



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2054 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Ke Kōmike 'Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho'okolokolo
(Senate Committee on Judiciary)
Hawai'i State Capitol

Pepeluali 26, 2026

10:00 AM

Lumi 016

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Chang, a me Members of Ke Kōmike 'Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho'okolokolo:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS SB2054 SD1** which clarifies the Hawai'i National Guard may not be used to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or another state's National Guard operating in Hawai'i when the Governor has objected to that deployment. OHA supports measures that preserve clear lines of state authority, democratic accountability, and community trust in the use of military and law enforcement resources within Hawai'i.

For Native Hawaiian communities and other historically over-policed or disproportionately impacted populations, clarity and restraint in the use of military-style forces in civilian contexts is especially important to maintaining public trust and preventing unnecessary escalation. Hawai'i's history, including the overthrow and the long legacy of militarization, means that deployments of armed forces in civilian contexts can have an outsized impact on community trust, particularly among Kānaka Maoli. Guard deployments can be appropriate and necessary in disasters and true emergencies, but the decision-making chain should remain transparent and accountable to the people of Hawai'i through their elected state leadership.

This bill does not interfere with deployments required by federal or state law, nor does it limit emergency response capacity; rather, it establishes a guardrail against the discretionary use of Hawai'i Guard resources to support outside deployments over the Governor's objection. This measure promotes sound governance, respects state authority within our federal system, and helps ensure that public safety operations involving military forces remain carefully controlled and locally accountable. For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS SB2054 SD1**.

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
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3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
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PHILLIP L. MALLORY III
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 2054
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

BRIGADIER GENERAL WALTER R. ROSS, JR.
DIRECTOR
JOINT STAFF, HAWAII NATIONAL GUARD

February 23, 2026

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brigadier General Walter Ross, Director of the Joint Staff, Hawaii National Guard, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

I am presenting this testimony in **OPPOSITION** to SB2054 SD1.

The primary objective of this legislation is to prevent the Hawaii National Guard from being deployed to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement agencies, or National Guard units from other states operating within Hawaii, particularly when the Governor opposes the deployment.

Should SB2054 SD1 be enacted, it would create a complex and potentially precarious situation for Hawaii National Guard Commanders and service members, exposing them to significant legal risks. These risks could manifest as both state and federal criminal liability. The dilemma arises from the legal obligation for service members to obey orders from their superiors, which stands in stark contrast to the possibility of being held accountable for those orders if they are later determined to be unlawful. For example, in recent instances of federal activations of Guardsmen pursuant to 10 U.S.C. § 12406, service members complied with the directives issued to them, even as several states sought legal remedies to challenge the orders through lawsuits. Ultimately, the Supreme Court ruled that the federal activations were improper or illegal under the provisions of 10 U.S.C. § 12406. However, it is important to highlight that this critical ruling was issued only after the Guardsmen had already executed the orders they were given, thereby placing them at substantial legal risk. Thus, SB2054 SD1 could similarly expose our Hawaii Guardsmen to state criminal liability in parallel circumstances where the legality of their actions is subsequently challenged.

Moreover, it is crucial to consider the President's role as Commander in Chief, who is vested with the authority to deploy Title 10 forces to enforce federal law under the auspices of the Federal Insurrection Act, found in 10 U.S.C. §§ 251-255. Historically, this act has been invoked

by various presidential administrations, especially during pivotal national crises, such as the Civil Rights Era. During these tumultuous years, Presidents Dwight D. Eisenhower, John F. Kennedy, and Lyndon B. Johnson invoked the Insurrection Act to deploy troops to enforce desegregation laws in Southern states. Frequently, these military deployments occurred despite strong vocal opposition from state governors and local elected officials. Notably, the military call-ups associated with the Insurrection Act were never successfully challenged in court as unlawful. However, if a state were to mount a successful legal challenge against the federal administration's actions regarding such a deployment, it could once again place our Guardsmen in a vulnerable position, exposing them to potential scrutiny and prosecution by state or federal authorities, contingent on the Supreme Court's prevailing interpretations.

In light of these substantial legal and ethical implications, I strongly urge you to consider the myriad potential consequences that the passage of SB2054 SD1 may have, not only for the Commanders and members of the Hawai'i National Guard but also for the broader governance landscape. This legislation has the potential to alter the operational dynamics of the Hawai'i National Guard, heightening uncertainty about the legal parameters within which they operate. Additionally, it warrants a thorough examination of the broader implications this bill could entail for the delicate balance of power and the relationship between state authority and federal governance. The potential passage of SB2054 SD1 could fundamentally challenge the operational readiness of the Hawai'i National Guard and may reverberate through the intricate web of state-federal relations.

For these reasons, I humbly ask for you to oppose this measure.

Brigadier General Walter R. Ross, Jr., walter.r.ross2.mil@army.mil; 808-844-6087



**TESTIMONY ON SB 2054 SD1
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY**

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 AM
Conference Room 016 or via Videoconference

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Military Affairs Council ("MAC") offers comments on SB 2054 SD1.

The MAC was established in 1985 when the Chamber was appointed by the State to serve as the liaison to the military. The MAC advocates on behalf of Hawaii's military, and is comprised of business leaders, academic institutions, State and County officials, members of the CODEL, community leaders, labor unions and organizations and retired U.S. flag and general officers. The MAC works to support Hawaii's location as a strategic U.S. headquarters in the Indo-Asia-Pacific region which is crucial for U.S. national and homeland security.

