthcare providers who provide this care.

i am a parent and and Ally. These healthcare decisions should be between individuals and their healthcare providers. Care should not be jeopardized by our federal government which is now controlled by billionaires who have no care for small minority groups except to use them for political gain.

please support this bill

Mahalo,

sarah delgadillo

Hawaii Kai, 96825

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 7:59:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jean Adair-Leland Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.**

**As a health care provider I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.**

**Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Jean Adair-Leland, PhD  
Honolulu, HI**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:06:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nora Pollard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you Chairs and Committee members for hearing this bill.

Now more than ever, it is essential to support those who need transgender health care. As the Federal government has taken steps to legally redefine trans people's existence, it is up to the State level government to support trans people enthusiastically and make sure that they know they have a place in our society. As a trans woman who first transitioned almost a decade ago now, it has been deeply upsetting to see the developments at the federal level. As a grown adult, I am broken hearted, anxious, and worried about how far this will go. I cannot imagine being a young child who has finally found the language and experiences to match what they feel inside, only to see their government erase those terms and mark that essential healthcare as something deviant or wrong.

Although not adults, children make a lot of choices that affect the rest of their lives. Their behavior and grades in school, the opportunities they pursue, and the people they spend time with all affect where their lives go. They choose whether to go to the gym or that unsupervised party. They are learning many things about the world through action. The obsession of some people with their healthcare decisions, which often for transgender care include social transition (haircuts, name changes, fashion changes) much more than medical care, is pure manufactured panic.

Even when youth do get true medical care, it is either supportive therapy in a world that shows clear disdain for them, or sometimes hormone blockers, which can always be stopped in time. Most every child goes through irreversible changes associated with the hormones (mostly testosterone and estrogen) that cause secondary sexual characteristics. Every child, cisgender or transgender. All that blockers allow is for young people to have more agency in the choices that affect their bodies, and more time to understand the kinds of people they would like to be.

To ensure Hawaii is a place where these children can, with the support of their families and the medical knowledge of their doctors, make these choices, would be to keep a beacon lit in a dark time.

Mahalo nui for your time.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:16:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150.

Mahalo,

Mahealani Bernal

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:19:16 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jada Rufo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments: I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:22:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maya Maxym	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

As an ally and a medical professional, I would like to express my strong support for SB 1150, which protects access to gender affirming care. The LGBTQIA+ community is under attack. Transgender and nonbinary teens, who already battle extremely high rates of mental illness and suicide attempts due to the discrimination they face, are feeling particularly vulnerable at this time. This bill would help people I care deeply about to continue to live as their true selves. It would recognize the rights of people who are *mahu* to make the fullest expression of their lives a reality. It would allow transgender children, their parents, and the caring professionals who provide gender-affirming care to feel safer and more confident.

Please consider voting for this bill.

Sincerely,

Maya Maxym, MD, PhD, FAAP

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:26:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael A. Cobb Jr	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I do not support this bill. This will legalize kidnapping and other unlawful behaviour in relation to children. Please do not protect pediphiles and those who prey on children.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:28:46 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gabrielle O'Sullivan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i continue to have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a Family Medicine Physician who has the privilege of caring for people who are transgender, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and gender diverse individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting all of our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Gabrielle O'Sullivan MD

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:31:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill is ridiculous! What is wrong with our elected officials? Gender changing procedures of any kind should only be done when someone is over 18 or 21!

Gloria Moyers

808-442-2075

2858 Puu Hoolai Street

Kihei HI 96753

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:37:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Opposed

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:46:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alison Rivera	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community pediatrician, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alison Rivera

Kahului, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:51:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I Strongly Oppose

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 8:54:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Hello,

My name is Ruby Delgadillo. I support SB1150 because I believe it represents the values of Hawai'i, and that it's the right thing to do. Hawai'i is not the mainland, and we should not follow in doing cruel things just because the federal government wants to. Hawai'i has a long history of nontraditional gender expression, and we should try to preserve this. Banning proven, life-saving healthcare serves only to punish children for the crime of living. The Hawai'i government has the chance to do the right thing by passing SB1150.

**Testimony for the Record**  
**Submitted to the**  
**Hawai'i Senate Committee on Health & Human Services**  
*in Support of*  
**Senate Bill 1150**  
**February 11, 2025**  
**Gerald T. Montano, DO, MS**  
**Community Pediatrician**

Dear Chairs San Buenaventura, Aquino, Keohokalole, Fukunaga and Members of the Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees:

My name is Gerald Montano. I give this testimony as a Hawai'i-licensed physician with an American Board of Pediatrics certification in general pediatrics and specialty board certification in adolescent medicine. I have over ten years of experience in gender-affirming care and cared for over five-hundred transgender and gender-diverse youth and young adults. Additionally, I have conducted research, scholarship, and teaching in LBGQTIA Health.

I am asking for the Hawai'i legislature to protect: (a) healthcare access for transgender and gender-diverse youth, (b) protect parents' rights in seeking healthcare for their child, and (c) protect a healthcare provider's right to practice compassionate, evidence-based medicine **by passing SB1150**, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to explicitly include gender-affirming health care services and clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain such care.

Gender-affirming care is the process of affirming and expressing one's internal sense of gender, rather than the gender assigned to them at birth, through behavioral health support and medical/surgical interventions. It is a century-old medical practice. The clear evidence supporting the practice of gender-affirming care has led to all the major medical and mental health professional associations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the Endocrine Society, the World Professional Association of Transgender Health, and the American Medical Association—which together represent most physicians—to recommend gender-affirming care for children and adolescents. Additionally, there are thirty-two mainstream national and international organizations supportive of gender-affirming care.

However, gender-affirming care has come under attack. Since February 2020, at least 186 bills have been filed in US state legislatures to restrict access to gender-affirming care.<sup>1,2</sup> These bills would bar medical providers from prescribing gender-affirming hormone therapy (including puberty blockers) or performing gender-affirming surgeries on adolescents under age 18 years.<sup>1,2</sup> In addition to prohibiting specific medical interventions, these bills would also mandate jail time and fines for medical providers, and in some cases parents, who seek gender-affirming care for their transgender or gender-diverse children.<sup>1,3</sup> Most recently, the current US President issued an executive order aimed at restricting access to gender-affirming health care for minors. The order calls for a complete reversal of federal support for gender-affirming care for youth under age 19.<sup>4</sup>

Studies consistently find that transgender and gender-diverse youth are highly vulnerable to mental and behavioral health problems, including depression, anxiety, and substance use.<sup>5</sup> A large, multi-state survey found that 35% of transgender youth reported having attempted suicide in the past year.<sup>6</sup>

**It is important to understand that these poor outcomes are not because of one's gender identity, but rather due to a combination of gender dysphoria—the experience of significant distress about not having the physical characteristics of the gender one identifies with—and the shame and discrimination they face because of their gender identity, thus the need for gender-affirming care.**

The evidence and clinical guidelines written by the Endocrine Society,<sup>7</sup> WPATH Standards of Care,<sup>8</sup> and the University of California at San Diego's Center of Excellence for Transgender Health<sup>9</sup> and recommendations from organization like the AAP and the Endocrine Society inform the medical and mental health care of transgender and gender diverse youth. Guidelines on gender-affirming care are thorough, individualized, and family centered. Any decisions on gender-affirming care are made together by the multidisciplinary care team, family, and child and will require parental permission.

Gender-affirming care is not just about medicines. It is also about social support. For example, the only recommendation for the treatment of school-age, pre-pubescent children is allowing the child to wear the clothes and hair they want, use preferred name and pronouns, and play with the toys they like. This is referred to as social transition. This treatment brings tremendous benefits for transgender and gender-diverse youth, including decreased depression and anxiety,<sup>10,11</sup> and improvement of school wellbeing, decreasing truancy, and lower levels of bullying.<sup>12</sup>

Medications in gender-affirming care are only given when: (1) a child has already started puberty, which can be distressing to youth with gender dysphoria, and (2) has displayed insistence, consistence and persistence in their gender identity. Not all transgender and gender diverse youth need or would like to use medications to affirm their gender identity. Puberty blockers, which are completely reversible, help give time for parents, youth, and providers to consider less reversible options and allows the youth not to have to deal with going through the puberty that is wrong for them and therefore decreases their distress. Puberty blockers are safe medications that have been used for many decades previously for children who are starting puberty too early or what is referred to as precocious puberty.<sup>13</sup> We have multiple studies on the reversibility and on the safety and psychosocial benefits of these medications for gender dysphoria,<sup>14-21</sup> including similar psychosocial outcomes in young adulthood to cisgender youth and rates of suicidality three times lower than in youth who did not have access to puberty blocking medications.<sup>20</sup>

Hormone therapy, like estrogen or testosterone, are partially reversible options for treatment. This allows for a young person to essentially go through the puberty that aligns with their gender identity. It is important to note that changes occur over a period of several years, like the natural puberty process. There is strong evidence that these hormones are safe and provide psychosocial benefit to youth experiencing gender dysphoria.<sup>15,22-32</sup> Hormone therapy does not sterilize. Many

studies have shown that people who have started hormone therapy are still able to have children after stopping or even when on hormone therapy.<sup>33</sup> This is why contraception is still recommended to all transgender and gender diverse people on gender affirming hormones.

For many transgender and non-binary individuals their chest and genitals may be a significant cause of distress, and they may choose to have a variety of gender-affirming surgical procedures to achieve alignment of their body with their gender identity. It is also important to note that many transgender individuals do not want or are not able to have gender-affirming surgeries for a variety of reasons. Most of these surgeries are offered to those eighteen and above and are not the main treatments for gender-affirming care for youth. The most common surgical procedure among older adolescents is masculinizing chest surgery, which is often referred to as top surgery. For those trans-masculine youth who are born designated female but have already developed breast tissue, they frequently experience severe distress related to their chest, almost universally wearing chest binders to flatten the appearance of the chest and/or withdrawing socially. Top surgery which involves removing breast tissue to create a more masculine chest appearance has been shown to have tremendous social and psychological benefit for transmasculine adolescents and young adults. Any genital reassignment surgery, if desired and appropriate, happens after age 18 and these procedures have shown similar benefit.<sup>34</sup>

Several studies show that anti-trans legislation has led to an increased mental health burden to transgender and gender-diverse youth<sup>35,36</sup>, including increased rates of depression, suicidality, and anxiety when compared to their cisgender peers. In addition, these policies have been associated with increased likelihood of violence against transgender and gender-diverse youth based on their gender identity.<sup>37</sup> It would also burden Hawai`i's healthcare resources as untreated gender dysphoria may result in unnecessary use of medical and mental health services that do not address it.<sup>38</sup> In contrast, nondiscrimination laws and other inclusive policies have been associated with decreased depressive symptoms and nicotine use among transgender and gender-diverse youth.<sup>39</sup>

Parents of transgender and gender-diverse youth who have lost access to evidence-based gender-affirming care have reported an increase in symptoms of anxiety, stress, depression and hypervigilance in their transgender or gender-diverse children.<sup>37</sup> In places where bills have been proposed but have not passed (e.g., in Florida, there are laws that criminalize caregivers who allow their child to receive gender-affirming care), caregivers must make the agonizing decision to move to another state where gender-affirming care is protected.<sup>40</sup>

Gender-affirming care bans have also impacted medical and mental health providers. Providers are leaving the states where these bans are implemented.<sup>41,42</sup> In cases where providers can still provide gender-affirming care, they face ethical dilemmas in providing care due to possible loss of license or being sued because the patient they treated has changed their gender identity.<sup>42</sup> Additionally, providers are forced to make a mandated report of child abuse if a parent seeks their help regarding their child's gender identity.<sup>43</sup> One study showed that the overall number of mental health providers who offered trans-specific care to trans adolescents was fewer in states with more restrictive laws/policies for transgender people.<sup>44</sup> Hawai`i struggles to recruit competent healthcare providers, with 732 physicians needed to meet its citizens' healthcare

needs.<sup>45</sup> Any policy that would restrict or threaten to restrict the provision of care would hamper Hawai'i's efforts to recruit and retain healthcare providers.

Transgender and gender diverse youth face many threats to their health and wellbeing, especially with the recent onslaught of bills and executive orders restricting access to their healthcare. Additionally, states that have banned gender-affirming care have forced many families to leave to seek evidence-based healthcare for their children in other states. Finally, Hawai'i has a healthcare professional shortage and struggles to recruit and retain healthcare professionals. To protect transgender and gender-diverse youth, provide a reason for our ohana to stay in Hawai'i and recruit and retain healthcare professionals, **I strongly urge passage of SB1150**. Thank you for your consideration.

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**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:01:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for accepting my testimony. I am flabergasted by what SB1150 is proposing.

The first part is that someone other than a legal gaurdian can bring a child to a health center and have any procedures done. This is against every standard I have ever seen. Schools would not give children an aspirin without parental consent.

This bill implies that the Legislature of Hawaii supports a third party person taking a child from their gaurdian, flying them to Hawaii and having significant medical procedures done. Who pays for such a thing?

Only a duly authorized Court should take parental rights away from a person.

This bill is a horrible example of removing parental/gaurdian rigts away from people without due cause and should be stopped in its tracks.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:05:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anahita de Cleyre	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a licensed mental health professional, I wish to offer my support for SB1150.

The particular aspect of this bill I am writing to support is the protection of access to gender-affirming care.

I have worked with many clients who are transgender and in various stages of accessing gender-affirming care. I know first-hand the importance of this health care access. I also know first-hand the detriment caused by the lives, aspirations, and healthcare of transgender people being politicized- turned into a topic of political debate- in order to pander to the lack of education and empathy in some of the voting populace. We are seeing this right now in the United States and many transgender people are fearing for their health, their livelihoods and their lives.

I support the laws of Hawai'i to in every way affirm the existence and health of transgender individuals. We all deserve healthcare that not only prevents our untimely illness and death; we all deserve healthcare that supports us to live our lives fully, capable of attaining our goals and offering our gifts to society. This is what I believe and this is also the promise of a democratic, resource-rich nation such as ours.

This is also exactly what gender-affirming health care does. I have seen first-hand that access to gender-affirming care can save the life of a transgender individual who would otherwise be so consumed by gender dysphoria that suicide seems a better option than living much longer without a way of having outer presentation match identity.

I have also seen first-hand the blossoming of an individual finally able to apply their resourcefulness and creativity to other areas of life once they had received the gender-affirming care that was so badly needed.

This is not a matter of politics, this is a matter of human rights.

Thank you.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:04:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this bill. "Gender affirming care" is permanent. Children do not have fully developed brains and not capable of making life long decisions- that's why they have parents to help guide them! And this bill takes away parental rights! This is wrong. I oppose. The American people do not favor this. Trump ran on this (being opposed to allowing gender affirming care) issue and won- even won the popular vote. Please do not allow this.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:16:30 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tanya Dean	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150 because healthcare professionals and parents/guardians and their children must have access to gender-affirming care. In Hawai'i, we must push back on all absurd and dangerous steps to harm transgender people. Harm to some is harm to all. Please protect Hawai'i from the over-reaching, misguided Executive Orders.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:25:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is atrocious! No! We do not support the mutilation of children! The government has no place between a parent and child. Hormones and mutilation do permanent damage that cannot be undone and raises the chances of suicide. Children are not capable of understanding the longterm consequences. We do not support removing children from parents so that the government and the medical community can turn confused young people into lifetime patients. Studies show that most gender confused children by the age of 19 are no longer confused. There is nothing that makes it okay to destroy a child's life as it is just beginning. This is just wrong on many levels.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:30:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:25:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Irina Constantinescu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a mother, engineer, and Maui resident, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Irina Constantinescu  
Wailuku, Maui

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:37:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**Opposition to SB1150 – A Dangerous Overreach That Undermines Parental Rights and State Sovereignty**

SB1150 is a **reckless and unconstitutional attack** on parental rights, state sovereignty, and medical ethics. By expanding legal protections for **gender-affirming medical procedures for minors**, this bill **strips parents of their rightful role** in their children’s medical decisions and **shields out-of-state individuals from accountability** when engaging in controversial medical treatments.

SB1150 is a **radical overreach that prioritizes ideology over parental rights, medical ethics, and state sovereignty**. Lawmakers should **uphold parental authority, protect children from irreversible harm, and reject state-sponsored interference in family decisions**.

**I strongly oppose SB1150.**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:49:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 9:54:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I urge you, in the strongest possible terms, to **VOTE NO** on the so-called "Health Care Access Protection Act." This legislation is a direct assault on parental rights, child welfare, and the integrity of our interstate legal system.

**An Attack on Parental Rights:**

This bill would allow Hawaii to become a haven where parental oversight is nullified, potentially exposing children to medical decisions that could lead to irreversible consequences without proper consent or understanding. It's an outrage to think our state law would prevent parents from protecting their children based solely on where they are located.

**A Recipe for Legal Chaos:**

By refusing to honor laws from other states regarding child custody and welfare, this Act sows discord and confusion. It would effectively turn Hawaii into a legal sanctuary for practices that might be considered harmful or unethical elsewhere, creating a battleground for jurisdictional disputes rather than ensuring the safety and well-being of minors.

**A Threat to Child Safety:**

The extreme measures to protect confidentiality could shield actions that need scrutiny for the protection of children. This Act could prevent necessary interventions in cases of abuse or neglect, placing ideology over child safety.

**Medical Ethics at Stake:**

This legislation promotes an overreach into medical practices by defining "medically necessary" in such broad terms that it could lead to treatments not backed by solid medical science. It's a dangerous path to allow ideological preferences to dictate medical procedures, potentially causing long-term harm under the banner of care.

**Lowering Standards for Medical Professionals:**

Protecting healthcare providers from disciplinary actions sets a perilous precedent. It reduces accountability and might encourage professionals to engage in practices that are ethically dubious or medically questionable, knowing they have a shield here in Hawaii.

**Legal and Custodial Nightmare:**

The changes proposed for child custody laws are a blatant invitation for legal manipulation where the best interests of the child could be sidelined for the sake of accessing certain

treatments. This is not about care; it's about undermining legal norms and child protection.

**Fragmenting National Unity:**

This bill would contribute to a fractured legal landscape where states refuse to acknowledge one another's statutes, leading to chaos and inconsistency across the nation. It's an irresponsible move that could tear at the fabric of our legal system.

I implore you, do not let this legislation pass. It is misguided, potentially harmful, and sets a dangerous precedent. **Vote NO** to protect our children, uphold parental rights, maintain medical ethics, and preserve the unity of our nation's legal system.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:01:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

No!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:08:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB1150 takes away parental rights and allows children to make life-changing medical decisions they are too young to understand. It also creates legal loopholes that could let families bypass custody laws. Expanding these protections puts ideology over common sense, exposing kids to irreversible treatments that may harm them in the long run. Parents should have the right to guide their children's healthcare, and this bill should be strongly opposed.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:13:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

NO

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:23:00 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jamie Advincula	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jamie Advincula

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:26:21 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not support SB1150. No funds for gender affirming health care for minors.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:27:29 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1150 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee of Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Health and Human Services,

My name is Sara Riggs, and I am a second-year graduate student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa studying social work.\* I also currently work with LGBTQ+ youth in a community mental health setting. I am writing to express my **strong support for SB1150**.

In my work coordinating care and facilitating support groups for LGBTQ+ youth, I have witnessed firsthand the many challenges this population faces, including societal stigma, discrimination, familial rejection, and significant barriers in accessing critical healthcare services. Transgender youth are particularly vulnerable, facing systemic barriers that put their mental health and well-being at risk. This is especially true in states that are pursuing or have passed anti-transgender legislation.<sup>1</sup>

SB1150 provides a range of critical protections for youth seeking gender-affirming care in Hawai'i, safeguarding them from legal repercussions imposed by other states where such care is banned. This bill will significantly improve the health and well-being of the LGBTQ+ community by ensuring they can access **life-saving** medical treatment without fear. A 2022 study found that transgender and non-binary youth who receive gender-affirming care are 73% less likely to experience suicidality compared to those who did not receive such treatment.<sup>2</sup>

Above all, SB1150 recognizes that transgender youth and the broader LGBTQ+ community deserve to live a life of dignity, safety, and authenticity.

I would like to once again reiterate my strong support for SB1150 and urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo nui for your consideration.