This is an emotional and sensitive issue, not only for Hawai'i but for cities and states across the nation that are grappling with questions about the proper balance of state authority, federal authority, and the role of the National Guard. These debates touch on constitutional boundaries, community trust, and the real-world consequences for the men and women who serve.

While we appreciate the intent of this measure, if enacted, SB 2054 SD1 could place Hawai'i National Guardsmen and women in an impossible position. If federal authorities activate the Guard under existing federal law, service members are legally obligated to follow those orders. SB 2054 SD1, however, creates the possibility that the State could later determine those actions were unlawful, thus exposing Guardsmen and women to state criminal liability.

Hawai'i hosts the Indo-Pacific's most critical military commands. The Guard plays a key role in that ecosystem—supporting federal missions, responding to emergencies, and serving as a bridge between state and federal authorities.



The Governor already controls whether Hawai'i National Guard forces are deployed under state authority. What the Governor cannot do and what SB 2054 SD1 attempts to change is override federal authority when the Guard is federalized. But that is a constitutional issue, not a statutory one, and should not be altered by state legislation.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB2054 SD1, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY

February 26, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports SB2054 SD1**. This bill aligns closely with the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform's core principles regarding government accountability, civil liberties, and locally accountable public safety. By requiring the Hawai'i National Guard and state military personnel to refrain from cooperating with federal or out-of-state deployments when the Governor objects, the bill ensures that state resources are used ethically, transparently, and in service of the people of Hawai'i. This upholds the Platform's commitment that government should be "of, by and for the people" and accountable to them.

The measure also strengthens checks on executive and external power, reinforcing civil liberties and protecting residents from potential overreach by federal or external forces. The Platform emphasizes the importance of preventing oppression and ensuring that public safety laws are enforced fairly, equitably, and without discrimination. By giving the Governor statutory authority over state cooperation, this bill ensures that emergency and public safety operations remain locally accountable and aligned with Hawai'i's values and priorities.

Furthermore, this measure embodies the Platform's principle that true public safety requires both accountability and community-centered governance, allowing the state to protect its residents while maintaining ethical and lawful standards.

For these reasons, this bill is consistent with the values and priorities articulated in the Democratic Party of Hawai'i Platform, and we respectfully urge the Committee to pass this measure.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of SB2054 SD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.

IN SUPPORT OF SB2054



The Libertarian Party of Hawaii strongly supports SB2054, the Defend Hawaii Bill. As Hawaii's leading voice for individual liberty, limited government, and constitutional fidelity, we have championed this measure from the start—through our Defend Hawaii campaign, activism packets, template testimonies, and direct advocacy. SB2054 prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from assisting federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state national guards in Hawaii when the Governor objects, thereby reclaiming state sovereignty over our militia and preventing its misuse in federal overreach. This is a pragmatic victory for the Bill of Rights. The government exists to protect rights, not to initiate force against the people.

We are aware of opposition from the Hawaii National Guard, including concerns in testimony that the bill could create legal risks or liabilities for commanders

and service members such as conflicts between state and federal obligations, potential exposure to prosecution or claims for non-assistance, and issues from dual-status frameworks. These concerns fundamentally misunderstand the bill's narrow and protective scope.

This measure:

- Does not compel disobedience to lawful federal orders;
- Does not apply when the Guard is federalized under Title 10 (under federal command);
- Does not interfere with actions required by existing federal or state law (with clear carve-outs);
- Does not impose new personal liabilities.

It clarifies boundaries to eliminate ambiguity and reduce risk. Limited to state-controlled units (Title 32 or state active duty) and triggered only by the Governor's explicit objection to specific in-state deployments, SB2054 aligns duties with the 10th Amendment's reservation of powers, shields Guard members from being forced into constitutionally dubious federal operations (such as those violating the 4th Amendment), and ensures they follow clear, lawful gubernatorial directives. This bill is aimed at reducing exposure rather than increasing it. Historical state refusals to assist in certain federal actions demonstrate that such assertions of authority do not lead to widespread individual jeopardy.



The 10th Amendment reserves to the state all powers not delegated to the federal government. Authority over unfederalized state militias is a core reserved power. SB2054 enforces this by preventing compelled state assistance that dilutes Hawaii's control and turns our Guard into an arm of federal agendas that may conflict with local priorities or constitutional limits.

The 2nd Amendment declares a well-regulated Militia necessary to the security of a free state. Hawaii's citizen-soldiers are dedicated to defending our islands, responding to disasters, and protecting communities. By barring unauthorized federal or out-of-state cooperation, SB2054 preserves this militia's integrity, ensuring it serves Hawaii's interests rather than being diverted to domestic enforcement or other missions that could infringe on individual rights or undermine public trust. This honors the Founders' vision of armed, self-reliant citizens as a check against tyranny.

Furthermore, SB2054 bolsters 4th Amendment protections against unreasonable searches and seizures. It prevents state resources from enabling federal actions that violate privacy and liberty. In Hawaii, with our unique cultural heritage, Native Hawaiian sensitivities to external overreach, and isolation in the Pacific, withholding Guard support from such operations is essential to safeguarding residents' rights and preventing echoes of historical injustices.

We commend the bill's sponsors for advancing this critical reform. In an era of expanding federal power, SB2054 is a step toward restoring balance: less centralized coercion, more local self-determination, and true security through constitutional limits. Hawaii can lead the nation in defending liberty by passing this bill.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii urges the committee to pass SB2054 unanimously without weakening amendments. Let us reclaim our sovereignty, honor our Constitution, and **Defend Hawaii.**

In liberty,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:53:30 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Austin Martin	Testifying for Libertarian Party of Hawaii	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Libertarian Party Testimony in Support of SB2054

Chair and Members of the Committee,

My name is Austin Martin, and I am the Chair of the Libertarian Party of Hawaii. I submit this testimony in strong support of SB2054, the Defend Hawaii Act, which amends Hawaii Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or out-of-state National Guard units operating in Hawaii when the Governor has objected to their deployments. As someone who helped draft and advance this legislation, I am proud to see it progress, even in its refined form, as it upholds the core intent of safeguarding our state's sovereignty and protecting our residents from unwarranted federal overreach.

SB2054 strengthens the Governor's authority by ensuring that our National Guard — under state control or Title 32 status — cannot be compelled to support external forces against the state's wishes, except as required by federal or state law. This provision prevents the misuse of Hawaii's military resources in operations that may conflict with local priorities, such as controversial federal enforcement actions or uninvited interventions. By clarifying these boundaries, the bill reinforces the principles of federalism embedded in the U.S. Constitution, where states retain significant control over their militias as outlined in Article I, Section 8, and the Tenth Amendment.

This legislation is a vital step toward defending Hawaii's autonomy in an era of increasing federal encroachment. Our islands have a unique history and cultural identity that deserve protection from external impositions that could disrupt community harmony or infringe on civil liberties. For instance, it could prevent scenarios where the Guard is drawn into supporting federal raids or other operations that the people of Hawaii, through their elected Governor, deem inappropriate. As libertarians, we champion limited government, individual freedoms, and the right of states to resist overreaching central authority. SB2054 aligns perfectly with these values by empowering Hawaii to say "no" to unwanted federal involvement, thereby preserving the Guard's role in serving our state—whether in disaster relief, training, or genuine emergencies—rather than advancing agendas from Washington, D.C.

This bill would not preclude legitimate mobilizations under federal law, but would certainly help to affirm and uphold our State's rights when the situation isn't so clear cut. While the final

version is more focused than initial drafts, it maintains the essential spirit of prioritizing state control and constitutional fidelity. Passing this bill will set a precedent for other states, demonstrating Hawaii's commitment to self-determination and responsible governance. It enhances public safety by ensuring our resources are allocated where they are most needed: here at home.

I urge you to vote YES on SB2054 and advance this important measure to protect Hawaii's independence and the well-being of our people.

Respectfully submitted,

Austin Martin

Chair, Libertarian Party of Hawaii



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING: Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 am, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2054, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of SB 2054, SD1**, which prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawaii when the governor has objected to the deployments.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and beyond. Born out of the August 2023 wildfires, we immediately stepped in to move aid, navigate systems alongside families, and build the trusted relationships that still anchor our work today. What began as wildfire response has grown into essential infrastructure for immigrant communities facing overlapping crises—from recovery and housing instability to shifting federal policies, increased enforcement, and rising fear. The trust we have built has given us proximity to hear stories that rarely reach these chambers.

Here on Maui, about 600 members of the Hawaii National Guard were deployed to support our community with recovery after the 2023 wildfires. They provided needed support to Maui at that time and their service here strengthened the bond of respect and appreciation that Maui residents have for the Hawaii National Guard. Unfortunately, that good will is at risk because of what we have witnessed on the mainland. For months we have seen the national guard of other states federalized and deployed in states over the objection of the state's governor. This tactic of deploying a state's national guard over the objection of the state's governor to engage in federalized activity directed at residents of their home state has upended the public perception of the guard as trusted figures engaged in disaster relief and community support in times of need. Policing their friends, family members, and neighbors at the direction of the federal government has reportedly damaged relationships between the guard and the communities they serve, impaired readiness, and lowered morale. **We support SB 2054, SD1**, because use of the national guard by the federal government over the governor's objection would undermine trust in the Hawaii National Guard, unnecessarily heighten fear in the public, and interfere with readiness of the Guard to serve its intended state and community purposes.

On Maui, we are already witnessing an erosion of trust and an increase in fear as the result of aggressive federal agents and their vastly broadened scope of activity. Community members are afraid to go to work and children are unable to go to school. We have heard stories from healthcare providers of patients forgoing critical care, and from faith leaders that people feel unable to attend religious services due to fear of confrontation by federal agents. Trust in law enforcement of all kinds, even our local police departments, has eroded as a result. **We support SB 2054, SD 1**, as an appropriate protection of the mission of the Hawaii National Guard by codifying in state law that the Hawaii National Guard not be deployed over the objection of the governor.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza'.

Veronica Mendoza
Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*
El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee

My name is Barbara Tom, and I am the Director of the Waipahu Safe Haven Immigrant/Migrant Resource Center. I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD1 relating to Public Safety and Hawai'i National Guard deployment.

Waipahu Safe Haven serves immigrant and migrant families in one of the most densely populated, low-income communities in Hawai'i. Many of the families we work with include Compact of Free Association (COFA) residents, mixed-status households, and limited English proficient community members who already experience heightened fear related to federal immigration enforcement activities.

This measure provides an important safeguard by prohibiting the Hawai'i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or another state's national guard operating in Hawai'i when the Governor has objected to the deployment.