Sara Riggs

***\*Disclaimer: The views expressed in this testimony are my own, and are not a reflection of the university I attend.***

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<sup>1</sup> Barbee, H., Deal, C., & Gonzales, G. (2022). Anti-Transgender Legislation—A Public Health Concern for Transgender Youth. *JAMA Pediatrics*, 176(2), 125–126. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamapediatrics.2021.4483>

<sup>2</sup> Tordoff, D. M., Wanta, J. W., Collin, A., Stepney, C., Inwards-Breland, D. J., & Ahrens, K. (2022). Mental Health Outcomes in Transgender and Nonbinary Youths Receiving Gender-Affirming Care. *JAMA Network Open*, 5(2), e220978–e220978. <https://doi.org/10.1001/jamanetworkopen.2022.0978>

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:44:41 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patricia Wong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150.**

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you,  
Patricia Wong

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:51:33 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Charity DeMattos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. This bill protects a vulnerable group being attacked by the President of the United States and the governments of other states, as well as those who support that group.

As a lifelong educator, a mother, and an aunty, I have experienced firsthand how a variety of treatments and resources labeled "gender-affirming care" can make a difference in the lives of both children and adults. All trans people in Hawai'i should have access to this care and parents should be empowered to seek this care for their children if it is what is best for them.

No matter what the President says, trans and nonbinary people are people who deserve to live happy, healthy, and fulfilled lives. They are part of our community and the state should do what it can to protect their rights.

Please support SB1150! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Charity DeMattos  
96720

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:54:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ash Geil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,

My name is Ash, and I am a resident of Mānoa. I am testifying in support of SB1150, Relating To Health Care. Respecting peoples' identities and their right as humans to exist comfortably and autonomously as themselves is vital for the well-being of *any* community. The passing of this bill would eliminate stresses that me and others in the LGBTQ+ community have had, as well as provide a vital layer of protection for our rights. This is incredibly important, especially as the trans community is an extremely vulnerable minority as of present. I urge you to please pass this bill.

Thank you again for the opportunity to testify in support of SB1150, Relating To Health Care.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:54:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noah Swanson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hello, As a resident of Hawai'i I believe we have to protect our keiki and espically our gender diverse, mahu, trans ones even more. Gender affirming health care is life saving and supressing the ability to provide that to anyone show nothing but persional and uneducated predujice and a lack of caring for ones own community, and a severe lack of care for all children. Letting your transphobic beliefs influence a childs healthcare is deplorable and shameful. I'm hoping SB1150 passes, as i'm in support, to strengthen the saftey around getting minors gender affirming care that is life saving. Mahalo Nui

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 10:55:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150! Here we go again, more attempts to take control of our children. You want control of children, have your own. Those that proposed this bill and SB799 must have received funding from USAID. Time to call from some audits in Hawaii.

I oppose SB1150 and any other bill that attempts to take control of our children away from the parents and give it to the state or any medical or government agency.

Lisa Tekurio

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:01:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lauree Anne De Mattos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150. This bill protects a vulnerable population as they are attacked by federal and state governments, and shields those who support them from criminalization and other penalization.

Gender-affirming care is supported by scientific research and experts in the field. This treatment is often life-saving and is absolutely necessary to promote trans mental and physical health. When my best friend began gender-affirming care, I witnessed how essential these practices were to shaping her life and to helping her feel empowered and happy. She—and all other trans people—deserve to feel like they belong and are protected in our shared home.

Trans and non-binary people deserve and must be guaranteed access to the medicines and practices that we require to live happy and healthy lives. Hawai‘i should be a leader in protecting their rights and treating the trans community with the respect and aloha that all people deserve.

Please support SB1150! Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Lauree Anne De Mattos

96720

2025 J.D. Candidate at the William S. Richardson School of Law

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:13:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Renee Rabb	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Thank you for allowing me to testify in strong support for SB 1150 by Senator Chris Lee which protects transgendered people, their families, and health care providers from attack by ill-advised actions by other states.

We are facing a crisis. Draconian policies are being put in place by other states and by the federal government. We simply must shield our families from cruel and medically dangerous policies that seek only to punish those that are different. Medical decisions should be made by the affected individuals and their medical providers. Physicians should not have to be afraid of litigation simply by following guidelines from the American Medical association.

As Hawaii has been forced to put in place safeguards for reproductive health care, so must we send a clear message that we will not allow the harassment and endangerment of some of our most vulnerable residents.

It is time to stand proudly and do the right thing. Vote to support SB1150.

Mahalo,

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI 96749

Big Island

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:15:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Do not pass SB1150.

This bill is misguided and dangerous.

President Trump recently signed an Executive Order (EO) to restrict “gender-affirming care” for children and teenagers that are under 19 years of age, among several reasons, it leaves them with costly medical bills and regret as they get older.

Gender affirming care is a misnomer. We have known for thousands of years, there are only two genders, only two sexes, male and female.

We know that sex is determined when the male sperm enters the female egg, not assigned at birth. Sex is not fluid. It is a fixed characteristic.

“Gender affirming care” should mean that medical care that affirms a person’s gender as determined by DNA testing and innate physical attributes.

What has come to pass during our era, is the frequent distortion of the meaning of words.

In this bill Gender Affirming Care actually means Gender Denial Care as well as Gender disfigurement, Gender Mutilation, and Gender destruction, all of which promote the intentional abuse of individuals confused about their God given sexuality.

Mental health is not improved with chemical hormonal alteration or surgical mutilation.

Many victims of so-called “Gender affirming care” are opting to return to their biological sex, even though their fertility may have been permanently disrupted.

Kidnaping a minor from a parent or guardian who is trying to shield a minor from such abhorrent and destructive procedures should never be condoned much less legalized.

This bill talks about “Reproductive health care services” but the services offered under that heading are services that terminate reproduction and/or disable one’s reproductive system. Making perfectly healthy organs “inoperable/dysfunctional” is not health care. Disease and accidents are the usual mechanism makes our organs inoperable/dysfunctional, not healthcare.

We live in an age that we were warned about since biblical times. As Isaiah 5:20 warns “Woe to those who call evil good and good evil, who put darkness for light and light for darkness, who put bitter for sweet and sweet for bitter!”

This bill must be stopped now.

Do not pass SB1150.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:26:34 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150 and urge you to not pass this measure.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:42:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lucas Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please vote to approve this needed measure. This directly impacts my ability to receive and access my needed medication that I have been on since 2007. This new administration has zero idea how their measures are impacting real humans like myself. I have been living my life happily and successfully as a man for 18 years; since I was 15. I was 16 when I started testosterone and have been on it ever since. I take jatenzo, a pill version that doesn't have a generic option and would be over \$1500 a month without my insurance covering it. My wife is a type one diabetic who is insulin dependent and on a CGM. Her medical costs alone are already over \$1000 a month out of pocket. I can't afford to lose my coverage. Please, we are real human beings who need our medications. See it in your heart to be on the RIGHT side of history and vote yes on SB 1150.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/9/2025 11:42:57 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura and Committee Members,

My name is Brett Kulbis, I'm a 26yr Navy Veteran and Retired Civil Servant. I live in Ewa Beach.

I STRONGLY OPPOSE SB-1150.

This bill seeks to expand protections for gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) for cases involving children who receive such services.

First and foremost, we must recognize that sex is an immutable biological fact. Every human being is born either male or female, and this is a scientific fact. Attempting to alter or deny this reality can have profound consequences for individuals and society as a whole. The American College of Pediatricians has raised concerns about the medicalization of normal variations in gender identity, especially for keiki.

Gender-affirming medical treatments, such as hormone blockers and cross-sex hormones, can have significant health consequences for keiki. These treatments can impact bone density, fertility, and mental health. The long-term effects are still unknown, and we shouldn't be experimenting with our keiki's health or supporting it. Once a keiki starts down the path of medical transition, it can be difficult to turn back. Surgeries and hormone treatments can lead to permanent changes in their bodies.

This bill will reduce the role of parents in critical decisions regarding their keiki's health care. Gender-affirming care is a significant medical intervention that should involve informed consent from parents or guardians, especially for keiki. Expanding protections without ensuring robust safeguards for keiki could lead to legal disputes and ethical dilemmas. It is crucial to balance the rights of keiki with the need for parental oversight. Without stringent criteria, there is a risk that these protections could be misused, potentially leading to situations where keiki are subjected to treatments without adequate consideration of their long-term well-being.

Clarifying jurisdiction for gender-affirming health care under UCCJEA could create jurisdictional conflicts between states. This might lead to legal challenges and confusion in custody disputes involving keiki who have received such care. This bill does not provide

sufficient clarity on how these jurisdictional changes would be implemented or how they would affect existing custody arrangements. This lack of clarity could lead to legal uncertainty and increased litigation. Potentially altering custody determinations based on gender-affirming care, this bill could disrupt family dynamics and create unnecessary legal barriers for families navigating complex custody issues.

Respectfully, I **STRONGLY** encourage you to vote **NO** on SB-1150.

Chairperson San Buenaventura, Chairperson Keohokalole and Committee Members:

RE: Testimony in support of SB 1150

My name is Marissa Miller-Danta and I am a social work student intern at Spill The Tea Cafe (STTC), an inclusive mental health clinic dedicated to promoting the wellbeing of pre-teens, teens, LGBTQIA+ youth and neurodivergent keiki. I am submitting this testimony in support of SB 1150, which seeks to expand protections for gender-affirming health care services in Hawai'i.

Although I am expressing my own views in this testimony and not acting as a representative of STTC, my experience working directly with transgender and gender-diverse (TDG) youth has shaped my understanding of how critical gender-affirming care is to promoting their mental health and overall well-being. Research has consistently shown that TGD individuals who have access to gender-affirming health care report significantly lower levels of depression, anxiety, self-harming behaviors, and suicidality compared to those who lack such access.

Parents, caregivers and healthcare professionals play lifesaving roles in obtaining necessary gender-affirming health care services and creating a safe, accepting and supportive environment for TGD individuals. They should not be unfairly penalized for doing so. SB 1150 ensures that TGD individuals and anyone providing or enabling access to gender-affirming care are protected from discrimination and harmful legal actions.

Passing SB 1150 would reflect Hawaii's commitment to the protection of civil rights and its role as a leading state in ensuring the equality of all residents.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,  
Marissa Miller-Danta  
Social Work Student Intern, Spill The Tea Cafe (STTC)

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:09:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alika Valdez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:09:30 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lin McEwan (Thieman)	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Honorable Members of the Hawai`i State Legislature,

I am writing to express my strong support for SB1150 to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services and to clarify jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

I urge you to continue to support policies and legislation that ensure access to this essential healthcare for all individuals, regardless of their gender identity.

Gender-affirming care is critical in supporting the mental, physical, and emotional well-being of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. Studies have consistently shown that gender-affirming medical treatments, including hormone therapy, counseling, and surgeries, dramatically improve the quality of life for transgender people, reducing the risks of mental health challenges such as depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Access to gender-affirming care is not only a matter of personal well-being but also of public health and social justice.

The state of Hawai`i has long been known for its commitment to inclusivity and the protection of individual rights. By supporting gender-affirming care, you are sending a message that Hawai`i stands with its LGBTQ+ community and is dedicated to ensuring that everyone, regardless of their gender identity, has the right to live freely and authentically. This is particularly important for our youth, who need access to compassionate and evidence-based care as they navigate their gender identity.

It is important to recognize that gender-affirming care is provided based on clinical guidelines, and healthcare professionals with expertise in this area take a personalized and informed approach to each patient's needs. This care is not only medically sound, but it also affirms the inherent dignity of every person.

As a state, we have the power to protect the most vulnerable members of our community and ensure they have access to the care they need to live healthy and fulfilling lives. I urge you to prioritize the rights and well-being of transgender and gender-diverse individuals by supporting policies that ensure access to gender-affirming care in Hawai`i.

Thank you for your time and consideration. I trust that you will continue to stand on the side of justice, compassion, and human dignity by supporting gender-affirming care for all.

Sincerely,

Lin McEwan (Linda Thieman)

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

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:27:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB1150.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:31:45 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I, Paris busano

support gender affirming care. No subject should decide or to dictate my lifestyle as a trans woman. Having access to gender affirming care 24 years of my life as a trans woman I wouldn't be the person I am till this day. Thank you

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:01:14 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I vehemently oppose this horrific bill! This is child abuse! It defies logic how this is even being introduced! Kill this bill!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:14:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Rhoton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Rhoton

Honolulu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:33:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jill Warning	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which would be a proactive way for Hawaii to stand up to protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. In Hawaii, we respect the dignity and humanity in each individual human and trust their ability to make medical decisions without hateful persecution.

This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is crucial towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution. We will not go back.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jill Warning

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:46:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Bad Idea based on Bad Science.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:52:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Buresh	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender-affirming healthcare saves lives. Allowing parents and guardians to seek gender-affirming healthcare for their children will improve those childrens' lives, and will save some lives. I have lost friends to deaths of despair (drug overdose, suicide, etc) because of the systemic discrimination directed at transgender people, and the denial of gender-affirming healthcare. I have never known a person, child or adult, who has received gender-affirming healthcare and have not had their lives greatly improved.

The purpose of a government is to protect the rights of its citizens, and to act towards their collective good. In a time when so much of the government is being weaponized to do harm, it is imperative for Hawaii to be an example of good government.

Act to protect your people. Act to protect the collective good. Act to protect the rights of people to seek gender-affirming healthcare.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:10:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. Our job as parents is to protect our children and do what is best from them. No one else should be allowed to take that right and make that decision for them based off their own opinion. This bill creates loopholes for a child to freely be taken under the guise as gender affirming care and will instead put many children at risk.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:15:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Josef	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I am 100% in favor of this measure. We have transgender people in Hawai'i in every walk of life. They are our neighbors, our children, our friends, and co-workers. Stand up and protect them please!**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:27:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maddalynn Seseapasara	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

1. am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

[Insert any personal narratives or stories you would like to share publicly, and/or modify anything that is noted above to fit your voice]

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Maddalynn Seseapasara

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:37:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose bill

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:39:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cardenas Pintor	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I support this bill.

Mahalo nui,

Cardenas (Cards) Pintor

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:43:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

The bill is related to child mutilation, not "health care," and is therefore another wicked bill. The life of the land is perpetuated in righteousness, not wickedness like this bill promotes. Praying the legislators who sponsored this bill will repent, remove this bill, and turn to Jesus. "We know the judgment of God rightly falls on those who practice such things." Romans 2:2

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:52:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair, vice chair and committee members,

My name is Katja Bajema and I strongly OPPOSE this bill. So called gender affirming care for minors is wrong. These children are in severe distress and need our help. Taking them away from their parents who love them and going along with their delusion will only make things worse. So much information is available now and most other western counties have completely stopped these treatments because of the terrible outcomes. PLEASE be on the right side of history on this one. You all KNOW that it is IMPOSSIBLE to change gender as gender is 100% tied to biological sex. Supporting this bill is evil and will harm children and teenagers. Please do not pass this bill.

Thank you,

Katja Bajema

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:53:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brent Matson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I strongly oppose this bill. As a parent I can't think of anything worse than having someone help my child do something that is irreversible under the disguise of gender affirming care. The thought that a minor child has the ability to consent to this without parental consent and have the ability to have anyone take them to get this "care" and not be accountable is absolutely ludicrous. Please have some common sense. The parents know their child better than anyone and to strip the rights of parents away like this should get anyone that votes for this voted out of office.**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:55:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lana Bilbo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. As a member of the queer community, we cannot allow for attacks on our transgender community members, or for the fragmentation of our community to attempt to exclude them from it.

This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Lana B.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:01:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill as it allows minors to access gender affirming "care" without parental consent. This is one of several bills that is removing parental rights. Our parental rights need to be restored for all minors' medical decisions not taken away. The government does not parent our children!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:16:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Gender affirming care is not "medically" necessary. I have a deviated nasal septum issue. I can barely breathe on one side of my nose. It is not considered medically necessary and my insurance does not cover it. Breathing is much more necessary than affirming a gender. A women who needs a "boob job" isn't covered. It is an elected surgery. Gender affirming care is and should be an elected surgery. It should be entirely by the individual if the patient thinks it is necessary.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:25:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leighlei sevellino	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

with everything that is going on for our lgbt community specifically targeting trans women as myself I would like to oppose to this bill. I have been in transition for 22 years of my lifetime and having a pathway for my transition through my medical means so much to me because as a hard working citizen of society it's already hard to get by in life and to be able to get help with my transition through my medical really really takes alot off of me to know I will have the support and right care. Mahalo

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:28:20 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
cory cook	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Cory Cook, and I am a Behavioral Health Specialist with the Hawai‘i Department of Education. I strongly support SB 1150, which expands protections for gender-affirming care providers and access for māhū, transgender, and non-binary individuals. As a mental health professional working directly with students in our schools, I see firsthand how access to gender-affirming care significantly improves student well-being, mental health, and academic success. When students feel affirmed in their identities, they are more likely to engage in learning, experience lower rates of anxiety and depression, and develop positive peer and school relationships. Ensuring that gender-affirming care is legally protected allows our schools to remain spaces of safety, inclusion, and equity, where every student—regardless of gender identity—has the opportunity to thrive. SB 1150 is a necessary step toward upholding the rights and dignity of our youth, reinforcing Hawai‘i’s commitment to mālama and aloha for all. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:34:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is disgusting. Do not involve our state in this perverse child abuse.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:01:15 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Our children are not old enough to vote, carry a weapon, buy alcohol or smoke, so why in the world would you think they are old enough to decide to let life altering medical procedures be done on their body?

Stop this insanity now!

AYMAN EL-SWAIFY PUBLIC TESTIMONY  
SB1150 - RELATING TO GENDER AFFIRMING CARE

Good Afternoon, Senate Committee Members. My name is Ayman El-Swaify and I am OPPOSED to Senate Bill 1150 as proposed.

So-called “gender-affirming health care” is in reality physical and chemical mutilation of the human body. It is a huge healthcare industry money-maker that capitalizes on what is actually a mental health issue.

I am in favor of adjusting the definition of gender-affirming care to include mental health treatments as it applies to minors. Irreversible physical and chemical treatments must be made illegal for minors in this State.

Please OPPOSE SB1150 or amend accordingly to protect our keiki from healthcare system abuses

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:09:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Divya Roberts	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a nurse practitioner, I support SB1150, and it's protection of gender affirming care, in line with evidence-based research and recommendations from leading medical institutions, including the American Medical Association (AMA). Gender-affirming care has consistently been shown to improve quality of life, health outcomes, and reduce rates of suicidal ideation and acts. It is included in basic rights of healthcare, and doubly important given the vulnerable population with disproportionate poor health outcomes it serves. To not provide these protections is proven to contribute to preventable loss of life. I ask the legislature to follow the research and recommendations of the consensus of reputable, trusted, and ethically-committed medical associations and institutions, and support this continued protection in our state.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:15:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in strong opposition of this bill, gender-affirming is wrong on all levels, mutilating children without parental consent is unconstitutional and SICK! Hawaii needs to be investigated.

THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING  
DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025  
TIME: 9:45 AM  
PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 1150  
The Health Care Access Protection Act

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 1150. My name is Nicholas VandenRaadt, and I am a registered nurse with advanced training as a Family Nurse Practitioner. I have dedicated my career to providing safe, evidence-based medical care to patients in our community.

S.B. 1150 takes critical steps to protect healthcare professionals from being penalized under out-of-state laws that seek to limit access to gender-affirming care—care that all major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and American Psychological Association (APA), recognize as medically necessary and life-saving. The World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care, Version 8, further reinforces the best-practice framework that guides my work and helps me offer the highest quality of care to individuals.

I have personally encountered patients and families who express deep fear and anxiety about the legal repercussions of seeking or receiving gender-affirming treatments, fearing that they or their providers may be subject to prosecution simply for following evidence-based guidelines. This fear can delay essential care, exacerbate mental health challenges, and create harmful

barriers to treatment. As a healthcare provider, I see firsthand how uninterrupted, affirming care can dramatically improve patients' well-being and reduce health risks.

By passing S.B. 1150, Hawai'i will ensure our healthcare providers can deliver appropriate, patient-centered, and evidence-based care without the looming threat of out-of-state legal actions. This legislation aligns with our state's commitment to the health and safety of all residents, safeguarding both providers and the communities we serve.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for your leadership in championing access to medically necessary, best-practice care. I respectfully urge you to pass S.B. 1150.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas VandenRaadt, RN

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:29:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:29:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Haylin A Dennison	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

My name is Haylin Dennison, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of SB1150, which safeguards access to gender-affirming care. I testify today as a mother, a mental health specialist, and a healthcare provider who has witnessed firsthand the life-saving impact of gender-affirming care on transgender and non-binary youth.