Maintaining clear state authority over deployments within Hawai'i is essential for several reasons:

- It preserves the Governor's ability to assess local public safety needs and community impact.
- It protects Hawai'i's residents from unexpected or escalated federal enforcement actions that may not reflect local priorities.
- It helps prevent unnecessary fear and destabilization in immigrant communities.
- It reinforces Hawai'i's commitment to community-based public safety rather than militarized responses.

In Waipahu, even the perception of increased federal enforcement presence can result in families withdrawing from schools, health services, SNAP enrollment, housing assistance, and domestic violence support. When families are afraid to seek help or cooperate with local institutions, community safety declines for everyone.

This measure does not weaken legitimate public safety efforts. Rather, it ensures that decisions about deployment within our state remain aligned with Hawai'i's values, constitutional protections, and community stability.

Public safety must include trust, transparency, and respect for the diverse communities that call Hawai'i home.

Waipahu Safe Haven respectfully urges you to PASS SB2054 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,
Barbara Tom
Director



Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLC

*Alakea Corporate Tower
1100 Alakea St., Fl. 20, Suite B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813*

Senate Committee on Judiciary

Date: Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10:00 AM, CR 016

Re: Fujiwara & Rosenbaum¹ Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **S.B. 2054, S.D. 1**
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum submits this testimony in **strong support** of **S.B. 2054, S.D. 1**. We have witnessed how the exercise of military authority without democratic accountability can erode public trust, chill the exercise of constitutional rights, and cause lasting harm to communities. S.B. 2054, S.D. 1 addresses a gap in Hawai'i law that, if left unaddressed, leaves our residents vulnerable to the deployment of state resources in operations that our elected leadership has determined threaten their rights and safety.

While we support the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs in advancing this measure, we respectfully urge this Committee to amend the bill to provide a meaningful, near-term effective date. An effective date of July 1, 2050, renders this measure symbolic rather than protective. The threats this bill addresses are present now. The protections it offers should be available now.

THE HAWAII CONSTITUTION DEMANDS CIVILIAN CONTROL OF STATE MILITARY FORCES

S.B. 2054 is grounded in foundational principles of Hawai'i constitutional law. **Article V, Section 5** of the Hawai'i Constitution vests the **Governor** with authority as "**commander in chief of the armed forces of the State**" and empowers the Governor to "call out such forces to execute the laws, suppress or prevent insurrection or lawless violence or repel invasion." This is not merely an administrative designation. It is a constitutional mandate that decisions about the deployment and use of Hawai'i's armed forces rest with the state's highest elected official, who is accountable to the people of Hawai'i.

Article I, Section 16 reinforces this principle with unmistakable clarity: "**The military shall be held in strict subordination to the civil power.**" This provision reflects a bedrock commitment, inherited from centuries of constitutional development, that military force must answer to democratic governance. When National Guard commanding officers are free to assist outside military or law enforcement operations despite a formal objection from the Governor, they are not acting in subordination to the civil power. They are acting outside it. S.B. 2054 corrects this by ensuring that Guard operations remain aligned with the direction of Hawai'i's civilian leadership.

The bill operates squarely within Hawai'i's authority over its own forces. It applies only to Guard units on state active duty or Title 32 status, where the Governor's command authority is constitutionally and statutorily established. It does not purport to block any

¹ The law firm Fujiwara & Rosenbaum has worked for almost forty (40) years to defend civil rights and civil liberties in Hawai'i.

valid federal call-up under Title 10. And it expressly provides that its restrictions apply "[e]xcept as required by federal or state law," preserving compliance with any binding legal obligation. This is a measured exercise of state authority over state resources, consistent with our constitutional structure.

FEDERALIZED DEPLOYMENTS WITHOUT GUBERNATORIAL CONSENT THREATEN CIVIL RIGHTS

The Hawai'i Constitution affords its residents robust protections for civil rights and civil liberties, and those protections must inform how we govern the use of military force within our borders.

Article I, Section 6 recognizes a right to privacy that "shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest" and directs the legislature to "take affirmative steps to implement this right." **Article I, Section 7** protects the people against "unreasonable searches, seizures and invasions of privacy." The Hawai'i Supreme Court has held that these provisions "recognize[] an expectation of privacy beyond the parallel provisions in the Federal Bill of Rights" and that their purpose "is to protect individuals against intrusions by the government."

Article I, Section 5 guarantees that no person shall be "deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law" or "denied the equal protection of the laws" or "discriminated against in the exercise" of civil rights "because of race, religion, sex or ancestry."

When the Governor of Hawai'i formally objects to a federal or out-of-state military deployment, that objection typically reflects a determination that the deployment threatens these very protections. The Governor may conclude that the operation lacks adequate legal justification, that it targets vulnerable communities, that it will be conducted without appropriate safeguards, or that it will erode the trust between government and the people it serves. Under current law, even after such an objection, the Hawai'i National Guard could still lend its personnel, equipment, facilities, and data to assist the objected-to operation. S.B. 2054 closes that gap.

The joint committee report found that "when major deployments occur without local alignment, communities can experience fear, confusion, and serious civil rights concerns." This finding reflects lived experience. When armed forces operate in communities without the consent of local elected leadership, residents cannot know whether their rights will be respected, whether there is meaningful oversight, or whether there is any accountability for what happens to them. The presence of military force becomes a source of anxiety rather than security. S.B. 2054 ensures that Hawai'i's own Guard will not contribute to that dynamic when the Governor has formally objected.

USING STATE RESOURCES AGAINST THE GOVERNOR'S OBJECTION UNDERMINES DEMOCRATIC ACCOUNTABILITY

Article I, Section 1 of the Hawai'i Constitution provides that "[a]ll political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people." The Governor is the people's elected representative on matters of executive authority, including command of the state's armed forces. When the Governor speaks, the Governor speaks for the people of Hawai'i.

The joint committee report recognized that "using a state's resources, personnel, and institutions to support operations that the Governor has formally opposed undermines that state's sovereignty and accountability for the state's elected leaders." This is precisely right. If the Hawai'i National Guard can assist federal or out-of-state operations over the Governor's objection, then the Governor's constitutional role as commander in chief is hollow. The people lose the ability to hold their elected leader accountable for how their armed forces are used, because those forces are not acting under the Governor's direction.

This is **not an abstract concern**. Over the past year, the federal government has attempted to deploy National Guard forces into multiple states over the explicit objections of those states' governors. In December 2025, the United States Supreme Court refused to reinstate the administration's deployment of Guard forces in Illinois, ruling that "the Government has failed to identify a source of authority that would allow the military to execute the laws in Illinois." Federal courts in California and Oregon reached similar conclusions. **These cases demonstrate that the threat to state sovereignty is real, present, and being actively litigated.**

S.B. 2054 does not wait for Hawai'i to become the next battleground. It establishes a **clear rule in advance: when the Governor objects, Hawai'i's resources stay out**. This preserves the integrity of democratic governance and ensures that the people's elected leader retains meaningful authority over the state's armed forces.

THE NATIONAL GUARD'S CONCERNS DEMONSTRATE WHY THIS BILL IS NECESSARY

The joint committee report noted concerns raised by the **Hawai'i National Guard** that this measure "may create a complex and potentially precarious situation for Hawaii commanders and service members by exposing them to significant legal risks." The Guard warned of potential "state and federal criminal liability, stemming from the legal obligation for service members to obey orders from their superiors and the contrasting possibility for being held accountable for those orders if they are later determined to be unlawful."

These concerns deserve careful consideration. But properly understood, they support the bill rather than undermine it.

The ***Guard's testimony*** describes a world in which **service members may be caught between conflicting commands from state and federal authorities, uncertain which orders to follow, and potentially liable regardless of which path they choose**. That is precisely the **untenable situation S.B. 2054 is designed to prevent**. By establishing a clear statutory rule that Guard units on state or Title 32 status shall not assist operations the Governor has objected to, the bill removes ambiguity. It tells Guard leadership exactly what is expected. It protects service members from being placed in impossible positions. And it ensures that any conflict between state and federal authority is resolved at the level of civilian leadership, not on the backs of individual soldiers following orders.

The alternative, leaving the current ambiguity in place, is worse for everyone. Without **S.B. 2054**, a commanding officer who receives a request to assist an objected-to deployment must make a judgment call with no statutory guidance, knowing that reasonable people may disagree about the lawfulness of the operation. The bill

eliminates that uncertainty. If the Governor has objected, the answer is **no**. That clarity protects Guard members far more than the status quo.

THE INSURRECTION ACT PRECEDENT IS DISTINGUISHABLE

The committee report appropriately noted that "the President, as Commander in Chief, is vested with the authority to deploy Title 10 forces to enforce federal law under the Federal Insurrection Act" and that "[t]his authority has historically been used to deploy troops to enforce desegregation laws in Southern states, despite the vocal opposition from state governors and local elected officials."

This history deserves respect. The deployment of federal forces to *enforce Brown v. Board of Education and subsequent civil rights laws was a necessary response to state governments that were actively defying federal constitutional mandates*. When Governor Orval Faubus deployed the Arkansas National Guard to prevent Black students from entering **Little Rock** Central High School, President Eisenhower federalized the Guard and sent the 101st Airborne Division to enforce a federal court order. That use of federal authority was grounded in the Supremacy Clause, a direct judicial order, and a **state government's open defiance of constitutional rights**.

The **current deployments** that have prompted gubernatorial objections across the country **bear absolutely no resemblance to Little Rock**. They are *not enforcing federal court orders. What we saw on television in 1957 when the Little Rock Nine were integrating Central High School is not what we are seeing on television in Minnesota and elsewhere in 2026*. They are *not remedying state violations of constitutional rights*. They are, in the words of the Seventh Circuit, responses to "spirited, sustained, and occasionally violent actions of demonstrators in **protest of the federal government's immigration policies**," which "without more, does **not give rise to a danger of rebellion**." The Supreme Court then found that "the Government has failed to identify a source of authority that would allow the military to execute the laws" in Illinois and did not carry its burden to show that 10 U.S.C.S. § 12406(3) permitted the President to federalize the National Guard in the exercise of inherent authority to protect federal personnel and property in Illinois. **TRUMP V. ILLINOIS**, 146 S. Ct. 432, 223 L.Ed.2d 294 (2025).

S.B. 2054 does not purport to block a valid federal action under the Insurrection Act. It applies only to Guard forces on state or Title 32 status, and it includes an express exception for anything "required by federal or state law." **If the President lawfully federalizes Guard units under Title 10, those units are no longer subject to state command, and this bill does not apply to them.** What the bill does is ensure that Hawai'i's own resources, under Hawai'i's own authority, are not volunteered to assist operations that lack the legal justification that characterized the civil rights enforcement actions of the 1950s and 1960s.