**A Mother’s Perspective**

I am the proud mother of a transgender child. Like many parents, I once struggled to understand what my child was experiencing. I was raised in a deeply conservative Christian household, and when my child came out, I had to get education regarding gender diversity because I was never exposed to this information. My only regret is not being supportive earlier, so my child could have suffered less. My love for my child is unwavering, and I did what every parent should—I listened, I learned, and I sought the best possible care for him.

When my child was struggling with their identity, they were also struggling with depression. The statistics tell us that transgender youth face alarmingly high rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidality, but what those numbers don’t show is the very real and deeply personal journey families go through to ensure their children are supported. For my child, access to gender-affirming care was not a political issue—it was a matter of survival.

**A Mental Health Specialist’s Perspective**

As a licensed therapist specializing in youth mental health, I see the impact of gender-affirming care every day in my clinic. I am the founder of Spill The Tea Café, a nonprofit mental health center serving LGBTQ+ youth, where hundreds of young people and their families seek support.

The data is undeniable: gender-affirming care saves lives. Studies from the Trevor Project, the National Institutes of Health, and major medical associations confirm that gender-affirming medical care, including hormone therapy and puberty blockers, significantly reduces suicide rates, depression, and self-harm in transgender youth. Yet, we continue to see legislation across the country aimed at restricting access to this essential care—care that is supported by the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the American Psychiatric Association.

Without gender-affirming care, I have seen young people become hopeless, withdrawn, and suicidal. With it, I have seen them thrive—excelling in school, developing confidence, and stepping into their futures with joy and purpose. When we deny them care, we are denying them the right to a healthy, happy life.

### **A Healthcare Provider's Perspective**

As a provider, I believe it is our ethical duty to follow science and evidence-based best practices in patient care. Gender-affirming care is not experimental. It is well-researched, widely accepted, and medically necessary for those who seek it. It is provided in a slow, careful, thoughtful, and individualized manner by trained professionals who work closely with families and patients to ensure informed decision-making.

Legislation that restricts or bans gender-affirming care places unjust burdens on families, creates barriers to critical services, and interferes with the sacred doctor-patient relationship. We do not legislate against life-saving care for any other group of patients—why should transgender individuals be treated differently?

SB1150 ensures that transgender individuals in Hawai'i can access the care they need without fear of discrimination, harassment, or legislative interference. It affirms that medical decisions should be made by patients, families, and their healthcare providers—not by politicians. It upholds Hawai'i's longstanding values of aloha, inclusion, and dignity for all.

I urge you to pass SB1150 and stand on the right side of history. Protecting access to gender-affirming care is not just a policy decision—it is a moral imperative. Our children's lives depend on it.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Haylin Dennison, LCSW

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:30:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mylin R. Smith	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Opposing this insanity you are trying to do to our kids and our ohanas! This is not right! Parents have the right to decide for their kids while they are still minors and mutilating them is pure evil!

THE SENATE  
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Tuesday, February 11, 2025

TIME: 9:45 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF S.B. 1150

The Health Care Access Protection Act

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in strong support of S.B. 1150. My name is Ashley Vandenraadt, and I am a Registered Nurse working in an Emergency Department. Every day, I see the real-world consequences of gaps in access to care, especially for transgender patients who already face numerous barriers to vital, gender-affirming treatment.

S.B. 1150 is critical to ensuring that healthcare professionals, patients, and their families can pursue evidence-based medical care without fear of legal repercussions from out-of-state laws targeting gender-affirming services. This type of care is widely recognized as essential and life-saving by major medical organizations, including the American Medical Association (AMA), the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), and the American Psychological Association (APA). Moreover, the World Professional Association for Transgender Health (WPATH) Standards of Care, Version 8, provides the best-practice guidelines that shape my approach to compassionate, patient-centered care.

As an emergency room nurse, I am deeply concerned about the added burden that legal uncertainty places on my patients and their families. Fear of being prosecuted, even when following established medical guidelines can dissuade people from seeking the care they desperately need, intensifying health risks and eroding trust in our healthcare system.

By passing S.B. 1150, Hawai'i will safeguard providers and ensure that patients can receive essential gender-affirming healthcare. This legislation aligns with our state's commitment to health equity and well-being for all.

Thank you for hearing this measure and for your leadership in protecting access to medically necessary care. I respectfully urge you to pass S.B. 1150.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Ashley Vandenraadt, RN

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:35:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jacob Lee, MD	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

**I'm a Child and Adolescent Psychiatrist providing care to keiki three blocks away, in Chinatown. I wish I could be here to testify in person, but I had a patient emergency reschedule during a conflicting time.**

**Whereas:** The President's executive order ("Protecting children from chemical and surgical mutilation") is part of a coordinated nationwide push from interest groups looking to significantly harm one of our state's most **vulnerable** health populations, criminalizing medical practice and restricting medical providers' scope of practice.

**Whereas: Best practices medical care for transgender youth is supported by every leading medical association** including the American Medical Association, American Academy of Child and Adolescent Psychiatry, American Academy of Pediatrics, American Academy of Physician Assistants, American Nurses Association, American Association of Clinical Endocrinology, American Association of Geriatric Psychiatry, American College Health Association, American College of Nurse-Midwives, American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, American College of Physicians, American Counseling Association, American Heart Association, American Medical Student Association, American Psychiatric Association, American Psychological Association, American Society of Plastic Surgeons, American Society for Reproductive Medicine, American Urological Association, Endocrine Society, Federation of Pediatric Organizations, GLMA, The Journal of the American Medical Association, National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women's Health, National Association of Social Workers, Pediatric Endocrine Society, United States Professional Association for Transgender Health (USPATH), World Health Organization (WHO), World Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health.

*Source: <https://glaad.org/medical-association-statements-supporting-trans-youth-healthcare-and-against-discriminatory>*

**Whereas:** According to Hawaii Department of Health *Sexual and Gender Minority Health Report* (2017), Transgender youth in Hawaii are already significantly less likely to visit a health care professional such as a doctor or nurse compared to cisgender youth, and face elevated risk for homelessness, drug abuse, depression, anxiety, suicidal thoughts, and suicide attempts.

**Whereas:** Attorney General Anne Lopez recently joined a coalition of 14 attorneys general to reaffirm their commitment to protecting access to gender-affirming care in the face of the Trump

Administration's recent Executive Order.

**Therefore:** I fully support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which guarantees that all individuals in Hawai'i can receive gender-affirming care without discrimination or legal threats. This legislation reflects our state's core values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all.

As gender affirming care provider and a physician, I have witnessed firsthand the life-changing impact of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical experts overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health and overall well-being. No one should face legal consequences for seeking or providing essential medical treatment.

Hawai'i has long stood against harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that legacy by ensuring that no one is punished for accessing or offering lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and uphold our commitment to protecting our community.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,  
Jacob Lee, MD

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:37:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sheeren Masifi	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,  
I am writing in urgent support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i may access gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals. An undermining of anyone's rights is an assault on all of our rights—it is only a matter of desensitization and time. Therefore we must keep vigilance and protect one another.

As a family medicine physician, I have had the honor of learning each patient's mental and physical health journey, and come to deeply appreciate the importance of protecting each person's right to self-determination, regardless of how they identify. Nor am I alone in this understanding—medical societies and individual professionals overwhelmingly agree that gender-affirming care is crucial to good mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing something so indispensable. Under the Hippocratic oath I have taken, I believe it is morally requisite for me to continue to provide this care, and greatly appreciate your help in providing me with the appropriate legal protections to ensure I can continue to fulfill my duties without fear of retaliation.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill holds true to tradition. I implore you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our medical professionals and community members.

Mahalo for your time and assistance with this matter.

Sincerely,  
Sheeren Masifi, MD  
Honolulu, Hawai'i



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:38:29 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill!

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:38:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Winston Reeves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Winston Reeves

Kahului, Hawai'i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:38:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Celine Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chairpersons and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my unwavering support for gender-affirming care for minors, which is an essential and life-saving approach for transgender and gender-diverse youth. Gender-affirming care for young people is not about performing irreversible surgeries or imposing drastic changes on their bodies. Rather, it is about providing a safe, thoughtful, and evidence-based approach to supporting a young person’s gender identity as they navigate their development.

It is crucial to recognize that gender-affirming care for minors typically involves non-invasive interventions such as counseling, social transition, and hormone therapy in certain cases—decisions that are made carefully and collaboratively with the child, their family, and a team of medical professionals. In some cases, this care may include puberty blockers, which are fully reversible treatments that help young people pause the onset of puberty, giving them more time to make informed decisions about their gender journey as they continue to grow and develop.

The idea that gender-affirming care for minors involves irreversible actions is a misconception. Puberty blockers are a safe and temporary option, giving minors the ability to avoid the distressing experience of developing physical characteristics that don’t align with their gender identity. When used appropriately, these treatments are a powerful tool in reducing mental health struggles, lowering the risk of depression, and preventing the tragic reality of suicide among transgender youth.

Furthermore, the decision to pursue hormone therapy or surgery is not made lightly. For minors, hormone therapy typically begins only after careful assessments by experienced healthcare providers who ensure that the youth and their families understand the potential outcomes. These decisions are not rushed and are based on the child’s readiness and informed consent, in partnership with their medical and mental health care teams.

It is essential to emphasize that gender-affirming care is not a "one-size-fits-all" approach. It is an individualized, compassionate process that respects the autonomy and well-being of the young person involved. Medical professionals follow strict guidelines and protocols to ensure that care is age-appropriate, reversible when necessary, and focused on supporting the child’s mental health and well-being.

Studies and clinical evidence overwhelmingly show that access to gender-affirming care dramatically improves the mental health and overall quality of life for transgender minors. Youth who have access to gender-affirming care experience significantly lower rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal thoughts compared to those who are denied care. This is not a "trend" or a temporary phase—these are real, medically recognized needs that, when addressed with proper care, lead to healthier, happier outcomes.

Denying gender-affirming care to minors does not protect them; it puts their well-being at risk. Young people who are allowed to explore their gender identity in a supportive, affirming environment are more likely to thrive emotionally, socially, and academically. We must prioritize the safety, mental health, and dignity of transgender youth by providing them with the care and support they need to live authentically and with self-respect.

In conclusion, gender-affirming care for minors is a crucial aspect of ensuring that transgender and gender-diverse youth can grow into healthy, confident adults. It is not about irreversible actions or hasty decisions but about providing a well-rounded, thoughtful, and compassionate approach to supporting young people in their gender identity. I strongly urge you to protect and expand access to gender-affirming care for minors, as it is a life-saving and essential service for vulnerable youth.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:42:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shilpa Patel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support gender affirming care as a informed and concerned citizen and pediatrician.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:45:40 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Betsy Scolnik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

MUST PASS. Hawaii must be a safe place for all.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:46:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is insanity.

Children who have been propagandized in the school system, wrongly influenced by peers and encouraged that he is girl when he is a boy and vice versa is a horrible abuse to their still developing brain. Then, YOU want to mutilate their little bodies??? To think that YOU think you are doing something good for children... CHILDREN!!!! It makes me concerned for your own mental stability. The democrats version of science is not THE science. I adamantly OPPOSE this ridiculous SB1150.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:47:17 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arlene Kiyohara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Dr. Arlene Parubrub Kiyohara, MD

Honolulu, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:54:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dante Kirk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to **strongly support** the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a **necessary safeguard** to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are **dangerous and harmful**. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: **Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states** that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to **vote YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Dante Kirk,

Wailuku, Hawai‘i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:54:47 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Legislator's,

I strongly oppose SB1150. We have mandated the age of an adult to be 18. This is do the the chnages in hormones and brain development up to that age. Prior to the age there is reduced reasoning and stability that tends to come about after 18 and into the later 20s. I am for personnel greater than 18, adults, to be allowed to determine their outcome. Prior to 18 we need parents to support the children and these irreversible life changing decisions need to be held until after the age of 18. It is very sad to see people that have had gender affirming care and wished that they had not.

Sincerely,

Erik Eck

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:56:55 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mari Grief	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Dr. Mari Grief, and I am a pediatric hospitalist practicing here in Honolulu, Hawaii. I am writing in **strong support of SB1150 Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mari Grief, MD

Pediatric Hospitalist

Honolulu, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:57:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nadia Hussain	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community health care provider, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nadia Hussain

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:01:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sally Bowles, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. The peer-reviewed study "State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA", published in the journal *Nature Human Behavior*, looked at survey data from young people in 19 states, comparing rates of suicide attempts before and after bans passed. I want Hawaii to be place where we protect our kiei. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Sally Bowles, MD

Makawao HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:04:24 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lauren Buck Medeiros	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

Thank you for your work on behalf of the vulnerable. I am writing to **strongly** support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
The Rev. Lauren Buck Medeiros  
Wailuku, Maui, Hawai‘i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:07:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robert Bidwell	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I would like to submit testimony in strong support of SB 1150 which would provide protection for children and youth receiving Gender Affirming Care (GAC) in Hawai`i, as well as for their parents and the Hawai`i health professionals providing that care. Specifically, it will ensure that providers of GAC in Hawai`i would not release GAC-related health information to entities outside Hawai`i, including in response to requests such as subpoenas from other jurisdictions.

I am a Hawai`i pediatrician and for decades have been privileged to provide supportive GAC to our state's gender-diverse children and their families. In fact, it has been a central focus of my professional life ever since completing my pediatric residency training at Kapi`olani Medical Center for Women and Children/UH JABSOM over 35 years ago. Over the decades, I have been gratified that my practice of evidence-based state-of-the-art GAC has come to be supported by the affirming policies and positions statements of the American Academy of Pediatrics (AAP), the American Medical Association (AMA), the Society for Adolescent Health and Medicine (SAHM) and many other respected professional health organizations. It is clear that requests for health-related information related to life-enhancing, life-saving GAC provided in our state, without parental permission, is motivated solely for the purpose of intimidation and persecution of young people, their families and the local health professionals who provide them care. The passage of SB 1150 will assure that this cannot happen.

I hope that Hawai`i will join with the 17 other states and the District of Columbia which have already passed similar "shield" legislation, and therefore I strongly encourage you to support SB 1150 with your vote.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of my testimony,

Robert Bidwell, M.D.



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:16:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Nakama	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

amy Nakama, MSN, FNP-C

Kahului, Maui

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:18:54 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose SB1150. Gender affirming medical care for children is medical malpractice. Please do not pass this bill. Defer it now for the sake of our keiki.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:20:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
jeuniece R sampson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a healthcare provider in Hawaii, I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jeuniece R Sampson

Kihei, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:22:29 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB 1150

I'm a middle school teacher who sees the confusion and angst of children in the middle years ages 10-14 They are constantly changing their minds and heavily swayed by peers and social media. Let us not , as adults , encourage children to make irreversible changes to their bodies . Let us keep our wits about us knowing that it's best to keep their bodies clean of any kind of drugs including hormone treatments. They will grow up and change their minds many times. Let's give them time and space to do this. Let us not encourage parents and adults from other states to come to Hawaii with children for the purpose of changing their bodies. Let us keep Hawaii keiki safe and healthy. Let us not enable keiki from other states to be brought across state lines so that Hawaii health care practitioners can make irreversible changes to their bodies keiki otherwise healthy bodies. Mahalo.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:24:42 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This is just unreal! I really really hope the criminals that put this together end up chomos in prison one day.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:26:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anna-Marie Musico	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Leaglizng child kidnapping for gender-affirming treatments is not okay. It violates parental rights and could potentially place a child in more danger. Wherein, it'd create more tension within the family unit.

We should be focused on promoting healthy conversations in families so that children can express their wants and needs about sexuality with their parents.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:26:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

"Relating to health care". Not so much. ALL current (bonified) research indicates that these irreversible surgical interventions are not "caring" at all, more like Mengele inspired genetic tampering. Please please please, let them wait until they are adults to "choose" their sex. Then, men can get as many non-functioning vaginas, and females can get as many non-functioning penises as their respective minds tell them to, ok?

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:28:03 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jody Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.**

**As a [parent/teacher/health care provider/community member], I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.**

**Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Jody Brown,**

**Makawao, Maui, HI**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:29:58 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill. A child under the age of 17 who is still under the care of a parent or guardian that acts in their best interest should not be allowed to have the sole decision for a gender transition surgery.

Thank you

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:30:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Danielle De Longe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a social worker on Maui , I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Danielle De Longe, LCSW

Pukalani, HI

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:36:26 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alissa Nelson	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is a vital step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

My spouse has received gender affirming health care here in Hawai'i for the last 5 years. From first hand experience, I can tell you that being able to receive affordable primary care from a competent and empathetic provider is life-saving. But now we both fear that this provider could be targeted by spurious lawsuits from those seeking to impede access to gender-affirming care by consenting adults. This is harmful on both a personal and a population level -- we should never target anyone for persecution based on identity.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Alissa Nelson, LMSW, MPH

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:37:15 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chairs, Vice Chairs, and Members of the Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection Committees:

I'm writing as an individual in support of SB 1150 which would extend life-saving protections to those seeking gender-affirming care.

This will protect the lives of people who are at risk of suffering and even death due to not getting the care they need and deserve. Gender-affirming care is endorsed by the AMA and other medical associations. Providing youth with the right to care so they can live as their true selves decreases their rates of depression and lowers their rates of suicide. Hawaii's people deserve to have this legislation which will support those who need this health care protection.

I respectfully ask for your support of SB 1150. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Nancy Marker

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:37:33 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill...the key words are CHILD GENDER-AFFIRMING! A child, a minor, one who cannot drink, smoke, but let's allow them to make this huge decision. This is life altering, and as a state, we should be making better choices. Here we are, so concerned that a child feels they need to change their gender, so let's help? NO! Do you as a parent, if you are one, let your child do anything and everything they want to do? Is this what you were taught growing up? Let the child have anything and everything, all is well, they'll be fine, they'll learn. I'm sure it wasn't like that...and we cannot be one of those states to agree with this! We need to be concerned about our keikis in Hawai'i, and the best way to take care of them, and not push this, nor assist this agenda at all.

February 10, 2025

SENATE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES (HHS)

SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION (CPN)

Hearing February 11, 2025, 9:45am, CR 229

**RE: Testimony in Strong Support of SB1150, Relating to Health Care**

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committees,

**Please pass SB1150**, Relating to Health Care. It is crucial that such language be added to our laws to protect access to gender-affirming health care.

My niece is transgender, and her health, safety, and welfare are very close to my heart. We must take steps to ensure that gender-affirming care is available to all. This is especially urgent given the recent activity in other states and the Federal level.

Thank you for hearing this vitally important piece of legislation. **I urge you to pass SB1150.**

Aloha,

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

Virginia Beck

Kailua, Oahu

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:39:12 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David McCulloch	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

David F. McCulloch

Honolulu, Hawai'i

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:41:38 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Warech	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear committee members,

I write as a member of the queer community in strong support imploring you to pass this bill. The Trump administration is out for blood against our beloved MVPFAFF+ and LGBTQ+ community and it is the "states" duty to protect the community from a fascist regime that views queer lives as disposable and that is inciting violence against us. Gender affirming care is LIFE SAVING HEALTHCARE. The studies are all there to support that and many in the community in Hawai'i need continuous access to this care. To fail to protect it would be to fail to protect so many lives. And make no mistake, as a community we will not allow that to happen. Please do the only right thing to do and ensure that at the state level, this care is protected so that insurance companies do not stop covering it.

mahalo

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:41:45 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janelle Au	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in strong support of SB 1150. This bill is crucial for protecting both healthcare providers offering gender-affirming care and the transgender, non-binary, and māhū individuals who rely on it. Expanding the protections is vital to ensure continued access to these essential services and protects vulnerable youth. As a mental health care provider, I can attest first hand that gender-affirming care is not just beneficial, it's often life-saving. Please support SB 1150 to ensure the health and well-being of our community members. Mahalo.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:42:37 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ashley Huang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha members of the committee,

My name is Ashley Huang and I submitting a testimony support of SB 1150.