THE EFFECTIVE DATE MUST BE AMENDED

This Committee has an opportunity to transform S.B. 2054 from a statement of principle into a meaningful protection. The current effective date of July 1, 2050, was inserted "to encourage further discussion." That discussion has now occurred. The bill passed the joint committee with bipartisan support. The concerns raised have been aired. The legal

questions have been examined. What remains is for this Legislature to decide whether it will protect the people of Hawai'i now or defer that protection for a generation.

The **threats** this bill addresses are **not hypothetical**. They are happening in other states today. The **federal government has attempted multiple deployments over gubernatorial objections in the past year alone**. There is no reason to believe Hawai'i will be exempt. Our geographic isolation, far from protecting us, may make **federal overreach more consequential** when it occurs, because our communities are small, our islands are contained, and the impact of unwanted military presence will be felt acutely.

We respectfully urge this Committee to amend S.B. 2054, S.D. 1 to provide an effective date upon approval, or at the latest, July 1, 2026. The constitutional principles at stake, civilian control of the military, protection of civil liberties, and democratic accountability, are not principles we should defer. They are principles we should affirm, clearly and without delay.

CONCLUSION

S.B. 2054 reflects values that are woven into the fabric of Hawai'i's Constitution: that military force must answer to civilian authority, that the people's rights must be protected against governmental intrusion, and that political power belongs to the people through their elected representatives. The bill is carefully drafted to respect federal authority while preserving state sovereignty. It provides clarity and protection for Guard members rather than leaving them in legal limbo. And it ensures that when the Governor of Hawai'i says no that answer means something.

We strongly support S.B. 2054, S.D. 1, and urge this Committee to pass the measure with an amended effective date that provides real and timely protection for the people of Hawai'i.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide written testimony.



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 24, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2054 and SB 2057

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. The experiences of our sister locals elsewhere in the U.S., including Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, make clear to us that it is necessary to take action to rein in ICE and DHS across the country.

We do not want our union members, their families, or anyone else in our community to be targeted, terrorized, assaulted, kidnapped, or killed by government agents or anyone else. We do not want their rights to be violated. All people should be treated with respect and dignity.

We urge your support of SB 2054 and SB 2057. These measures are important steps toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD1**

LATE

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 26, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

Our names are Megahn Chu and Alejandro Vilarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of SB2054 SD1**, which prohibits the Hawai‘i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawai‘i when the Governor has objected to the deployments.

We are partners in life and in community work, and co-founders of Mercado de la Raza, a space created to uplift and support Hawai‘i’s Latino community. Beyond operating a small business, we have worked together to connect families with critical resources during times of crisis — including helping Latino residents navigate aid and support during the Lahaina fires and assisting community members affected by the recent government shutdown. Mercado de la Raza also serves as a gathering place for Latino families and a platform for local Latino entrepreneurs to showcase and grow their businesses. Through this work, we are deeply connected to and invested in the well-being, safety, and dignity of our community.

SB2054 SD1 reinforces local accountability and ensures Hawai‘i resources are not used to support deployments Hawai‘i’s elected leadership has formally objected to. When outside forces operate in our communities, clear limits help prevent escalation, confusion, and fear, and they strengthen public trust that decisions reflect Hawai‘i’s needs and values.

This bill provides a straightforward safeguard and helps prevent mission creep where “support” roles can expand without clear boundaries. It also protects the integrity of the Hawai‘i National Guard’s mission by ensuring deployments align with Hawai‘i’s leadership when there is an objection.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2054 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
Mercado de La Raza
808.593.2226



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

LATE

Testimony of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

In SUPPORT of SB2054

Relating to Public Safety

Hearing: Tuesday, February 26, 2026, 10:00 (JDC), Room 016 & Videoconference

Aloha Chairs Rhoads, Vice Chairs Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is **Liza Ryan Gill**, and I submit this testimony **on behalf of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) in strong support of SB2054 SD1.**

HCIR is a statewide coalition of immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai‘i’s shared future. SB2054 is an important public safety and governance measure that reinforces state sovereignty, democratic accountability, and community trust.

SB2054 SD1 amends Hawai‘i Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit the Hawai‘i National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the National Guard of another state operating in Hawai‘i **when the Governor has formally objected to those deployments.** This clear statutory boundary ensures that Hawai‘i’s resources are not used to support operations that lack alignment with the State’s elected leadership.

This bill matters because large-scale deployments—particularly those involving federal law enforcement—can generate fear, confusion, and serious civil-rights concerns within communities. Immigrant and migrant communities are especially vulnerable to the chilling effects of perceived militarization or escalated enforcement activity. SB2054 provides clarity and reassurance by affirming that, when the Governor objects, Hawai‘i’s National Guard will not be used as a support arm for that contested deployment.

SB2054 SD1 is fundamentally a governance and accountability bill. It respects the Guard’s mission to serve Hawai‘i’s emergency and disaster response needs, while preventing mission creep into disputed federal or out-of-state operations. It also provides straightforward guidance to Guard leadership, promotes transparency for the public, and preserves community trust by clearly defining the limits of state cooperation.

For these reasons, the **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committee to PASS SB2054 SD1.**

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Liza Ryan Gill

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)



LATE

Committee: Senate Judiciary
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February 26, 2026, at 10:00am
Place: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference
Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of SB2054 SD1, Relating to Public Safety**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) writes in **support of SB2054 SD1**, which would prohibit the Hawai'i National Guard from being commandeered to serve federal operations that run counter to the safety and interests of Hawai'i's communities.