I believe it is integral to expand and protect healthcare for our youth in this state. Gender affirming care is not isolated care - it affects the individual and families within the every community, and one's overall quality of life in Hawai'i. Our keikis deserve respect, protection, wellness, and their dignity. In supporting this bill, this state can set the foundation for care.

I urge you all to support SB 1150, it is our kuleana.

Thank you for your time,

Ashley Huang

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:42:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Chang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a health care provider, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Amy Chang, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Honolulu, Hawaii

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:44:39 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I oppose SB1150, its not a productive bill.

This seperates parents and their children.

Mahalo nui, Rosie

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:47:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jadie Geil	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Jadie, and I am a resident of Liliha. I am testifying in support of SB 1150, Relating to Health Care.

The expansion of protections under Act 2, SLH 2023 that would be afforded through this bill are crucial to protecting families with gender-diverse children, which is especially prescient now considering the political climate we are seeing at federal levels.

As the older sibling of a nonbinary minor, I have seen and experienced some of the barriers to care and societal acceptance that they experience. It is important to ensure that gender-diverse minors can remain in the care of their parents/guardians, especially when they are supportive and affirming of their gender identity. I can't imagine the irreparable harm it would cause our family if my sibling were torn from us, simply because we chose to support the care they need to become the most comfortable and actualized version of themselves.

Hawai'i has historically been a safe haven for those with gender and sexual identities outside of those recognized by the hegemonic western / Christian tradition. We must ensure it remains this way, for our local communities.

Mahalo for your time,

Jadie

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:52:16 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Bryan Chin, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

**I am writing in strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

-Bryan Chin, DNP, APRN, FNP-BC

Wailuku, Hawaii 96793

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:54:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Providing Gender affirming healthcare is dangerous, especially to minors who are still developing. There are countless testimonies coming out now from teens who were pushed into transitioning at a young age and regret it with every fiber of their being. It has done permanent emotional and physical damage. Many of them were more suicidal after receiving this "healthcare" than they were prior.

Please protect our keiki from the atrocities committed by " healthcare professionals" . They are after money and that is their driving motivation. Not saving lives. If they cared about saving lives, they would get to the root issue of why these young people are unhappy. Most of the time it is going through puberty, feeling self conscious, not fitting in, etc. -Not that they were born in the wrong body. What a horrible thing to tell someone.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:56:57 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Susan Stewart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act.

Sincerely,

Susan Stewart

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:00:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
rose elovitz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

aloha, my name is rose i am in full support of SB1150. We desperately need to protect our trans and genderqueer siblings access to gender affirming care through as many forms as possible. The safety and security for our māhulanis to be at home in their bodies should never be up for debate. Pass SB1150 today, no excuses.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:08:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Human rights violations.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:18:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
T. Chang	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair Member and Esteemed Committee Members,

I strongly support gender-affirming care. This care is not about surgery; it is about life-saving healthcare that can drastically improve the lives of transgender and gender-diverse individuals. The idea that gender-affirming care is unnecessary or harmful is both deeply misguided and dangerous. Evidence shows that when transgender and gender-diverse people have access to the care they need—whether it's hormone therapy, mental health services, or support for social transition—they experience a significantly improved quality of life, with better mental health outcomes, higher life satisfaction, and lower suicide rates.

Let me be clear: **gender-affirming care is not about surgery; it is about providing people the care they need to feel like themselves, to thrive, and to survive.** It is about making sure they have access to the medical, psychological, and social support that allows them to live their truth. We cannot ignore the simple fact that **denying people this care has life-or-death consequences.** When transgender and gender-diverse people are denied access to care, the rates of depression, anxiety, substance use disorder, and suicidality skyrocket. These individuals are far more likely to experience these mental health crises than their cisgender peers, and we already know that these numbers only increase in the absence of appropriate care.

One of the arguments often made against gender-affirming care is the idea that regret rates are high, but this simply isn't true. Studies consistently show that the regret rate for gender-affirming care, especially for minors, is **extremely low**, especially when compared to other forms of medical care that are more widely accepted, such as circumcision. The regret rate for gender-affirming surgeries or hormone therapy for adults remains at less than 1%, a statistic far lower than the regret rate for circumcision, which is a procedure often performed on infants who cannot consent. In fact, **the vast majority of people who receive gender-affirming care express a profound sense of relief, joy, and gratitude, experiencing a marked improvement in their mental health and overall well-being.**

It's important to consider the numbers regarding regret rates, but it's also crucial to remember the societal context. We live in a society that has long marginalized transgender and gender-diverse people. These individuals face abuse, oppression, and discrimination on a daily basis. The tragic consequences of this marginalization, especially when compounded by the lack of access to affirming care, are clear: higher rates of depression, anxiety, substance use, and

suicidality. **When trans people cannot access the care they need, they face an elevated risk of harm and suffering.**

We must ask ourselves: **who should decide what care is appropriate for transgender and gender-diverse people?** Is it the transgender individuals themselves, the professionals who work with them, and the people who love and support them, or should it be politicians who are using a personal agenda to push a harmful narrative about trans people? The debate over gender-affirming care should not be about political maneuvering or ideology—it should be about listening to the voices of trans and gender-diverse people and ensuring their health, safety, and dignity.

The consequences of allowing **anti-trans legislation to dictate healthcare decisions** would be catastrophic. Legislation that restricts or bans access to gender-affirming care will not stop transgender and gender-diverse people from seeking the care they need; it will only push them to unsafe, underground methods that can harm them physically, mentally, and emotionally. Additionally, such legislation **perpetuates the harmful cycle of discrimination** that already threatens the lives of these individuals.

We know that when trans and gender-diverse people can access care, they thrive. We know that **when they are denied that care, they suffer and die at rates higher than their cisgender peers.** It is critical that we provide these individuals with the necessary care they deserve. **Transgender people are not a political issue; they are human beings, deserving of respect, dignity, and access to life-saving care.**

I urge you to stand on the right side of history. Support gender-affirming care. It's not just medical care—it's the care that saves lives. It's the care that allows trans and gender-diverse people to live their lives with pride and safety. Please, do not let harmful, politically driven agendas dictate the lives of these individuals. Let the voices of the trans community and their healthcare providers guide this conversation, not the voices of those who seek to harm them.

**PLEASE PROTECT OUR TRANS KEIKI - THEY NEED OUR HELP NOW MORE THAN EVER,**

Mahalo,

T. Chang

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:19:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Gender affirming care is not a real thing. Your gender is your gender, affirmation is not needed. It just is what it is. Stop with these ridiculous bills. Shame on any of you that vote for this madness

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:19:50 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:23:19 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Patrick Karjala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Honorable Members of the joint committed on HHS and CPN,

I am writing today in SUPPORT of SB1150. It has become necessary for us to protect our local population against federal meddling into the personal medical decisions of people and families for gender affirming care. Our state must take a stand to protect our residents!

Please pass this bill!

Sincerely,

Patrick Karjala  
Mililani, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:26:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Doran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
James Doran

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:29:29 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Therese Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Member and Esteemed Committee Members,

I am a parent of a transgender child, and I write this testimony with deep fear and urgency. My child's well-being relies on access to gender-affirming care. Without it, I fear for their mental health and safety. The emotional and psychological benefits they've gained from this care have been life-changing. Denying them this access would not only threaten their happiness—it could threaten their life.

The regret rate for gender-affirming care is incredibly low, and it is far outweighed by the life-saving impact of this care. When you compare the small, extremely rare instances of regret to the enormous benefit of affirming someone's true identity, the choice is clear. The mental health crisis that transgender minors face—higher rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidality—can be alleviated by gender-affirming care. **This care saves lives.**

Furthermore, gender-affirming care is often reversible. If my child chooses to stop hormone therapy or other forms of care in the future, the effects can be paused or reversed. The small risk of regret is nothing compared to the far greater risk of losing my child to a mental health crisis, or worse.

As a parent, I want my child to thrive, to feel seen and supported for who they are. I am scared of what will happen if they cannot access the care they need. Please, do not let politics take away their right to life-saving care.

This care is not about politics; it's about ensuring my child—and every transgender child—has the right to live their life with dignity, respect, and support. Please do not take that away from them.

**Please, save all of our keiki**—our children—by ensuring they have access to the care they need to live full and happy lives. Don't take away their chance for survival and happiness.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Therese Lewis



**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:30:10 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Isabelle Renfield	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

I also happen to be a transgender woman who has legally and medically transitioned for over 11 years at this point. I would have very little recourse in my day to day life if i was forced to detransition and quite honestly no one here knows me before transition so my social life, work life and obviously mental health would be ruined.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Isabelle Renfield

Honolulu, Hawaii.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:32:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Greg "Pu'uwai Aloha" Baker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

**THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE, 2025**

**STATE OF HAWAII**

**HHS Senate Committee on Health and Human Services**

**To the Honorable Chair, Joy A San Buenaventura,**

**To the Honorable ViceChair, Henry J.C. Aquino,**

**To the Honorable Committee Member, Troy N. Hashimoto,**

**To the Honorable Committee Member, Jarrett Keohokalole,**

**To the Honorable Committee Member, Kurt Fevella,**

**Hearing Date & Time: 2/11/25 9:45 AM.**

**Bill: SB1150 Relating to Healthcare.**

**IN SUPPORT**

**Introduction**

- 1. Who Am I. My name is Greg "Pu'uwai Aloha" Baker, a resident of 23 plus years of the Big Island of Hawai'i, Puna district, in Kalapana & Kaimu. I am a very lucky ha'ole mainlander who became close friend of Punaikeoneone Keli'icho'omalua and**

his father, Uncle Robert Keli'ihō'omalū and the entire extended ohana that included the following; Ka'awaloa, Kealoha, Kuahiwinui, Kahaloa, Quihano, Ku'uamo'o, Kaho'okaulana, and more.

2. My love for everything that in Hawa'i' has grown during my time here and have seen many Mahu friends whose lives have had many unfair challenges to overcome all due to how they were born. I choose to help make a difference by using my developed critical thinking from having a degree in Accounting and an MBA in Healthcare and spending the past ten years in corporate finance. I combine my love of my friends, their families and appreciation for the Aloha they have shared with me.

**I am testifying IN SUPPORT of the measure, SB1150 Relating to Healthcare**

**Protecting each of us to have the full ability to privately and confidentially take the steps to care for ourselves in the manner that each of us knows is right is incredibly important!**

1. Noone, especially those in their own process of evolution with being Transgender, should ever have to deal with someone telling them what to do, or, how to be!
2. Noone should ever have to divulge their most private thoughts, feelings, and experiences to anyone unless they specifically choose to do so!
3. Noone should ever feel compelled to reveal their private life in order to get the care they need, or acceptance, or job, and so on!

**I have known and know many friends and ohana who identify as transgender. I have seen some successfully navigate through their evolution, but many do not and it is tragic. These folks are close friends, sisters and brothers of our ohana, and friends of those we know which makes them extremely important to each of us.**

**It is our job to PROTECT THEM from those who do not care for them as we do.**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:36:56 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Hannah Manshel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Hannah Manshel

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:37:53 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose Bill SB1150, this bill would make it legal for the State to take the child from the parents!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:38:46 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please respect parental rights and don't allow gender affirming care to anyone under the age of 18. Do not support SB 1150 This bill is allowing a few politicians in the Senators to compromise parental authority.

I also am opposed to the bill that pushed for a constitutional amendment which your committee just passed last week. Last year's bill allowing minors access to abortions and contraceptives without parental consent was another slap in the face to parents.

I would prefer that any gender changing care would be discouraged for all ages. I don't see think politicians should even be dealing with these personal sex oriented decisions.

Martha Morishige

Address: 15-1383 22nd Avenue, Keaau, HI 96749

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:39:50 AM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jocelyn B Brody	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies. It is necessary to show care and aloha for our queer and mahu friends, family, and community members.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Josie Brody  
He‘eia Hawai‘i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:49:05 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill is the worst bill I have seen proposed this year. It basically allows immunity to Any Adult who says they are helping a child with their sex change. There is nothing wrong with helping a child to go through the process. However, the writing of who the relationship between the adult and child is too broad. This definitely should be a parent or legal guardian. The bill needs clearer boundaries and should not be forwarded with the current language .

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:50:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ale Hedlund	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1150. I have multiple friends and acquaintances on island and on the mainland who have received various forms of gender-affirming health care and it is clear to me based on their personal accounts and my experiences with them how much of a positive impact this health care has had on their lives. However, many of them also currently live with a significant amount of worry, stress, and fear that this life-saving and life-affirming health care will be taken away. This issue is especially relevant to Hawaii, given the historical and cultural significance of mahu and gender diversity in the islands. I feel that we need to do everything we can to protect marginalized people and their access to gender-affirming care, especially during this time when so many are under attack, and I believe this bill will help to do that. Mahalo

**LATE**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a mental health provider and community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jin Kwak

(Kapolei, Hawai'i)

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:04:21 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexa VT Dudoit	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Good Morning!

I am writing to express my opposition to Bill SB1150. My reasons are clear and straightforward: this is not something we should support in our state. People seeking asylum due to heinous acts should not be welcomed here in Hawaii. If this bill is passed, it could create a sanctuary for those who are trying to escape the consequences of their own criminal actions. I oppose this bill for the betterment of Hawaii.

Sincerely, Alexa vT Dudoit

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:07:06 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am a parent, aunty and grandma to many, and am in total opposition to this bill! Children need direction and guidance from responsible parents and guardians, NOT lawmakers passing bills. What is the purpose of passing such bills? Who does this benefit? Surely not a 14-15 year old child! We have too many minors with little to no educated reasoning to be making life choices that can affect their future health. Not to mention parents will have no say in a child's decision making if you push this law through. Please do not allow our island keiki to go down anymore rabbit holes by passing another bill that will give them too much decision making powers. Thank you

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:10:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cindy R Ajimine	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I OPPOSE this bill and am writing to ask you to vote NO.**

**Across the country, we are hearing stories of young people pursuing then regretting their decisions. Correcting this "care" is medically difficult, incurs lifelong physical, emotional, & psychological impacts, and is often irreversible.**

**Children who are these ages are too young to make these life-long impacting decisions and it will take away a parents right to raise their children according to their beliefs. Please vote NO on SB 1150 Relating to Health Care.**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:16:18 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sarah-Lyn Lokelani Jacobson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE THIS BILL. HAWAII WILL NOT AND SHOULD NOT COOPERATE WITH OTHER STATES TO OBTIAN GENDER-AFFIRMING CARE.

**LATE**

February 9, 2025

To: Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and the Committees on Health and Human Services and Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Aloha,

My name is Sage Huston, and I am testifying in strong support of **SB1150**, which expands protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. As a transgender man, I know firsthand the importance of access to safe and legally protected health care.

Gender-affirming health care is lifesaving health care. It allows transgender individuals like myself to live as our authentic selves, improving mental health and overall well-being. Unfortunately, many states are enacting laws that restrict this essential care, forcing trans people to seek refuge in states with stronger protections. By expanding Act 2, this bill ensures that Hawaii remains a place where trans people, especially trans youth, can access the care they need without fear of legal repercussions.

Additionally, this bill clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, which is crucial for protecting families who relocate to Hawaii to secure medical care for their children. No parent should have to choose between their child's health and their legal safety.

As a trans man I deeply appreciate efforts to strengthen legal protections for gender-affirming care in Hawaii. This bill would help me, my community, and future generations of trans people feel truly safe and supported in accessing the health care that we need to thrive.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Sage Huston

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:27:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

No!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:47:33 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Cigainero	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Senator San Buenaventura and Committee Members: Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments in support of SB 1150. There are Hawaii citizens that are currently receiving gender-affirming health services from doctors in Hawaii . This practice needs the protection of law because of the harrassment of transpeople in othe states as well as the Federal government. Hawaii should not be forced to enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rightht of transgendered people. We need to continue our state efforts to keep politics out of the delivery of health care services.

I urge your support of SB 1150. As Hawaii has been forced to place safeguards for reproductive health care, so must we send a clear message that we will not allow the harassent and endangerment of some of our most vulnerable citizens.

Barbara Cigainero, Keaau, HI

**LATE**

Dear Legislators,

I am writing to support SB 1150 as a mother of a transgender child (11 yo) as well as a physician who has been working in this community for over 20 years. **My child (M) is on the pathway towards puberty blockers and hormone therapy so she may have the choice to experience puberty as her authentic self.** I know that her mental health will deteriorate later in adolescence if she does not have this option. I am haunted and cannot get out of my head the death by suicide of Tennessee college student Serenity Birdsong (a transgender leader and advocate) who couldn't go on any longer soon after the state of Tennessee abandoned her and all other transgender people by making GAC illegal. If she had the choice to receive GAC earlier in life, she would most likely be alive today. She took her life in the college library. I see my own child when I hear her story! There is no question that death by suicide for transgender persons (particularly youth) will increase in Hawaii if GAC is stopped or limited. Our State has the opportunity to be a leader in this fight to save our citizens.

It is critical that gender affirming care be protected in Hawaii in all its forms for children, adolescents, and adults. Narratives about young children having genital and breast surgeries are not true and are used to cloud the real issue. In our current political climate, I am proud that Hawaii has been a sanctuary and has stood up for the rights of its citizens with regard to LGBTQ rights and reproductive rights. GAC is no exception in that unfortunately needs the same protection immediately for all people because everyone is somewhere on the gender spectrum. The binary construct is a false narrative that has been proven wrong throughout history and is not frightening at all once you take the time to understand that people need to be who they are in order to pursue the constitutional right of happiness.

Our journey started when M was 3 years old. She was assigned male at birth because she has male genitalia but soon made it clear to us that she is not a boy. I don't like saying that because we shouldn't have to decide if we are one or the other, but in her case her identity is very "feminine" (actually more "feminine" than me).

First it was the pure joy of wearing Disney princess dresses all day long. Dress up for young children has no gender boundaries and everyone found it adorable. Then it was everyday clothes. Mom, no cargo shorts, shirts with pockets, or board shorts for swimming. I want leggings, pretty tops, and a two piece swimsuit like my friends. Then it was Mom, I want to be a girl. Then it was, Mom, I am a girl and I want to be called she and not he. Her friends were all girls and tastes were all what society ascribes to be female-everything pink, sleep overs, and Taylor Swift. She is on a girls gymnastics team and by the way is not all the best gymnast on the team.

People started to notice that this was not a phase and perceived it as less adorable. My husband and I were apprehensive. We read everything we could find, took our cues from M, and supported it all. We learned that if we lead that others will follow with positivity towards M (even if they don't feel it yet inside). We did this in every arena at home, in public, at school. We only lost one friend which makes us believe that people can grow and unlearn that transgender people are a problem.

We have managed to keep nearly all negative responses away from her - even our own biases that we had to quickly get over. She loves herself and is self-possessed beyond her years, everyone says so. I see her as a future leader just like Serenity Birdsong, I know this is because she has only seen support and love in her young life that is probably only possible right now in a few places. She does not feel any shame about her body as it is now but has expressed very clearly that she does not want to look like her Dad. She wants to experience what her girlfriends are experiencing and to grow up a girl. I encourage you to try an experiment. Please live and dress as the gender that you do NOT identify with for only a day and see how you feel. I don't think it will last long.

**GAC is healthcare and does not only apply to transgender care.** Examples include testosterone for erectile dysfunction, hormone replacement for menopause, breast augmentation for cis gender females, breast reduction for cis male breast development, treatment of precocious puberty and the list goes on. Please help gender diverse children and adults stay safe and prosper in our state. Trust parents, children, and healthcare providers to make reasonable individual informed decisions and to healthcare decisions (gender affirming or otherwise) private and not reliant on federal funding.

Sincerely,

Marguerite Lisa Bartholomew MD

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:50:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vanessa Murthy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state's shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care.

[17 states and Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care.](#) Hawai'i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai'i. The national political landscape is increasingly marked by an extremist authoritarian ideology that seeks to continually "other" trans people [with a policy approach that has an ominous historical precedent from the 20th Century](#).

Hawai'i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. This bill is a positive step to further affirm our commitment to public health and human rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:51:49 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I strongly support SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming healthcare services.

Hawai‘i has already taken a bold step in protecting reproductive health care through shield laws that safeguard providers and patients from out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and the disclosure of medical information. These same essential protections should extend to gender-affirming care, ensuring that healthcare providers and patients in Hawai‘i are shielded from external political and legal threats.

Seventeen states and Washington, D.C., have already enacted shield law protections for gender-affirming care. Hawai‘i should join them in standing for healthcare access, equity, and human rights.

These are increasingly fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who face persistent barriers to their health and well-being. In Hawai‘i, LGBTQ+ youth—particularly transgender and nonbinary youth—continue to experience disproportionate challenges in accessing affirming care. The national political climate has become hostile toward trans individuals, with extremist policies that seek to erase and delegitimize their existence. The historical precedent of such policies is alarming, and we cannot allow Hawai‘i to be complicit in these attacks.

Hawai‘i has made commendable progress in protecting the rights of transgender people. Gender identity and expression are already recognized under our state’s non-discrimination laws. SB 1150 is a natural and necessary extension of that commitment, further cementing our dedication to public health, bodily autonomy, and human rights.

I urge you to pass SB 1150 to ensure Hawai‘i remains a leader in healthcare access and justice.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:03:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ariel Shumar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1150 and I urge you to pass this bill as soon as possible.

I am a transgender mother of two children and I am the primary caretaker and supporter of my children. Aside from being transgender myself and watching my own rights being eroded in this country, my oldest child is also transgender and must have safe, medically monitored access to healthcare and hormone replacement therapy. Not passing this bill will put their and our lives in jeopardy and cause irreparable harm to our family and other families and supportive medical professionals in our state.

I love Hawaii and I want to continue to raise my keiki here. I have a business here. However if this bill doesn't pass, and our healthcare is threatened, we may be forced to relocate to a safer state or country. Please do not make our family refugees from our own state and country. Please pass this bill and protect the trans and mahu community in the islands.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:16:50 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Suzanne Freynik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Suzanne Freynik

Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:22:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brooke Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and Honorable Members of the joint committees on HHS and CPN,

I am writing today in SUPPORT of SB1150. It has become necessary for us to protect our local population against federal meddling into personal medical decisions for gender-affirming care. Our state must protect our residents.

Please pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Brooke Jones

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:35:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela M Anderson	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill undermines parental rights. Parents have primary responsibility to make decisions regarding their children's health, education and welfare, not the state. Legislations that bypasses parental consent is a blatant violation of parental rights and potentially violates the US constitution regarding rights to privacy and due process under the 14th Amendment.

Children need protection, guidance and informed consent regarding the long term consequences of altering hormones. Parents are the gatekeepers of those constitutional rights to informed consent. The state cannot possibly take on the protection, guidance and informed consent of our youth and must trust the parents to make the right decision for their own children. These "medical treatments" are significant interventions that cannot be reversed and will require long term medical interventions, placing unnecessary burden on the state in the future. Additionally, the long term psychological effects of these experimental treatments remains unclear. Children who undergo such life-altering procedures will likely need familial support rather than to be removed from the home.

If a child is not old enough to consent to sex, drink a beer, drive a car, carry a weapon or serve in the military because their brains are not fully formed before the age of 21, how can legislators possibly think an underaged child has the fully developed intellectual awareness to recognize the long term side effects of such decisions.

Neuroendocrine hormones are responsible for every single process in the body. It is negligent for the court to allow these surgeries and chemical alterations to continue and abominable for you to consider removing parental rights to permit it. This is a blatant attack on our youth, religious rights and parental rights.

Passing this bill will likely lead to significant community division, pitting parents against state authorities in something that should be a personal family matter. Schools and educators will be placed in the uncomfortable position of having to navigate parental consent over the law.

Furthermore the financial implications for the state in terms of future legal battles should be recognized. This bill is anti-America, Anti-Aloha and unconstitutional.

Legislation must respect parental rights, protect children, and consider the long term implications of such decisions. This bill must be rejected to protect our freedoms as parents to make healthcare decisions for our children. This bill must be rejected to protect our keikei



**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:37:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kenji Cataldo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB1150 to urge you to move this legislation forward. As the rights of trans people to access health care and participate fully in society come under attack at a federal level and in many other states, it is crucial for the State of Hawai'i to expand protections within this state. We must protect our trans kids and community members every way we can, and this bill's expanded protection of health care access to include gender-affirming care is a good measure towards that goal. Gender-affirming care saves lives.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:42:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:48:24 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

The President of the Unites States on January 28, 2025, signed into EXECUTIVE ORDER: Protecting Children from Chemical and Surgical Mutilation

Go to link : <https://www.whitehouse.gov/presidential-actions/2025/01/protecting-children-from-chemical-and-surgical-mutilation/>

Therefore, to knowingly know that to attempt to enact into law SB1150 can be an offense that carries enforcement action upon those that violate the terms of the EXECUTIVE ORDER.

Any legislator that affirms and promotes defiance to the EXECUTIVE ORDER is not indemnified from prosecution and shall hereby be placed on notice herein to cease and deist any and all acts of noncompliance and willful pursuit to defy the EXECUTIVE ORDER and such actions if taken, are to be communicated with Hawaii U.S. Attorney when position is filled for recourse.

I strongly urge all legislators vote NO and abide by our U.S. Consitution that has empowered our President, Donald J. Trump, to protect children from chemical and surgical mutilation per EXECUTIVE ORDER.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:49:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alexandra Haban	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring that all individuals, especially transgender and gender-diverse youth, have access to the medically necessary care they need in a safe and supportive environment.

Gender-affirming health care is evidence-based and supported by major medical organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health. For many transgender individuals, access to this care is not only life-changing but life-saving. Studies have consistently shown that gender-affirming care significantly reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation among transgender youth.

SB1150 also provides important legal clarity under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, ensuring that families seeking gender-affirming care for their children are not unfairly penalized or subjected to legal uncertainty. In an era where some states are actively working to criminalize or restrict access to gender-affirming care, Hawai'i has the opportunity to stand as a beacon of inclusion and compassion.

By passing SB1150, we reaffirm our commitment to protecting transgender individuals and their families from discrimination, ensuring they can access the care they need without fear. I respectfully urge the Committee to advance this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in upholding human rights and dignity for all.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:58:17 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kala Fisher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state's shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care.

[17 states and Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care.](#) Hawai'i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai'i. The national political landscape is increasingly marked by an extremist authoritarian ideology that seeks to continually "other" trans people [with a policy approach that has an ominous historical precedent from the 20th Century](#).

Hawai'i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. This bill is a positive step to further affirm our commitment to public health and human rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 12:59:09 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mahina Choy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee

I am a proud Native Hawaiian in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. Hawai‘i’s history stands tall in support of our Māhū family and I know that Hawai‘i will continue to do so still.

I urge you vote YES to gender-affirming care to protect our keiki, our ohana, and loved ones.

Mahalo

Mahina Choy-Ellis

Kaneohe, O‘ahu

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:04:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I adamantly oppose this bill. It will be undoubtedly be weaponized and used as protection to commit a crime. This bill is an anti-family and anti-parent bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:09:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I write in my individual capacity to express strong support for SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act, which would amend Chapter 583A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes to protect families who have come to Hawai'i to obtain medically necessary gender-affirming care for their minor children.

Hawai'i has long been a leader in protecting the basic human rights bound up with health care decision making. Across much of the country, parents and guardians of transgender minors are facing the threat of termination of their parental rights, and in some states, criminal prosecution should they consent to allow their children to receive medically necessary gender affirming care. We must do everything possible to protect the medical privacy rights of people who travel to Hawai'i to receive care they can no longer access in their own states. To do otherwise would make us complicit in both the inhumane treatment of one of our nation's most vulnerable minority groups -- transgender minors -- and in deprivation of their parent's basic human right to make medical decisions for their children.

Please support S.B. 1150.

**LATE**

## **TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB1150**

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
February 11th, 2025

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kyson Kainalu James-Foree, I am a first-year law student at the William S. Richardson School of Law at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa from North Kohala, Hawai'i and currently registered to vote in Keauhou, Hawai'i.

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which seeks to protect members of our trans community in Hawai'i as well as the medical practitioners that provide them the medical support that they need. SB1150 would help to shield those individuals from attacks on their persons from other states, seeking to criminalize and penalize their existence.

SB1150 affirms the identity, humanity, and place in our communities of trans individuals, and through that affirmation, affirms the humanity and spirit of aloha the state of Hawai'i is meant to embody. In order to reach the ideals and values the State aspires to reach, Hawai'i must protect every member of our community.

Regardless of the stance of the federal government, trans and non-binary individuals have and will continue to exist– it is ingrained in our cultural fabric and modern day society– and the State of Hawai'i has a duty to protect them and every member of our community.

With that I ask that you please support SB1150. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify.

Me ke aloha pau 'ole,  
Kyson James-Foree  
2027 J.D. Candidate at William S. Richardson School of Law

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:13:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose to Senate Bill No. 1150 is imperative due to its endorsement of what critics argue is a flawed and potentially harmful ideology under the guise of "[gender-affirming care](#)." This bill promotes an ideology that contradicts [biological reality](#) by suggesting gender can be affirmed through medical interventions, ignoring the fact that [human biology is binary](#), based on [XX or XY chromosomes](#). By legally protecting these practices, the bill not only endorses a worldview that can confuse societal norms but also risks the mental and physical health of individuals, particularly minors, by supporting [irreversible treatments](#) like [hormone therapy](#) and [surgeries](#) that have long-term implications including increased risks of [cardiovascular disease](#), infertility, and [psychological issues](#). Moreover, it undermines [parental rights](#) by potentially forcing acceptance of these treatments against the parents' better judgment, complicating custody arrangements where disagreement over such care exists. Ethically, this legislation could be seen as sanctioning medical practices that some view as experimental or unnecessary, providing [legal immunity](#) to providers in cases where these interventions might be considered [malpractice](#) elsewhere. Societally, this bill could lead to significant changes in educational, sports, and public policy realms, potentially eroding [traditional gender distinctions](#) and fostering [identity confusion](#) among the youth. Additionally, from an economic perspective, resources could be better directed towards proven [mental health support](#) rather than funding treatments with uncertain long-term benefits. In essence, S.B. No. 1150 appears to prioritize an ideological agenda over medical ethics, parental rights, and public safety, urging a strong reconsideration of its implications on our society.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:15:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:16:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I, Yvonne Alvarado Strongly Oppose to Bill SB1150



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:17:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Erin Furuichi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state’s shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care.

17 states and Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care. Hawai‘i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles their health and well-being. This includes LGB youth and trans youth in Hawai‘i. The national political landscape is increasingly marked by an extremist authoritarian ideology that seeks to continually “other” trans people with a policy approach that has an ominous historical precedent from the 20th Century.

Hawai‘i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. This bill is a positive step to further affirm our commitment to public health and human rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:21:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Travis Nishii	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB1150 because it will protect college students who study on the mainland, and incentivize students and families to stay or move on island to have strong state protections against overreach from states with conflicting laws.

Protecting the privacy of patients in all forms of health care gives me a sense of safety that is sorely lacking in other states, and the commitment to protecting all citizens makes me proud to be a resident of the islands.

Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:24:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:40:36 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

**I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai‘i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.**

**Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.**

**This bill sends a clear message: Hawai‘i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.**

**I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai‘i.**

**Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.**

**Sincerely,**

**Leo Nahe Smith**

**Pearl City, HI**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:41:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sarah Kamakawiwo'ole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs Keohokalole and San Buenaventura, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Aquino, and Members of the Committees,

Thank you for hearing SB1150. I am in **support** of this bill as a measure to affirm that the State of Hawai'i will uphold human rights and individual privacy as they pertain to reproductive and gender-affirming health care. As the federal government and many states have stated intent and/or taken action to severely limit and criminalize these areas, it is up to the State of Hawai'i to protect the essential rights of personhood, privacy, and individual decision.

One of the key components of this bill clarifies that the State will not pursue legal action against any person aiding or assisting a pregnant person receiving reproductive or gender-affirming services, which gives medical providers in Hawai'i assurance that they will not face litigation for doing the jobs they were trained to do. Other states that have chosen to create arbitrary legal demands regarding reproductive health have endangered pregnant people, such as Amber Thurman in Georgia. She was an otherwise healthy 28 year-old mother who failed to receive standard care because providers decided they could not legally render service until Ms. Thurman faced fatal timing, regardless of what they may have wanted to do as experienced medical providers. Potential litigation from the State should not be a factor in the decisionmaking of medical providers to service patients in a timely manner.

Another critical finding that supports the passage of this bill: last year, Nature magazine published an article that assessed 48 state-level transgender ban laws and found a statistically significant causal relationship between said laws and transgender suicide increase. It is to our best interests to move in the opposite direction and protect our youth, which includes encouraging them to be and explore what it means to be their most authentic selves.

Mahalo for hearing this bill - please pass SB1150.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:44:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Armel Chavez-Sherman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a young child leading into my teens, I never connected with my physical appearance. I longed for what was viewed outwardly by others to correlate with who I really was and am on the inside. As a trans individual, having access to healthcare that fits my needs has been lifesaving. Allowing me to navigate through life and present to the world as my authentic self.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 1:51:42 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
RUSSELL ABORDO	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state’s shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care.

[17 states and Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care.](#) Hawai‘i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles to their health and well-being. This includes 'aikane, 'aiwahine ([LGB youth](#)) and mahu ([trans youth](#)) in Hawai‘i. The national political landscape is increasingly marked by an extremist authoritarian ideology that seeks to continually “other” trans people [with a policy approach that has an ominous historical precedent from the 20th Century](#).

Hawai‘i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. This bill is a positive step to further affirm our commitment to public health and human rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:01:54 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Caitlin Cosmian	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As the wife of a trans person and a Registered Nurse, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Caitlin Cosmian

Kailua, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:02:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing to express my *strong opposition to Senate Bill 1150*, which seeks to make Hawaii a sanctuary state for gender-affirming health care, override parental rights, and establish emergency jurisdiction over minors seeking such care.

**1. Undermining Parental Rights**

SB 1150 effectively strips parents of their rights to guide and make informed decisions regarding their child’s medical care. Parents have the fundamental right and responsibility to oversee the health and well-being of their children, including medical decisions. This bill would allow courts to assume temporary emergency jurisdiction over a minor who has not received gender-affirming care, which is an alarming overreach of government power into family matters. It suggests that the state, not parents, knows what is best for a child--an idea that is both dangerous and unconstitutional.

**2. Redefining Medical Necessity Based on Subjective Self-Identification**

The bill allows individuals to define gender-affirming health care as medically necessary simply by their own declaration. This is an unprecedented move that disregards well-established medical and ethical standards for determining what constitutes necessary treatment. Medical necessity should be determined based on objective, evidence-based criteria, not personal identity claims.

**3. Shielding Hawaii from Legal Cooperation with Other States**

By refusing to cooperate with other states regarding minors traveling to Hawaii for gender-affirming procedures, this bill creates legal chaos and encourages young people to bypass parental authority. It sets a dangerous precedent where Hawaii could become a haven for minors fleeing their home states to undergo irreversible medical interventions without parental consent. This undermines both parental rights and interstate legal cooperation.

**4. Potential for Irreversible Harm**

The long-term effects of gender-affirming medical interventions, particularly for minors, remain highly debated in the medical community. Puberty blockers, cross-sex hormones, and surgical interventions come with significant risks, including sterility, loss of sexual function, bone density issues, and cognitive effects. Countries such as Sweden, Finland, and the UK have begun scaling

back access to these treatments for minors due to concerns about their long-term effects. Hawaii should not be rushing to embrace an approach that other nations are moving away from due to safety concerns.

### **5. Misdirection of Legislative Priorities**

Hawaii faces many urgent challenges, including high costs of living, homelessness, crime, and a struggling healthcare system. It is deeply troubling that instead of addressing these pressing issues, the legislature is prioritizing a bill that undermines parental rights and encourages medical tourism for controversial procedures.

For these reasons, I strongly urge the committee to **reject SB 1150**. This bill is an unnecessary and dangerous overreach that puts minors at risk, erodes parental rights, and disregards the medical and legal complexities of gender-affirming care.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:03:30 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Anuhea Sridharan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support SB1150. Gender affirming care should remain a right for all of our community and we have a responsibility to take every step we can to protect it. Gender affirming care saves the lives of some of our most vulnerable community members, let's close the health disparity gap.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:09:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

This mutilation of children must stop. The woke cult is over. Children are not capable of making these types of decisions and many have regretted it and committed suicide. It's big business to "treat" this brainwashed kids. Just the name of it makes me cringe "gender affirming care". Who makes this stuff up?! Majority of people are totally agains all of this nonsense.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:10:47 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tigger Huisinga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing today to express my strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our islands' values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a queer working professional who's spent many years of my career in a health-related capacity and a partner of a nonbinary/trans human who has dedicated their life to helping others, I have repeatedly seen the necessity of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes, quality of life, and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action or harm for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i would not be Hawai'i without its healers, its mahu, and its community. The islands have a longstanding and proud history of protecting residents from harmful policies and external forces. This bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one is penalized for accessing or providing lawful, ethical, equitable health care. I implore you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration,

Tigger Huisinga

She/they

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:14:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nalani Shintani	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1150 on gender-affirming care. Gender-affirming care is essential and saves the lives of a very vulnerable group of people with specific medical needs, we need to ensure they continue to get access to care that they need.

Hawaii also has a long history of mahu and genders beyond male and female and we ought to honor that.

mahalo,

Nalani

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:16:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalani Bright	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that individuals in Hawai‘i can access gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination, legal repercussions, or interference from hostile out-of-state policies. This bill is not just about health care—it is about protecting lives, safeguarding families, and ensuring that Hawai‘i remains a place of refuge rather than persecution.

As a trans woman and mähūwahine, I know firsthand the harm that comes from being denied gender-affirming care. If I had access to puberty blockers and appropriate medical care, I would have been spared years of painful, unnecessary trauma—both physically and socially. Instead, I was forced through a puberty that worked against me, leaving me with irreversible changes that have required corrective surgeries, risks, and suffering that never should have been necessary. Voice surgery, facial surgeries—none of these should have been needed if I had simply been allowed to make informed decisions about my own body from the start. The cost of denying care isn’t just medical; it is a lifetime of struggle, danger, and fighting to undo harm that could have been prevented.

Beyond my personal experience, this bill is about protecting families—parents who are simply trying to do right by their children but are being treated as criminals in other states. There are places in this country where governments believe they have the right to override a parent’s medical decisions and tear children from their families simply for receiving health care that medical professionals and every major medical association support. That is cruelty. That is abuse. We must ensure that Hawai‘i never allows such injustice to take root here.

SB1150 also recognizes the very real dangers posed to trans and nonbinary children and their families if their private medical records are exposed. We are seeing a disturbing and deliberate effort across the continent to target, shame, and endanger these families—turning their medical records into weapons against them. The idea that a child’s private, lawful medical care could be used as grounds for harassment, legal action, or even the removal of that child from their home is monstrous. It is a calculated attack designed to instill fear, to strip families of autonomy, and to drive trans youth into hiding. That is not justice. That is state-sponsored cruelty.

Hawai‘i has always been a place where we protect our people from hostile, invasive, and punitive laws from the continent. We have always stood for aloha, inclusion, and keeping families safe from outside harm. SB1150 ensures that no family seeking care, no doctor

providing care, and no child receiving care will face legal threats, harassment, or forced separation from their loved ones. It sends a clear message that Hawai'i will not be complicit in cruelty, nor will we allow outside forces to dictate what happens within our borders.

"E lawe i ke a'o a mālama, a e 'oi mau ka na'auao."

(Take what you have learned and apply it, and your wisdom will increase.)

We know that gender-affirming care saves lives. We know that protecting medical privacy protects families. We know that allowing parents and doctors to make informed decisions leads to better outcomes. It is our kuleana to apply this knowledge, to stand firm against cruelty, and to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place of safety and dignity for all.

I urge you to pass this bill and stand firmly in defense of trans lives, parental rights, and medical privacy. No family should have to flee in fear. No child should have to wonder if they will be taken from their parents for simply receiving the care they need. And no government should have the power to weaponize health care records as a tool of oppression.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Kalani Bright  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:17:15 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
karen altergott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Protect our human rights

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:23:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Catherine Kuwabara	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Catherine Kuwabara

Kailua, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:30:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Absolutely strongly oppose this bill! leave the children alone!!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:31:51 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Holly Holbrooks	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am a psychiatrist in the state of Hawaii. Multiple patients of mine have stopped trying to kill themselves after they finally received some gender affirming care. (More) people will die if gender affirming care is stopped.