Throughout the continent, we have witnessed President Trump deploy troops and militarized federal agents into cities to scare our communities.¹ This blending of law enforcement agencies with military units in a single deportation force is a recipe for the abuse of civil rights – including excessive use of force, racial profiling, and illegal detention.

In Hawai'i, we have seen federal agents taking our immigrant neighbors.² Immigration enforcement has spiked in Hawai'i as compared to previous years: between January 20, 2025 and October 15, 2025, detainers nearly doubled, administrative arrests more than tripled, and detention stays nearly tripled, as compared to the same period in 2024.³ We know that throughout the country, most people being held in detention have not been convicted of a crime.⁴

We must prevent our local authorities, including the Hawai'i National Guard, from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and hurting our communities. Our state and local policies

¹ Planas R and Witherspoon A. (2026, January 28). The federal agents deployed in Trump's immigration crackdown – visualized. The Guardian. <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2026/jan/19/donald-trump-immigration-crackdown>

² Leonard, M. (2026, January 6). Hawai'i ICE arrests and detentions in 2025 spiked from year before. Honolulu Civil Beat. <https://www.civilbeat.org/2026/01/hawaii-ice-arrests-detentions-2025-far-exceed-2024/>

³ Hausman, D. (2025). "U.S. immigration enforcement data." California Law Review Online, 16 (13).

⁴ Hausman, D. (2025).

should ensure our law enforcement agencies do not support this gross federal overreach.

It is our kuleana to protect our neighbors' rights to live without fear. For the above reasons, we respectfully request that you pass SB2054 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai'i

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.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:47:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sherry Pollack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB2054 SD1 that prohibits the Hawai'i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawai'i when the governor has objected to the deployments. We've already seen on the continent where the National Guard was brought in to a state/city against the wishes of the Governor, Mayor, and people living in the community, and the horrific results that followed. Please pass this important measure to help prevent similar tragedies from occurring on our islands. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:24:33 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Carson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill, which helps preserve our state's integrity and public policies regarding law enforcement. Our National Guard trips are putting their lies in danger and should not be asked to do so where the federal government is asking for their deployment in circumstances that our governor objects to the deployment.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:17:55 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2054.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:46:15 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support SB2054.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:57:03 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mark Van Horne	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:13:59 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nicholas Zehr	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB2054 because it reinforces democratic accountability, constitutional governance, and community-centered public safety, values that should unite legislators across the political spectrum.

At its core, this bill affirms a simple but vital principle: decisions about the deployment and use of the Hawai‘i National Guard within our state should remain accountable to Hawai‘i’s elected leadership and the people they serve. SB2054 ensures that when the Governor objects to an out-of-state National Guard deployment or the use of federal troops or federal law enforcement within Hawai‘i, state military resources are not compelled to assist in those operations unless required by law.

This is not a rejection of emergency response, disaster relief, or mutual aid. The bill explicitly preserves the Governor’s broad authority to activate the Guard for emergencies, civil defense, disaster response, and assistance under the Emergency Management Assistance Compact. SB2054 simply draws a clear line between legitimate, consent-based cooperation and the use of state resources in operations that lack the approval of Hawai‘i’s chief executive.

From a constitutional perspective, SB2054 is well grounded. The U.S. Constitution reserves significant authority over state militias to the states, except where Congress has clearly exercised its enumerated powers. By reaffirming this balance, the bill protects federalism, prevents jurisdictional overreach, and reduces the risk of confusion or escalation during sensitive operations involving armed personnel.

From a public trust standpoint, the bill is equally important. In recent years, the deployment of military or militarized forces without clear local consent has raised concerns nationwide about transparency, legitimacy, and civil liberties. SB2054 helps ensure that any use of force within Hawai‘i’s communities reflects local values, clear lines of accountability, and democratic oversight; key ingredients for maintaining public confidence in public safety institutions.

Notably, legislation with similar intent has gained bipartisan traction in other states, supported by organizations across the ideological spectrum. This underscores that SB2054 is not partisan or ideological; it is a prudent governance measure that respects state authority, constitutional structure, and the principle that armed forces operating within a state should do so with the consent of that state’s elected leadership.

For these reasons, SB2054 deserves strong support. It strengthens public safety, protects civil authority, and affirms Hawai‘i’s right to self-governance within our federal system. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:06:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gaye Chan	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2054 will provide one defense against federal overreach. I strongly urge its passage.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:52:44 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Darryl Nordstrom	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Darryl Nordstrom

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:44:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Bonk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Please do not allow our National Guard to become a political pawn or put them in the potential position of harming their own communities.
As a combat veteran I strongly support this bill.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:45:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lynne matusow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support. Our national guard members should not be forced to conduct operations such as have been done in mainland cities, with Minneapolis the prime example. The governor gets to decide, not Trump, not Noem, or anyone else.

Please move this bill forward.

lynne matusow

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:19:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Danielle Goren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both as a resident of Lahaina and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network.

This Bill would amend Hawaii Revised Statutes §121-30 to prohibit Hawai'i National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawai'i if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members.

Hawai'i must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 gives us one crucial tool of defense against the federal overreach and power that the administration is using to abuse our nation's citizens in violation of the Constitution. Please do your part in protecting our fragile democracy by passing SB2054.