I support SB1150.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 2:33:43 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Seth Lindvay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As an active citizen who identifies as non-binary and have supported keiki in residential treatment struggling with gender dysphoria, I am writing in support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending life saving gender affirming care, human rights and medical

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Seth Lindvay (they/them)  
Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:04:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda Russell	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawai‘i to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawai‘i do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawai‘i remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawai‘i ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amanda Russell

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:05:52 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corrie Miller	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support strong access to Gender Affirming care, especially as it relates to children and minors. I also support expansion of access to mental health services for LGBTQ+ youth in our state.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 3:34:23 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Elena Cabatu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a board member of Kumukahi Health + Wellness, formerly known as Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation, I support SB1150 to further protect gender affirming care. Kumukahi Health + Wellness is one of a few organizations providing gender affirming care on Hawaii Island. We must do all that we can to support and respect the gender identity of the patient and protect live saving medical care. Please pass SB1150. Mahalo!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:31:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrea Staley	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB 1150, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

This state's shield laws in the context of reproductive health provide protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and disclosure of medical information related to reproductive health care services. These same protections should also extend to gender-affirming care.

[17 states and Washington, D.C., have shield law protections for gender affirming care.](#) Hawai'i should join them.

These are very fraught times for sexual and gender minorities, who already face persistent obstacles their health and well-being. This includes [LGB youth](#) and [trans youth](#) in Hawai'i. The national political landscape is increasingly marked by an extremist authoritarian ideology that seeks to continually "other" trans people [with a policy approach that has an ominous historical precedent from the 20th Century](#).

Hawai'i has made a good deal of progress in affirming the rights of trans people, with gender identity and gender expression protected categories in its non-discrimination laws. This bill is a positive step to further affirm our commitment to public health and human rights.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:28:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I want to say that being in the process of transitioning, gender marker affirming care, hormones therapy etc, I find this bill to be something I go against as I am in the process of becoming someone who feels like my gender doesn't fit my birth or gender. I oppose against this bill because I support all of those that are still trying to open up and transition into something they feel happy in their body and skin. We shouldn't have to go through the rough time as I thought USA was freedom of speech and having our rights to be who we want to be.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:25:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amy Humphrey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state’s values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.**

**As a Licensed Clinical Psychologist and provider of gender affirming care, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. My colleagues and I overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. My clients and I should not have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.**

**I hope our legislature recognizes that all arguments against gender affirming care are based on misinformation and bigotry. As a psychologist, I follow an ethics code that requires non-maleficence and beneficence. I assert to you, in no uncertain terms, that gender affirming care provides the most good for the most people, and it harms no one. If your goal as legislators is to care for your constituents, this bill must be passed.**

**Hawai‘i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Amy Humphrey, Psy.D.  
Aiea, Hawaii**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:24:11 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mikaele kapuwai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Mikaele Kapuwai

Support gender affirming care for myself and other's who need it to continue my journey as a trans woman. SB1150 shouldn't be a topic as a taxpayer when it comes to my existence identity.

**LATE**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

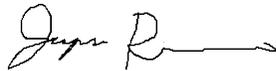
I am writing in strong support of the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a fellow LGBTQ+ community member I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jayme Richardson", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Jayme Richardson

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:04:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leisha kahala	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I leisha kahala

Support gender affirming care for myself and other's who need it to continue my journey as a trans woman. SB1150 shouldn't be a topic as a taxpayer when it comes to my existence identity.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:01:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.**

**As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.**

**Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Dan Paul Roberts  
Honolulu, Hawai'i**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 4:49:20 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meg Hagar	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.**

**As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.**

**Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Meg Hagar**

Honolulu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:19:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Quinn Goo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I write to you as a transgender young adult who has received gender-affirming care for the past five years--starting when I was 17. This care has saved my life. My parents, grandparents, aunties, and extended family's support of me has meant the world to me. These people have shown me what love is. They have also saved my life.

Therefore, I am writing in very strong support of SB1150, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful

This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions. Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

I understand that gender-affirming care in children can seem scary. There are a lot of myths and misconceptions about what it entails. I assure you that gender-affirming care, when done under the proper guidance of a medical professional is life-saving treatment.

I know you are all busy people, but I encourage you to read a book entitled Letters to My Transgender Daughter. In this book, Carolyn Hays, mother of a transgender girl details the day that she almost lost her daughter to child welfare services. An anonymous complaint nearly stripped her of her parental rights. It is hard to be transgender, and it is hard to be a parent who loves a child so much that you will risk losing them to make sure they feel at home in their body.

I affirm again that gender-affirming care is life-saving treatment. I would not be here writing to you today without it. Please take this action to protect all of these people who love transgender youth, who risk so much to take care of us.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Me ke aloha,

Quinn Goo

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:24:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Halleh Hashtpari	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful evidence based healthcare without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

The bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Halleh Hashtpari, Ph.D.  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:26:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angela Delano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Angela Delano and I am a primary care doctor who provides gender affirming care. We know that transgender patients have one of the highest rates of attempted suicide and it has been shown that anti-transgender laws significantly increase these attempts (Lee, W.Y., Hobbs, J.N., Hobaica, S. *et al.* State-level anti-transgender laws increase past-year suicide attempts among transgender and non-binary young people in the USA. *Nat Hum Behav*, [2096–2106](https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5) (2024). <https://doi.org/10.1038/s41562-024-01979-5>). Gender affirming care is anti-suicide medicine. I know this from the research and it is supported by my medical experience. This bill helps protect the therapeutic relationship between gender affirming providers and our high risk patients.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:50:07 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Keoni N Clarke	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

I strongly support Senate Bill 1150 because it safeguards access to vital gender-affirming health care services and provides essential clarity in child custody cases related to such care. Protecting these services ensures that individuals and families in Hawaii can make informed, compassionate decisions about their well-being. This bill is a crucial step in affirming dignity, respect, and inclusivity for all members of our community.

Mahalo for your time.

- Keoni Clarke

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:51:01 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mae Kyono, MD	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1150 protecting the right to gender affirming health care services.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:57:58 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelly Milot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Gender affirming care is life affirming care.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 5:59:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150 as the passing of this bill will put our keiki at risk that will affect generations of keiki. It is criminal to affirm gender and also criminal to remove children from their families.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:05:36 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nana Clemons	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am submitting testimony in support of SB 1150. I work with LGBTQIA+ youth and know how important, especially today, it is to protect access to gender affirming care. Queer & trans people's lives and wellbeing rests on several things including gender affirming care. Cisgender people are always getting elective procedures to affirm their gender as well. Queer and trans people have every right to have the same access to these operations/procedures/medical care. And especially our queer & trans youth.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:27:22 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Emily Malate	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Emily Malate, and I'm a licensed clinical social worker that has served Hilo, Hawaii for 25 years. I am currently in private practice providing mental health counseling. In a volunteer role, I serve on the board of Kumukahi Health + Wellness, previously known as Hawaii Island HIV/AIDS Foundation. The clinic attached to our organization is one of just a few places individuals and families can turn to access gender affirming care for people on Hawaii Island.

I am submitting testimony in support of bill SB 1150. During the last month the current presidency has made it clear that the rights and health care access of transgender and non-binary citizens is under serious threat and restriction. I believe the bill will offer some buffering and safety for this population in Hawaii.

I have worked with many transgender and non-binary clients. The dysphoria they face is real and causes severe depression. In multiple cases I have seen the power of gender affirming healthcare resolve depression, suicidal ideation and renew a sense of belonging in the world. The path of those who are transgender is already full of struggle - taking away access to gender affirming care would be taking away hope, resolve and a sense of future for many.

Thank you for your consideration on this important matter.

Emily Malate, LCSW

Hilo, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:38:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Regarding SB1150 I ask your office to oppose policies that promote medical transitions for minors until long term, peer reviewed research supports their safety and effectiveness. Support policies that protect parental rights in education and medical decision making. That public school curriculums prioritize age appropriate, evidence based education that does not introduce controversial gender ideologies to young children.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:50:37 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Totally Totally Oppose !!!!!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 6:53:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jessica dias	Testifying for Free Citizens of Maunaloa	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I **oppose** this bill. If it saves just one child's life, we should NOT legalize child **Genital Mutilation**.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:00:26 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Categorizing a "crime" (Kidnapping) under "health care" is a HUGE deception to American citizens. The consequences to a government interfering w/a family unit decision is wrong and should be against the law.

Working w/children the majority of my life know that the government has NO business interfering or making decisions for people's lives. The consequences of a wrong decision will now be put on the family unit & they will have to live w/the rest of their lives.

With all the "REAL" issues that Hawaii has to deal with, why do these legislatures continuously find or invent controversial issues, rather than put the energy in existing issues! Why create more illegal movements rather than fight the ones on their agenda already! Some of the issues that energy could be spent on in HI. are: housing, homeless, fire victims, traffic control, congested road systems, etc.

This kind of bill is a distraction to the real issues and problems of HI. The worst part of your labeling is one key word! KIDNAPPING! But worse is to place the bill under "Health Care" issues! The people looking and writing these bills have their own issues that do need to be labeled under "Health Care"!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:00:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150.

14-16 year olds should not be able to access gender-affirming health care without parental consent. Their brains are not fully developed until they are in their early twenties. Therefore, they are vulnerable and do not fully understand the life-long consequences of their choices including mutilation of body parts and possible sterilization.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:02:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL!! GENDER AFFIRMING HEALTH CARE IS NOT HEALTHCARE. THIS IS HAWAII..YOU TRY TAKE THE KIDS AWAY FROM PARENTS IF ITS NOT OBTAINED, YOU GUYS ARE IN FOR A RUDE AWAKENING! MAMA BEARS AND PAPA BEARS WILL BE SHOWING UP IN FORCE AND I WILL BE SUPPORTING THEM. LEE AND HASHIMOTO YOU BETTER THINK AGAIN, BECAUSE WE THE PEOPLE WILL NOT TOLERATE THIS INSANITY!!!!!!!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:25:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sabrina Prentice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*I am writing this in support of bill SB 1150. Trans and queer people deserve access to gender affirming care. There should be no law in place that deny a person their right to live as they truly are and access the care they need to do so. Trans people have always existed and will always exist, they deserve to feel safe, seen, valued, and protected by their government. I and many, many, others want Hawai'i to be a state where trans people are able to access the gender affirming care they need.*

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 7:35:50 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jen Hayashi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chairperson and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jen Hayashi and I am an Ob/Gyn resident physician practicing in Oahu. I am submitting this testimony in strong support of SB1150, which ensures that minors maintain access to gender affirming care.

As a physician, I often see how one's gender and autonomy critically affects one's view of themselves and their healthcare. Additionally, the impact gender dysphoria can have on mental health is a crisis that cannot be discounted. Gender affirming care is already limited in its lack of expertise and to limit it further would be a disservice to the mental, emotional, and physical health of our youth.

For the health and safety of Hawaii's families, I urge you to vote in favor of SB1150.

Thank you for your time and commitment to the health of our future.

Sincerely,

Jen Hayashi, MD

**LATE**

February 10, 2025

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

As a nonbinary person and a strong advocate for science-based, gender-affirming health care, I urge you to support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is critical to ensuring that transgender and nonbinary individuals in Hawai'i can continue accessing the medical care they need without fear of out-of-state legal threats.

Gender-affirming care is not only well-supported by major medical and psychological organizations—including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health—but it is also suicide prevention. Studies consistently show that access to affirming care dramatically reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among trans and nonbinary people. Denying or restricting this care puts lives at risk.

Hawai'i must not allow the harmful policies of other states to dictate the rights and health care access of its residents. This legislation sends a clear message that our state values bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and the well-being of its people. I urge you to pass this bill and ensure that Hawai'i remains a place of safety and dignity for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Jessica Miriga  
Aiea, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:06:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nathan Brown	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee. I strongly support this bill to expand protections for gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdiction in child custody cases involving these services. Gender-affirming care is a vital, evidence-based practice that improves mental health outcomes and reduces suicide rates among transgender and gender-diverse youth, allowing them to live authentically and thrive. By safeguarding access to this care and ensuring consistent legal protections, this bill affirms the rights of families and children to make informed, compassionate health care decisions. It also provides much-needed clarity for courts navigating custody cases, ensuring that the best interests of the child remain the priority. Mahalo for your commitment to protecting the health, dignity, and well-being of all keiki in Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:12:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Pia Francisco-Natanauan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

2/10/25

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, to safeguard the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Academy of Family Medicine, the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of gender non-conforming individuals, and transgender people. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

Starting gender-affirming medications depends on the age and sexual development of the child adolescent and young adult and their co-existing medical conditions, support system, and individual intent and desire. Guidance from a mental health provider is necessary for the patient and the family and is substantial to the gender-affirming process particularly given an adolescent's active psychosocial development. Gender affirming care is delivered with the support of family and their loved ones and are valuable determinants of one's overall health outcomes. Clinicians ought to continue to care for and treat our children, adolescents and young adults with gender affirmation needs as they would their peers.

In relation to sports participation, it is important to know that the purpose of sports and recreational activities in children, adolescents, and young adults is to provide physical health and wellness, leadership and teamwork skills, and time management as stated in the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention Healthy Schools program. Local state health departments and state education departments should collectively promote sports participation with an emphasis on the benefits of play and recreation regardless of gender identity in elementary, middle, and high schools. There should be no presumption of unfairness based on transitioning or gender affirmation.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Pia Francisco-Natanauan, MD

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:21:04 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150. That demonic bill needs to be in the trash and never comes back. Attacking our keikis is our pilauticians nitch. We need to educate those demons that a child is a child of God. Stop sacrificing our keikis to satan!!!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:21:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I would like gender affirming care to be protected. Gender expansive folks (lgbtq+) need health services to be just as good as anyone else & need acknowledgment for the sensitives they may be experiencing. Also children who need support with their gender health need protection.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:25:40 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, members of the committee.

My name is Tiare Smith and I strongly oppose SB1150.

I want to express my deep concerns regarding the practice of gender-affirming care for minors.

Firstly, let's address the medical aspect. Puberty blockers, hormones, and surgeries are not without risks. These interventions can lead to irreversible changes and potential health issues like bone density loss, fertility problems, and increased risk of cardiovascular diseases. The long-term effects of these treatments, especially when administered during the crucial developmental stages of childhood and adolescence, are not fully understood. We must prioritize "first, do no harm" in medicine, and I argue that we do not yet have definitive evidence that these treatments are safe or beneficial in the long term for all minors.

Secondly, there's the issue of psychological complexity. Adolescence is a period marked by significant identity exploration. Many young people experience confusion about their identity, which can include gender dysphoria. However, numerous studies suggest that a vast majority of children who experience gender dysphoria will naturally resolve these feelings by adulthood without medical intervention. The rush to affirm a child's gender identity through medical means might preempt a natural resolution, potentially leading to regret later in life.

Moreover, there's the ethical debate about consent. Can children, whose brains are still developing, truly consent to medical decisions with lifelong implications? We protect minors from making other life-altering decisions like voting, driving, or drinking alcohol due to their lack of maturity. Why should this be different for decisions that involve altering their biological sex?

From a societal perspective, there's also the concern about the influence of social trends and peer pressure. Today's cultural environment, especially amplified by social media, can unduly influence young individuals to conform to certain identities or behaviors for social acceptance. We must ensure that decisions about gender identity are made based on individual autonomy and not external pressures.

Lastly, I want to stress that my opposition does not stem from a lack of empathy or understanding for those experiencing gender dysphoria. It comes from a place of caution and

concern for the well-being of our youth. We should offer comprehensive mental health support, therapy, and counseling to help children navigate their identities without the immediate recourse to medical intervention.

In conclusion, I urge this committee to consider the implications of endorsing gender-affirming care for minors. We should strive for a more cautious, evidence-based approach that prioritizes the health, safety, and future well-being of our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Tiare Smith

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:30:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Arthur Allen Kluvo	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a married father of two children, I oppose SB1150 as being intrusive.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:35:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE!

**LATE**

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the **Health Care Access Protection Act**, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai'i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai'i's residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai'i's leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Skyler Ohlmeyer

Honolulu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:49:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Madeline Oppong	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a teacher, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Madeline Oppong

Kailua, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:50:55 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rachel Coel	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.**

**As a parent, pediatric physician, and concerned citizen, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.**

**Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.**

**Mahalo for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,  
Rachel Coel**

**Kailua, HI**

Jordan Harden  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96816

**LATE**

Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senate Committee on Health and Human Services  
11 February, 2025  
Conference Room 229

**Re: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB1150 - RELATING TO HEALTH CARE**

Aloha mai kākou e Chair Keohokalole, Chair San Buenaventura, Vice Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Aquino, and members of the Committee of Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Health and Human Services:

I am writing to express my strong support for HI SB1150. As a resident of Hawai'i, a concerned advocate, and a mental healthcare provider to young members of the LGBTQ+ community, I believe that this bill is crucial because it protects individuals' rights to healthcare that is ultimately life-affirming. Furthermore, it offers protection to the caregivers who seek to support and advocate on behalf of their keiki.

In my own work as a youth therapist and social worker, I have witnessed how gender-affirming healthcare services can indeed save lives. Discrimination, including invalidating healthcare practices, places LGBTQ+ youth at a higher rate for suicide as compared with their non-LGBTQ+ peers. In a 2023 national survey, the Trevor Project<sup>1</sup> found that about half of transgender and nonbinary young people considered the people at their school to be gender-affirming, with those who did reporting lower rates of attempted suicide. Gender-affirming language, people, and spaces are protective factors that can significantly lower the rates of attempted and fatal suicide among LGBTQ+ youth across the state and beyond.

The provisions of this bill, which mandate that providers “respect the gender identity of the patient, as experienced and defined by the patient” will help to reduce rates of suicide among LGBTQ+ youth who may face isolating discrimination in their communities. I believe that this bill will have a meaningful and positive impact on LGBTQ+ youth, their families, and their community members. It is imperative that we take action now to ensure that we instill sustainable protective factors to advocate for and protect our keiki. This bill represents a significant step toward addressing systemic discrimination against LGBTQ+ persons.

I respectfully urge you to support SB1150 and to ensure its passage. Mahalo nui for your time and consideration of my testimony.

Sincerely,  
Jordan Harden

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<sup>1</sup> The Trevor Project. (2023). *The Trevor Project National Survey on LGBTQ Youth Mental Health 2023*. <https://www.thetrevorproject.org/survey-2023/#intro>

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 8:59:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bridget Murphy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

•

Protection

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in **strong support of SB1150**, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Sample Testimony Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Bridget Murphy, LCSW, CSAC

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:09:59 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gabrielle Igarta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

My name is Gabrielle I am writing in strong support of SB1150 related to Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Protections; and Child Custody. We should support medical providers, mental health professionals, and parents providing gender affirming care.

Protecting medical providers and parents from legal action for helping a child receive gender affirming care, ensures that licensed medical providers in the state of Hawai'i can offer gender-affirming care at their facility, subsequently giving a child safe, medically-accredited, options to transition. Gender-affirming care is live-saving for many, and its use is not limited to transgender individuals. Those who are intersex, experience insensitivity to certain sex hormones, or simply wish to medically adjust their appearance to be masculine or feminine all benefit from safe access to quality gender-affirming care. Additionally, protecting parents from custody interference by an agency for helping their child receive gender-affirming care is important because transitioning is not a crime nor considered child abuse.

As an advocate for equality and justice for all, and as someone who wants to see Hawai'i as a place where everyone can feel safe to express themselves and live peacefully, I urge the committee to support this bill.

Mahalo for your time,

Gabrielle Igarta

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:13:14 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

The most important duty of parents is the raising and protection of their children. Period. The State does not have the responsibility-we do. Minors cannot give informed consent--for any medical procedure. They must be 18 years old. I understand this bill would allow minors to obtain medical treatment without consent or notification of the parents. If the treatment or surgery goes "south"--guess who gets to foot the bill? The parents. Children need to be 18 in order to get their ears pierced, get a tatoo, smoke cigarettes and even vote. Why all of a sudden are they able to get medically invasive treatments--without any notification or consent of the parents when they are under 18? This puts minor children at risk. This bill needs to be voted down.

**LATE**

Date: February 11, 2025

To: Committee on Health and Human Services  
Senator Joy A. San Buenaventura, Chair  
Senator Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair  
AND Committee Members

Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection  
Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Funkunaga, Vice Chair  
AND Committee Members

From: Kerrie Urosevich

Re: Strong Support for **SB1150** Gender-Affirming Care

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**SB1150** expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services. The bill clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act for cases involving children who obtain gender-affirming health care services.

Young people and adults who do not feel like they are in the right bodies should be able to work with their doctors to review options and receive the gender-affirming care that they need. Given the backdrop of this new administration, I encourage the State of Hawai`i to build in the requisite protections for our transgender community.

Mahalo nui for supporting **SB1150**.

Aloha,

*Kerrie Urosevich*



**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:15:32 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew Schultz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,

My name is Matthew Schultz and I am in strong support of SB1150 related to Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Protections; and Child Custody. We should support medical providers, mental health professionals, and parents providing gender affirming care.

Protecting medical providers and parents from legal action for helping a child receive gender affirming care, ensures that licensed medical providers in the state of Hawai'i can offer gender-affirming care at their facility, subsequently giving a child safe, medically-accredited, options to transition. Additionally, protecting parents from custody interference by an agency for helping their child receive gender-affirming care is important because transitioning is not a crime nor considered child abuse.

Transgender people are disproportionately affected by challenges like poverty or losing their job due to discrimination against their gender identities. According to the 2022 U.S. Transgender Survey (<https://ustranssurvey.org/>):

- More than one-third (34%) of respondents were experiencing poverty.
- The unemployment rate among USTS respondents was 18%.
- More than one in ten (11%) respondents who had ever held a job said they had been fired, forced to resign, lost the job, or been laid off because of their gender identity or expression.
- Nearly one-third (30%) of respondents had experienced homelessness in their lifetime.

With this legislation, we can strengthen the support networks of transgender children and help connect them with vital healthcare in their formative years, to tangibly improve their lives and help prevent negative outcomes as they grow up.

Mahalo for your time,

Matthew Schultz

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:17:28 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Sachi Detreaux	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing to express the urgent need for transgender-affirming care for both youth and adults. As we continue to evolve in our understanding of gender identity, it is crucial to recognize that access to appropriate healthcare is not just a medical issue—it's a matter of human rights, dignity.

It is also a matter of privacy. We need to protect someone's ability to consult with their doctors and make informed medical decisions that affects their body without government intervention. When it comes to someone's body, the person knows best, not the government.

For many transgender individuals, especially youth, the journey of self-discovery can be fraught with challenges. The mental health statistics are alarming: transgender youth are at a significantly higher risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation. Studies consistently show that when these young people receive gender-affirming care—whether through therapy, hormone treatments, or social support—they report improved mental health outcomes, increased self-esteem, and a greater sense of belonging. This care is not merely an option; it is a lifeline.

For adults, the necessity of gender-affirming care remains just as critical. Many adults who transition find that aligning their physical bodies with their gender identity leads to transformative improvements in their quality of life. This care allows individuals to live authentically and safely in a world that often misunderstands and marginalizes them.

I also want to address the false notion that the use of puberty blockers is a form of "chemical castration." This misconception is harmful and misleading. Puberty blockers are designed to delay the onset of puberty in adolescents, providing them with the time and space to explore their gender identity without the immediate pressure of undergoing irreversible physical changes. Importantly, these blockers do not permanently alter a person's body; they simply pause the natural process of puberty, allowing for informed decisions later on. This thoughtful approach is

crucial for the well-being of transgender youth, enabling them to navigate their identities in a supportive and non-pressuring environment.

It is essential to emphasize that medical care should be between doctors and patients, not dictated by government policies. Healthcare decisions are deeply personal and should be based on the expertise of medical professionals and the individual needs of patients. Involving government in these intimate decisions can lead to harmful consequences and undermine the trust that is fundamental to the doctor-patient relationship.

Denying transgender-affirming care is not just detrimental; it can have dire consequences. Without access to the necessary medical and psychological support, individuals may face increased risks of mental health crises, isolation, and despair. This is not just about healthcare—it's about acknowledging the humanity of transgender individuals and affirming their right to live authentically.

In conclusion, transgender-affirming care is essential for the well-being of both youth and adults. It is time for us to stand together in support of these necessary healthcare services, ensuring that every individual has the opportunity to thrive and live their truth. Let us protect the sanctity of the doctor-patient relationship and advocate for the rights of all individuals to receive the care they need.

Please expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Thank you,

Sachi Detreaux

Kauai, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:23:44 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

President Trump recently issued an executive order prohibiting gender affirming care for minors. I anticipate that his order will be codified by Congress. Many minors and adults experience sex change regret after undergoing transgender surgery. In light of that, President Trump's executive order and other factors, I respectfully request that you vote no on SB 1150. Thank you.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:24:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Children do not have the reasoning capabilities to make irreversible life-changing decisions. This is why children live with their parents, who should responsibly care for their children. This is why children are not allowed to vote. This is why children are not tried as adults in our court system. Children are not wards of the state. Please do not vote in favor of this bill. It takes away the God-given rights of parents.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:38:32 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:40:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kim Nguyen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB 1150, which expands essential protections for gender-affirming health care in Hawaii. This bill ensures that individuals, especially vulnerable youth, have access to the care they need while safeguarding families from legal challenges. By clarifying jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, SB 1150 reinforces Hawaii’s commitment to protecting the rights and well-being of transgender individuals. I urge lawmakers to pass this bill and uphold the principles of dignity, equality, and health care access for all.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:41:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ron Ronquillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Bill SB1150, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without the threat of discrimination or legal consequence. As a nurse practitioner who works directly with transgender and nonbinary patients, I have seen the significant and positive impact that gender-affirming care has on their mental and physical health. Denying them access to this essential care is not only harmful, but it also endangers their well-being and future.

In my practice, I've witnessed firsthand how gender-affirming care helps alleviate the profound mental health struggles many transgender and nonbinary individuals face due to societal stigma and discrimination. It has been proven time and again that access to affirming care improves patients' overall well-being, reducing the risk of depression, anxiety, and suicidality. Forcing these individuals to go without or to fear losing access to their healthcare providers can have devastating consequences.

No one should be penalized for seeking or providing the care that is medically necessary for a person's well-being. SB1150 is critical in ensuring that our community is protected from harmful legislation that seeks to strip away the rights of individuals to make decisions about their own bodies in consultation with their trusted healthcare providers.

Hawai'i has long been a leader in protecting its residents from harmful, discriminatory policies, and I strongly urge you to pass this bill to continue safeguarding those who need it most. The protection of gender-affirming care is not only a matter of medical necessity but of human dignity and respect.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,

Ron W. Ronquillo, DNP, FNP-BC

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:48:39 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 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 strongly oppose SB1150 due to its overreach into parental rights, legal jurisdiction, and due process. This bill undermines the principles of family autonomy, disrupts established legal frameworks for child custody, and creates significant risks for both families and the state of Hawai'i.

SB1150 reclassifies parental refusal to provide "gender-affirming care" as medical neglect, equating it with child abuse. This diminishes parental discretion in medical decision-making and allows courts to override parental authority even in the absence of demonstrable harm. Furthermore, by permitting non-parents to seek emergency jurisdiction over minors, **the bill undermines due process by limiting parental ability to contest custody decisions.** Family autonomy must be preserved, and parents should not be excluded from critical medical decisions affecting their children.

SB1150 alters the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act (UCCJEA) by granting Hawai'i courts expanded emergency jurisdiction over out-of-state minors brought to the state for medical procedures. This **creates a legal loophole that could incentivize individuals—including non-relatives—to transport minors across state lines without parental consent, circumventing existing custody agreements and state laws.**

Additionally, the bill prevents cooperation with extradition requests related to custody disputes, **effectively designating Hawai'i as a legal sanctuary for those seeking to remove children from parental custody without legal consequence.** This departure from national legal norms could jeopardize Hawaii's ability to enforce its own custody rulings in other states.

By weakening legal protections against unauthorized custody transfers, **SB1150 creates vulnerabilities that could be exploited by bad actors,** including those with coercive or harmful intentions. The bill provides no clear safeguards to ensure that minors transported across state lines for medical procedures are acting of their own free will or receiving appropriate medical oversight.

Furthermore, the bill's confidentiality provisions limit parental access to medical records, obstructing their ability to ensure their child's well-being. This **lack of transparency conflicts**

**with well-established legal principles that recognize parental rights in medical decision-making and child welfare.**

SB1150's unilateral approach to custody and medical jurisdiction could have unintended consequences for Hawaii's legal standing. If the state refuses to return minors to their legal guardians in other jurisdictions, it risks undermining reciprocity under the UCCJEA, which could hinder Hawaii's ability to reclaim its own children in future custody disputes. The bill also raises constitutional concerns, as it **may conflict with the Full Faith and Credit Clause, which requires states to recognize and enforce each other's legal judgments.**

SB1150 goes beyond protecting children—it disrupts legal norms, erodes parental rights, and creates significant risks for families and the state's legal framework. Instead of advancing policies that weaken custody protections and parental involvement, the legislature should focus on solutions that prioritize both child welfare and due process.

I urge you to vote **NO** on SB1150 to protect family integrity, uphold legal consistency, and ensure child safety under a fair and balanced legal framework.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nicholas Zehr

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:51:31 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kumoanaakea Mather	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha e Chair a me Committee Members,**

**I write in strong, strong support of the Healthcare Access Protection Act.**

**My name is Kūmoanaākea. I'm currently a sophomore in high school, and, as I write this, I am sixteen years of age. For much of my time on this earth, my relationship to gender has been fluid and changing, but never quite the standard. My birth certificate reads female, but in my heart I have always known that something wasn't right about that. Over my years I grew and learned that there are others like me. I was taught the language. There was a name for my experience. I am transgender. My mind is kāne.**

**I explained to my 'ohana. They accepted me. I began to wear different clothes. I talked differently. I asked the people close to me and those who I met to call me 'he'. I grew more and more comfortable in my skin. I had a different name. Living became less frightening. But when I was younger than I am now, first finding who I was, it was new and unsteady. I wasn't quite secure. I had a terrible, twisted feeling in my gut when I saw myself in the mirror or when I heard my voice. Too womanly, too girlish, too feminine was I, ashamed of being different from my peers of the same gender. I wasn't the same. It was visible. It made me nauseous. I had what is called gender dysphoria. I felt physically ill because what was on my outside mismatched what was on my insides. I can say that it's one of the worst feelings I've ever had to endure.**

**In 2021, my doctor cared enough to listen to what I asked of her. I had done the research on my own. I needed gender affirming healthcare. She made certain I knew what I was asking for. I couldn't take puberty blockers, as I had already gone through mine. I could**

**take testosterone. After testing my blood to ensure that hormone therapy was safe for me, and that I was entirely aware of the side effects, I was taught by a nurse how to safely and sanitarily give myself my medicine.**

**The acne and the voice cracks and the small amount of facial hair were changes that made me closer to the other boys in my grade. I felt more at home in my body. My flesh became a sanctuary and not a prison. The hatred I had of myself lessened and lessened as I became closer to what I truly wanted to be. I do not experience gender dysphoria today. Clothes don't make me male, female, or otherwise. I can have long hair and be as male as I'll ever be. The body I have belongs to me, and therefore belongs to a man. I no longer take Testosterone, as it's not necessary for my happiness. I love how I am. But the definition of my facial features, the broadness of my shoulders, and the lowered voice are all a result of my hormone replacement therapy, and they're with me even now. The attentive care of my doctors got me through an awful time in my life. Depression and frequent suicidal ideation plagued me everyday. Those people saved me from taking my own life. To know that they were there for me, to know that things would get better with my treatment, and to know that there were trustworthy people who valued me outside of my home is so incredible. My doctors are a safe place for me.**

**This act would protect those who provided me with life saving care. Without them I wouldn't be here to provide this testimony. People like me should have access to safe, reputable healthcare. It saves lives.**

**Mahalo,**

**Kūmoanaākea**

**Wailuku, Hawai'i**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:52:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Autumn Loftus	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in support of gender affirming care and ccess for our māhū, transgender, and non-binary community members. Gender affirming care has been proven to improve physical and mental health outcomes and improve the quality of life. It has no negative impact on other individuals. Right now, they need our protection to ensure that their rights our protected.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 9:58:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Teresa Molina	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Teresa Molina

Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:02:56 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kourtney Davis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of SB 1150

I strongly support SB 1150, which seeks to expand the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to include gender-affirming health care services.

Hawaii's existing laws for reproductive health provide important protections against out-of-state discipline, civil liability, and the disclosure of medical information related to reproductive care. These same protections should be extended to gender-affirming care.

Currently, 17 states and Washington, D.C. have shield laws that offer protections for gender-affirming care. Hawaii should join them in ensuring safety and fairness for all individuals, especially those facing discrimination and harm.

Sexual and gender minorities, including LGBTQ+ youth, are already grappling with significant barriers to accessing essential care. The national political climate, marked by extremist and authoritarian rhetoric, is intensifying these challenges. The increasingly hostile climate towards transgender individuals evokes a troubling historical precedent that we must not repeat.

Hawaii has made important strides in recognizing the rights of trans people, notably through non-discrimination laws protecting gender identity and expression. SB 1150 is a crucial step in furthering our commitment to public health and human rights.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this vital bill.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:03:02 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support bill1150 SB RELATING TO HEALTH CARE.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:09:27 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Noalani Helela	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to the Chair, the Vice Chair, and members of the committee in favor of SB1150 and the protections of healthcare access and other basic human rights for transgender people.

In light of the current federal administration's blatant attacks on the very existence of transgender and nonbinary people, it's more necessary now than ever that the numerous gaps and loopholes in the State of Hawai'i's current protections for trans people be cemented shut to ensure that many trans folks including myself do not lose their access to medically necessary gender-affirming healthcare.

Even under the previous administration's less discriminatory federal policies, these gaps and loopholes have been exploited regularly by health insurance companies attempting not only to avoid covering gender-affirming services such as hormone replacement therapy and surrounding medications and procedures, but also to discriminate against trans patients, depriving them of services afforded more easily to others, such as psychotherapy, ER visits, and physical checkups.

This becomes especially tricky for those under Quest and other Medicaid and Medicare related coverage, unable to afford the costly payments on the aforementioned services.

Since beginning hormone therapy nearly four years ago, not only has my quality of life, self-confidence and body image improved extraordinarily in numerous ways, but my physical health has as well. I am finally at a healthy weight, I'm less prone to sickness, and I finally like what and who I see in the mirror. Due to years of medical trauma, I find it hard to trust medical professionals, but I finally have a primary care physician who I trust and feel safe with both for gender affirming care and for standard medical checkups.

The thought of having my access to gender-affirming care being revoked and being forced to detransition and have the body that I love taken away fills me with debilitating dread and sadness. The thought of the same thing happening to other trans people feels even worse.

If gender-affirming care was made inaccessible in Hawai'i, many transgender people would be forced to relocate to other states and countries out of sheer medical necessity. This includes Hawaiian trans people such as myself, who should not have to leave our native homeland because of hateful policies being forced upon us.

Many others who do not have the option of relocating would have to resort to other less safe and reliable sources for their gender-affirming care, or be forced to detransition altogether. This cannot be allowed to happen.

I am urging you to pass SB1150 and do what is in your power to give us the best and most infallible protections possible.

Mahalo,

Noalani Helelā

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:14:06 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jodie Van Cleave	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I OPPOSE this bill!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:16:32 PM  
Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amadeus Hill	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and Members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out-of-state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender-affirming care is received or provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This bill ensures that covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information or comply with legal requests—such as subpoenas—from jurisdictions seeking to penalize individuals for accessing or providing gender-affirming healthcare.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step toward ensuring that Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive gender-affirming healthcare without fear of persecution.

As someone who has witnessed firsthand the profound impact of gender-affirming care, I can personally attest to its life-saving nature. I have seen loved ones struggle with the distress of being denied necessary medical treatment simply because of where they live. The difference between access and denial is not just about comfort—it is about survival. The ability to access gender-affirming care reduces depression, anxiety, and suicide rates, providing individuals with the dignity and support they deserve. No one should have to choose between their well-being and the risk of being criminalized for seeking medically necessary treatment.

Seventeen states and the District of Columbia already have similar protections in place. It is vital that Hawaii joins this movement to ensure the safety and security of all individuals seeking gender-affirming healthcare.

I strongly urge the Legislature to pass SB1150 and affirm Hawaii’s commitment to medical autonomy, patient privacy, and the protection of human rights.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Amadeus Hill

Youth Services Case Manager

Hawai'i Health and Harm Reduction Center

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:21:24 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am opposed to SB1150. Many European countries, the UK, Sweden, Denmark, Finland and France have now restricted "gender affirming care" to minors based on the lack of evidence on long-term effects.

The medical community here is rusing to treat minors who are unsure of their identity rather than give these minors time to sort this out.

Mahalo,

Lora Burbage

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:24:25 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lana Joy Kinghan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chairs San Buenaventura and Keohokalole, Vice Chairs Aquino and Fukunaga, and members of the Committees,

I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which would help protect patients, providers, and families from out of state persecution, professional discipline, and separation when gender affirming care is received/provided in Hawaii to a resident of a state where such care may be unlawful. This protection comes from ensuring covered entities in Hawaii do not release related information to or comply with requests (i.e., subpoenas) from bad actors in other jurisdictions.

Passing this bill is an incredibly important step towards ensuring Hawaii remains a safe place where people and families can receive access to gender affirming health care without fear of persecution.

I personally have not needed gender affirming care, but I have friends who have been fighting tooth and nail to get it. Gender affirming care gives them hope. It gives them the chance to look like what they see themselves as. It gives them hope that they can feel comfortable enough to go bars, concerts, and other events. It gives them hope to live their life the way they are.

17 states and the District of Columbia already have such laws in place, and it is vital that Hawaii ensures similar protections are put into place here.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lana Joy Kinghan

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:26:45 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:33:51 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I humbly oppose SB1150. I believe that the protection of minors is of utmost importance and should be prioritized. Hawaii should also support policies that protect parental rights in the medical decision-making of minors.

More states are creating laws to outlaw this practice against minor children, and Hawaii should not join the ones that encourage any practice that could harm a child permanently. These gender-transition procedures are often permanent and life-changing. They block natural puberty, drastically change hormone levels, and can even involve the removal of healthy body parts and organs.

Minors may not fully understand the ramifications of their decisions. Thank you for your consideration.

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:34:38 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jyen Jones	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote **YES** and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Jyen Jones  
Honolulu, HI

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:37:35 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
takiguchi@gmail.com	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,  
Michelle Takiguchi  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 10:59:49 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Tara Malia Gregory	Individual	Oppose	In Person

Comments:

I STRONGLY OPPOSE THIS BILL. I will be testifying specifics in person. Mahalo.

**LATE**

Testimony in Support of SB1150

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to express my strong support for Senate Bill 1150, which seeks to expand protections to include gender-affirming health care services and clarify jurisdictional matters under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act.

As someone who works directly with youth and young adults, including those in the LGBTQ+ community, I have seen firsthand how critical gender-affirming care is for their mental well-being and overall health. Many of the young people I work with face significant barriers to accessing affirming care, and those who do receive it often experience marked improvements in their mental health, self-esteem, and ability to thrive in their communities.

Support for Gender-Affirming Health Care Services:

Gender-affirming health care is essential for the well-being of transgender and non-binary individuals. By explicitly including these services under the protections established by Act 2, SB1150 ensures that individuals seeking such care are safeguarded against discrimination and legal challenges. This inclusion aligns with Hawaii's commitment to equality and the protection of individual rights.

Clarification of Jurisdictional Matters:

SB1150 provides necessary clarity regarding jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act in cases involving children receiving gender-affirming health care services. This clarification is crucial to prevent legal conflicts and to ensure that the best interests of the child are prioritized, especially when such care is not accessible in their home state.

Conclusion:

By passing SB1150, Hawaii will reaffirm its dedication to protecting the rights and well-being of all its residents, particularly those seeking essential health care services. The young people I work with deserve the right to access the care they need without fear of legal repercussions or discrimination. I urge the committee to support this bill and recommend its passage.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Sugki Suguitan

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:07:18 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Lim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act, which safeguards the right to gender-affirming health care in Hawai‘i. This bill is essential to protecting health care providers and individuals from out-of-state legal actions threatening access to medically necessary care.

Gender-affirming health care is widely recognized by medical and psychological organizations, including the American Academy of Pediatrics, the American Medical Association, and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health, as essential for the well-being of transgender and nonbinary individuals. The state should not allow laws from other jurisdictions to undermine the rights of Hawai‘i’s residents to receive lawful health care.

This legislation ensures that our state remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy and medical privacy, rejecting the influence of restrictive laws from other states that seek to punish people for seeking or providing care. I strongly urge you to pass this bill and continue Hawai‘i’s leadership in defending human rights and medical freedom.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Lim

Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/10/2025 11:28:10 PM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nashielly camacho	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a community member, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nashielly Camacho  
Honolulu, Hawai'i

**LATE**

Senate Committee on Health and Human Services; and Commerce and Consumer Protections  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 329  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Hearing: Tuesday, February 11, 2025, at 9:45 AM

RE: Strong Support for Senate Bill 1150

Aloha Chair San Buenaventura, Chair Keohokalole, and committee members,

I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1150. I am a member of the Ala Moana - Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board and a member of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i. This testimony comes solely from myself.

Over the last 22 days we have seen an unprecedented number of attacks against members of our transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community from the federal government and other state and local governments who seek to restrict gender affirming health care in our own state. These are politically motivated attacks that put lives at risk. We can not let these out of state actors dictate the medical treatments of our residents. SB 1150 helps greatly in protecting those who seek gender affirming care from these out-of-state legal attacks.

Our state needs to take a stand to protect our transgender, Māhū, and non-binary keiki and adults. Our state prides itself in Aloha. I have always taken that not only to mean showing kindness to one another, but also helping and protecting one another from those who wish us harm.

SB 1150 shows that our state stands with, and protects, members of our transgender, Māhū, and non-binary community who need this life saving care. I urge this committee to pass SB 1150.

Dale VanderBrink  
Ala Moana Kaka'ako Neighborhood Board Member  
Member of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:15:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laulani Teale	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I recognize that this is a complex issue that should be considered from many perspectives. I am definitely not a fan of rushing into any medical decisions.

However, I have two māhū children. I have seen up close the devastating effects of transphobia, and have seen ‘ōpio lost to this kind of bigotry. So many.

I support this measure. I do not want to see any more children die. The ones I have seen are too much.

Aloha

Laulani

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:21:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Allison Shiozaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e Members of the Committee on Health and Human Services and Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

Mahalo for your service to the community. My name is Allison Shiozaki and I am writing today to strongly support this bill, SB 1150. Members of the LGBTQ+ community are again attempted to being erased at the federal level, which are acts of violence, and we here in Hawai'i can ground deeply with the knowledge that māhū have always been a part of community. We must ensure their equal protection and rights to receive medical care and support without discrimination. Gender affirming care saves lives.

Protect Trans Youth and Adults, by ensuring their care and protection to grow into Kupuna we need.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Allison Shiozaki

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 12:47:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Roshy Hafezi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Roshy Hafezi, and I am a resident of West Maui. I am submitting my testimony in support of SB1150.

I am deeply concerned about the safety and well-being of our transgender youth. If they cannot be safe in Hawai'i, a state known for its cultural history of respect and acceptance for Māhū, then they cannot be safe anywhere.

Gender-affirming care is medically supported and recommended by over 1.6 million doctors. It provides a safe and reversible option that allows youth time and space to explore their identity, preventing the permanent consequences of undergoing a puberty that may not align with who they are. Timely access to puberty blockers reduces the significantly higher risks of depression, anxiety, and suicidal ideation faced by transgender youth, and it can spare them the need for lifelong treatments to reverse physical changes that could have been prevented.

This is about giving our children a chance to grow into the healthiest and happiest versions of themselves. Please vote to pass SB1150 and protect the well-being of our keiki.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 1:07:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mei Travis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Mei Travis

Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:00:36 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I oppose SB1150. Children's natural gender at birth should not be tampered with. Period!

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 5:17:41 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly oppose this bill.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:17:07 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kelli McLeod	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**I support SB1150. This bill ensures that people are able to access necessary health care. Health care services relating to both reproductive and gender-affirming care can mean life or death for some patients, and it is imperative that Hawai'i protect those who need to access such services. The medical professionals and other people who assist these patients in getting the information and care they need must also be protected, to allow them to provide this important care.**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:20:01 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicole Harrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and members of the Committee'

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawaii have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions this bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy and respect for all individuals. As a former health care provider I have seen the importance of providing care. No one should fear legal action for seeking or providing care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Nicole Harrison

Kailua Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 7:47:13 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kathryn Troyan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, esteemed members of the committee,

I speak today in unwavering support of SB 1150, a bill that extends life-saving protections to those seeking gender-affirming care. This is not just legislation; it is a shield against suffering, a declaration that dignity belongs to all.

The numbers speak with urgency: 82% of transgender individuals have considered suicide, yet access to gender-affirming care reduces that risk by 73%. When given the chance to live as their true selves, trans youth experience a 60% decrease in depression. These are not just statistics—they are lives lifted from the brink, futures reclaimed from despair.

Gender-affirming care is not controversial; it is compassionate. It is endorsed by every major medical association, including the AMA, AAP, and APA. It is not a debate—it is a duty.

Gender affirming care also affects CIS people and can include breast reduction in boys and men who develop breast tissue. Breast reduction for girls and women whose backs are affected by overdevelopment of their chest. Puberty blockers for girls who would begin puberty at inappropriately young ages.

SB 1150 does not just protect health care; it protects hope. It ensures that no one is denied the right to exist in their own skin, free from fear, free to thrive. I urge you to stand on the side of justice, of humanity, of life itself. Pass SB 1150.

Thank you,  
Kathryn Troyan

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:04:08 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Haaheo Zablan	Testifying for Hawai'i LGBT Legacy Foundation	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Hawai'i Senate Bill 1150 is a critical piece of legislation that supports the rights and well-being of māhū, transgender and gender-diverse individuals by ensuring access to essential gender-affirming care. This bill recognizes the fundamental importance of providing medical and psychological support for individuals seeking to align their physical bodies with their gender identity, which is crucial for their mental health and overall quality of life. Research consistently shows that access to gender-affirming treatments reduces rates of anxiety, depression, and suicidal ideation among transgender individuals, thereby fostering a healthier and more inclusive community. By passing this bill, Hawai'i can take a significant step toward affirming the dignity, autonomy, and humanity of all its residents, affirming their right to make informed choices about their own bodies. Ultimately, supporting Senate Bill 1150 is not just a matter of healthcare access—it is a powerful affirmation of equality, respect, and compassion for all individuals, regardless of gender identity. Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:11:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly OPPOSE SB1150 that will allow a free pass to kidnap minors under the guise of "Health Care".

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:14:48 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marcel Henrique Rosa Machado	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support** of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai‘i, including transgender and nonbinary residents, can access gender-affirming health care **without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions**.

As an **asylee who fled Brazil due to political persecution**, I know firsthand what it means to fear for one’s safety simply for existing. When I arrived in the U.S., I was finally able to access **gender-affirming care in California and later here in Hawai‘i**—a life-changing experience that **allowed me to live authentically, heal from past trauma, and find stability in my new home**. Without access to this care, I would not be the person I am today.

Now, as a **licensed massage therapist specializing in post-operative care**, I work closely with transgender individuals recovering from gender-affirming surgeries. I have seen **the profound relief, healing, and self-acceptance** that come with receiving necessary medical care. These procedures are not just cosmetic or elective—they are **lifesaving**. Medical professionals, including the **American Medical Association and the World Professional Association for Transgender Health**, affirm that gender-affirming care reduces **suicide risk, depression, and anxiety** among transgender individuals.

Hawai‘i has always been a place of **aloha and inclusion**, and this bill ensures that **no one in our state has to live in fear for seeking or providing lawful, necessary medical care**. We must take a stand against harmful out-of-state policies that threaten the rights and well-being of our residents. I urge you to **pass this legislation** and ensure that Hawai‘i remains a sanctuary for bodily autonomy, medical privacy, and human dignity.

Mahalo for your time and commitment to protecting the rights of all Hawai‘i residents.

**Sincerely,**

Marcel Henrique Rosa Machado

Honolulu, Hawai‘i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:20:22 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB1150 involves the state of Hawai'i in allowing potential kidnappers to have asylum. It makes it possible for Human traffickers to receive carte blanche for their crime of kidnapping and denies parents/gaurdians their right of property under the constitution for the united states of America. vote no to SB1150

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:30:43 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly Oppose SB1150

Paul Giles

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:35:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

I do not think that 14-16-year-olds should be able to access this "care" without parental consent. Citizens cannot vote until 18 as they are not considered adults. This allows a child to make a decision that will affect them for the rest of their lives.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:39:44 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

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

Comments:

Oppose.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:40:02 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Krizia Lugaro	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

My name is Krizia Lúgaro, and I am the Outreach Coordinator at Spill The Tea Cafe, a mental health clinic serving nearly 600 LGBTQIA+ youth. I am also the sister of a transgender individual, so this issue is personal to me.

I strongly support this bill because gender-affirming health care saves lives. Every day, I see the impact of affirming care when youth have access, they thrive. When they dont, their mental health suffers, and the risk of self-harm and suicide increases.

This isn't political. Gender-affirming care is evidence-based, medically necessary, and supported by major health organizations. We must protect our youth's right to the care they need to live as their authentic selves.

Please pass this bill and show our LGBTQIA+ youth that Hawaii stands with them.

Mahalo.

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:48:04 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ami kikuchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in strong support of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a non-binary person, I have seen and experienced firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. I am proof that it can help individuals immensely and continue to live in this life. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Ami kikuchi  
[Honolulu, Hawai'i]

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:49:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
nanea marston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**I am a native Hawaiian resident, mother, business owner and committed community member. I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of this bill to make sure ALL of our people in Hawai'i CONTINUE to have access to gender-affirming health care WITHOUT fear of MORE DISCRIMINATION or any legal repercussions.**

**We should not have to question whether to support this bill. If we care about our people here in Hawaii like we say we do. Gender-affirming care HURTS no one, it only discriminates against the most vulnerable among us. We have to be better than this.**

**As a parent of a transgender child, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care.**

**No one should have to live in fear. Transgender children live in fear every single day just for existing. To take away access to their health care is cruel and strange. You have an opportunity to help and protect them. Whether you personally agree or not, it is your responsibility to protect them and their lives. Their access to gender affirming care hurts no one, but denying access to it HURTS THEM.**

**Please think about the most vulnerable in our community. The discrimination they have already faced, the discrimination they will continue to face and vote to protect human lives.**

**Please please please I beg you to pass this bill to protect some basic human rights of our people. We are asking humbly and desperately for protection.**

**Sincerely,**

**Nanea Marston**

**Hanalei, Kaua'i**



**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 8:56:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alireza Ali	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

*My name is Alireza Ali, and I am a resident of Maui. I am submitting my testimony in support of SB1150.*

*Gender affirming care for youth is not about making quick, permanent decisions. It is about giving young people the opportunity to take time and explore who they are with the guidance of medical professionals. Treatments like puberty blockers are safe, reversible, and medically recommended. They prevent serious mental health struggles that often arise when youth are forced to undergo changes that do not align with their identity and cannot be undone.*

*Transgender youth who receive affirming care experience reduced anxiety, lower depression rates, and a greater chance at thriving. Denying this care increases the risk of long-term health issues, suicidal ideation, and emotional distress, consequences we have the power to prevent.*

*Passing SB1150 is about creating a safer, more compassionate future for all our keiki. I respectfully urge you to support this bill and help ensure our youth have access to the care they need and deserve.*

*Mahalo for your time and thoughtful consideration.*

**LATE**

Hāwī, HI, 02/11/2025

Re: SB 1150-2025: Relating to Health Care

Aloha Kākou,

My name is Trijntje Elmer of Hāwī, Hawai‘i.

I would like to submit my testimony in support of bill SB 1150 pertaining to health care.

As a mother especially and as a citizen in general, it is important to me that access to gender affirming healthcare remains safe and accessible for them that need it in the State of Hawai‘i, and that the children of Hawai‘i remain protected against laws of another state that would authorize a state agency to remove a child from a parent or guardian based on the parent or guardian allowing the child to receive gender-affirming healthcare services. This would clearly be Law contrary to the public policy of this State, Hawai‘i, and I support extra protections to be put in place to guarantee this access.

When medical treatment is provided with a standardized multidisciplinary assessment and treatment process, through informed consent and ongoing monitoring and psychosocial support, this medical decision should remain between that person and their medical team.

This particular type of care is a critical and lifesaving component in in improving a person’s quality of life. When seeing a person change from a scared individual with suicidal ideation to a well rounded and socially outgoing individual, happy in their skin and body, doing well in school and outside, with a zest for life and with a high level of identity integrity, how disastrous and traumatizing would it be if this life would be threatened with removal from the family, because of receiving gender-affirming healthcare services.

I would like Chapter 583A, Hawai‘i Revised Statutes, to be amended by adding this new section, as to include gender-affirming healthcare services.

Mahalo nui loa,

Trijntje H Elmer

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:04:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nanea Lo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Nanea Lo, and I am submitting testimony in **strong support of SB 1150**, which expands the protections established under Act 2, SLH 2023, to ensure that gender-affirming health care services are safeguarded in Hawai‘i. This bill also clarifies jurisdiction under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act to protect children and families seeking gender-affirming care.

We must protect our trans, māhū, and non-binary community members, as well as the health care providers who offer these essential services. Gender-affirming care is life-saving, and no one should have to fear criminalization, discrimination, or denial of access to the care they need.

**Why SB 1150 is Necessary**

 **Protecting Gender-Affirming Care Providers & Access**

SB 1150 ensures that medical providers who offer gender-affirming health care can continue their work without fear of legal repercussions. It also protects individuals and families seeking this care from out-of-state legal threats.

 **Clarifying Legal Protections for Families & Children**

Transgender youth and their families deserve security and clarity when seeking health care. This bill strengthens legal protections under the Uniform Child-Custody Jurisdiction and Enforcement Act, preventing discrimination and unnecessary legal barriers.

 **Affirming Our Commitment to Equality & Safety**

Hawai‘i has long been a place that uplifts and respects its māhū community. SB 1150 reaffirms this commitment by ensuring our laws reflect our values of inclusion, dignity, and care for all people.

At a time when transgender rights are under attack across the continent, Hawai‘i has the opportunity to lead with aloha by standing firmly in support of gender-affirming health care. I urge you to pass SB 1150 to protect our trans, māhū, and non-binary ‘ohana and ensure that all people in Hawai‘i can access the care they need without fear.

Me ke aloha 'āina,

**Nanea Lo**

Mō'ili'ili, HI 96826

Sierra Club of Hawai'i Executive Committee Member

Board Member, Hawai'i Workers Center

Kanaka Maoli / Lineal Descendant of the Hawaiian Kingdom

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:08:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Becky Britton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Becky Britton  
Wainiha, Hawai

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:09:25 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Rene Kehau Schofield	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in **strong support** of the Health Care Access Protection Act, which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a retired educator for over 30 years, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Rene Kehau Schofield  
Pahoa, Hawaii 96778

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:10:28 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dyani Cantu	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Hello Chair, Vice Chair, and Committee members,**

**I am in strong support of SB1150 related to Gender-Affirming Health Care Services; Protections; and Child Custody. I am a 2 spirit individual, a part of the LGBTQ+ community. We should support medical providers, mental health professionals, and parents providing gender affirming care.**

**Protecting medical providers and parents from legal action for helping a child receive gender affirming care, ensures that licensed medical providers in the state of Hawai'i can offer gender-affirming care at their facility, subsequently giving a child safe, medically-accredited, options to transition. There are already limited options in Hawai'i for gender affirming healthcare, so let's help make sure that providers feel comfortable providing those options for youth and their parents.**

**Additionally, protecting parents from custody interference by an agency for helping their child receive gender-affirming care is important because transitioning is not a crime nor considered child abuse. In fact, in the Supreme Court of the British Columbia, it was actually ruled that misgendering your child and preventing them from getting gender-affirming care can be considered family violence.**

**Regardless of your political affiliation or belief on trans people, we all know that transgender children will continue to exist. We need to ensure that they are getting access to legitimate, safe options to transition.**

**Mahalo for your consideration,**

**Dyani Cantu**

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:12:31 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Amanda C	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is Amanda, and I am a medical student graduating to become a pediatrician in May 2025. I am writing in strong support of SB1150, which seeks to protect access to gender-affirming care for youth in our state.

As a future pediatrician training in Hawaii, I have had the privilege of caring for transgender and gender-diverse youth who are navigating complex medical and social challenges. I have seen firsthand how gender-affirming care—including social support, mental health services, and, when appropriate, medical interventions—can be life-changing and, in many cases, lifesaving. When starting cross hormonal therapy in clinic, I have had the privilege of hearing my patients say, "I have been waiting for this day forever." These encounters have been some of the most rewarding of my early medical career so far. More importantly, it shows how access to safe gender-affirming care has quite literally changed my patients lives for the better. Research consistently shows that gender-affirming care reduces rates of depression, anxiety, and suicide among transgender youth. Denying or restricting this care places vulnerable young people at serious risk.

Hawaii has always been a place of inclusion, respect, and aloha. Passing SB1150 ensures that all keiki—regardless of gender identity—receive the evidence-based medical care they need without fear of discrimination or political interference. As medical professionals, we are committed to providing care that aligns with the best available science and the needs of our patients. Protecting gender-affirming care is not just a medical issue; it is a matter of human rights and public health.

I urge you to pass SB1150 to uphold Hawaii's commitment to supporting and protecting its youth. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Mahalo,  
Amanda

Medical Student, Univ. of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:13:26 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brigitte Leilani Axelrode	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to strongly support the Health Care Access Protection Act. This bill is a necessary safeguard to ensure that Hawai'i remains a place where people can access lawful, evidence-based health care without fear of retaliation.

Laws in other states that target transgender individuals and their families are dangerous and harmful. No parent should be criminalized for allowing their child to receive the medical care recommended by doctors. No healthcare provider should face legal threats for providing ethical, lifesaving treatment.

This bill sends a clear message: Hawai'i will not enforce unjust laws from other states that attack the rights of transgender individuals. We must take a stand and protect our residents from these discriminatory policies.

I urge you to vote YES and ensure that gender-affirming care remains accessible, protected, and free from political interference in Hawai'i.

Mahalo for your support of this critical issue.

Sincerely,

Brigitte Axelrode

Honolulu, Hawaii

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:13:59 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lily Hoang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 7, 2025

RE: SB1150

To the members of the Health and Human Services committee:

I am writing in support of SB1150, the Health Care Access Protection Act. which ensures that all individuals in Hawai'i have access to gender-affirming health care and reproductive health access without fear of discrimination or legal repercussions. This bill upholds our state's values of inclusion, bodily autonomy, and respect for all individuals.

As a transgender woman and an office manager for a Gender Affirming Care clinic, I have seen firsthand the importance of gender-affirming care for transgender and nonbinary individuals. Medical professionals overwhelmingly agree that such care improves mental health outcomes and overall well-being. No one should have to fear legal action for seeking or providing medically necessary care. I myself have had a transformation after receiving gender affirming care and continue to see more of the patients I work with become their true selves and how excited they are to begin this part of their lives as they come into our office.

Hawai'i has a proud history of protecting its residents from harmful out-of-state policies, and this bill continues that tradition by ensuring that no one in our state is penalized for accessing or providing lawful health care. I urge you to pass this critical legislation and reaffirm our commitment to protecting our community members.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Lily Hoang

Kailua, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**SB-1150**

Submitted on: 2/11/2025 9:30:09 AM

Testimony for HHS on 2/11/2025 9:45:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Carol D. Yokoyama	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Senators,**

**Please strongly OPPOSE SB 1150, Relating to Health Care.**

**This bill is so unthinkable and does not protect our children. Actually, it can cause harm to our children, and it can be very devastating and have lifetime effects. Parents or legal guardians have legal custody over their children, they get to make all the medical decisions, not this state. A person can decide starting at the age of 18 whatever medical decisions are best for them.**

**Children are very impressionable. Many children see and do what others are doing and follow suit. In going through the teenager stage, bodies are changing, and it's a very confusing time. These are just a couple of reasons why we should never transition kids.**

**Children cannot comprehend the long term effects of bad decisions which could then lead them to depression or suicidal tendencies.**

**Would our tax dollars pay for the unthinkable care proposed in SB1150?**

**Please strongly OPPOSE SB1150.**