Thank you for your commitment to our democracy,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, Hawai'i

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:34:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James E Raymond	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you -- I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:42:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elizabeth Kamida	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

Hawaii must act now to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:04:01 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Elli Pace	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill affirms the authority of Hawai‘i’s elected leadership to make decisions that directly affect our communities. When the Governor objects to a deployment within our state, that objection should carry meaningful weight. This measure strengthens state sovereignty, reinforces civilian oversight, and ensures that decisions involving military support in Hawai‘i reflect the will and best interests of our residents.

Clear lines of authority are essential to maintaining public trust. By establishing guardrails around deployments over gubernatorial objection, this bill promotes accountability, transparency, and respect for local governance.

For these reasons, I urge you to pass this measure.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:19:04 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Morrison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Gail Morrison

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:17:27 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Muftiah Martin	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people.

As we have seen, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

I strongly urge its passage.

Mahalo for receiving my testimony.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:27:39 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy D Moser	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:51:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Vivian S. Toellner	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:15:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of SB2054 SD1. I believe codifying into state law a statute which helps guard against federal overreach and allows the governor to have agency in this matter. Mahalo for your consideration.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:04:09 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Terry McDonald	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This is a common sense requirement, If our governor disagrees, then we say NO to deployment of the Hawaiian Guard. Period. BUT, he may need this law to give him the strength to stand up to the over reaching Federal government. Pass swiftly please

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:17:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Calvin Black	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

This bill reinforces the principle that Hawaii's military resources should be deployed to protect its communities, not to support external operations that may not align with state priorities or public safety needs. By placing this authority firmly in the hands of the governor, SB2054 SD1 ensures accountability, prevents mission creep, and upholds Hawaii's right to self-determination in times of crisis. As an individual and a member of Indivisible, I support this bill and urge its passage.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
February 24, 2026

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha, Senators,

**I am writing this testimony in support of SB2054 SD1, "Relating to Public Safety"
(Limiting Hawai'i National Guard Deployment).**

Only **the Governor of Hawai'i, or his or her designated representative**, can be empowered to decide if and when the **Hawai'i National Guard** should be deployed. The Guard must not be deployed for any reason other than one specified by the Governor, and the Governor should **specify what the reason is and indicate, when possible, how long the Guard will be used for this purpose. There must be no deployment of the Hawai'i National Guard against the Governor's wishes or without his express permission.**

We citizens need you, our legislators, to act on this now, before any crisis comes to our island home, to protect the Guard and the people of Hawai'i from any unlawful, unconstitutional, or other sort of overreach of the federal government or any other government.

We citizens need the assurance that any decision to deploy the **Hawai'i National Guard comes from someone here in the islands who has the authority to do so.**

Please vote in favor of **SB2054 SD1**.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:18:06 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Rowe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill prohibiting National Guard deployment in the state without the governor's approval.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:31:54 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Cassidy Hollenbeck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:23:21 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Collat	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Aloha, Michael

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:37:48 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

SB2054 LIMITS NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Mary Leigh Knittle

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:09:25 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
William Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I am testifying in strong support of SB2054, which provides a vital and necessary clarification to state law by prohibiting the Hawai‘i National Guard from assisting or cooperating with federal troops, federal law enforcement, or another state's National Guard when the Governor has formally objected to their deployment within our islands.

This bill is fundamentally about sovereignty, democratic accountability, and the protection of community trust. The Hawai‘i National Guard is a state institution, funded and maintained by the people of Hawai‘i to serve our specific safety and emergency needs. Its mission is to protect our communities, not to be conscripted as a support force for federal or out-of-state operations that our own elected leadership has determined are not in the best interest of our state.

Recent history has shown us the profound dangers of unchecked federal deployments. We have witnessed the weaponization of National Guard units against American citizens in their own communities, an act that erodes public trust and escalates tensions.

SB2054 creates a clear, legal firewall to ensure such a scenario cannot unfold here without the state’s consent. It establishes a necessary boundary: if the Governor of Hawai‘i objects to a deployment, our state’s resources—our soldiers and our equipment—will not be used to enable it. This is a direct exercise of the state's authority to control the use of its own assets within its borders.

The policy rationales for this bill are clear and compelling:

- **Governance & Accountability:** It ties critical decisions about military and law enforcement cooperation directly to our highest elected state official, ensuring democratic oversight.
- **Operational Clarity:** It provides unambiguous guidance to Guard leadership, removing them from a potential conflict of loyalties and stating plainly that when the Governor objects, the rule is "no assistance."
- **Protection of Community Trust:** It prevents the perception of a militarized, multi-layered force operating against the will of the community, thereby preserving the Guard's reputation as a protector of the people.

- **Prevention of Mission Creep:** Without this clear prohibition, "limited support" can quickly blur into direct operational involvement, drawing our personnel into missions they were never intended to serve.

This legislation does not hinder the Guard's essential duties. It in no way prevents the Guard from responding to hurricanes, wildfires, or other disasters under state authority. It is narrowly and precisely focused on one scenario: preventing our Guard from being used to bolster a deployment that our Governor has officially opposed.

In an era of deep political division and concerning precedents for the use of force domestically, SB2054 is a prudent and necessary measure to affirm state sovereignty, uphold democratic principles, and safeguard the bond between the Hawai'i National Guard and the people it is sworn to protect.

I urge you to pass SB2054.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:52:14 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Donna Grabow	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please continue to SUPPORT SB2954

This bill is important because it is aimed at protecting liberties, preventing federal overreach, and uphold the state's rights.

**Mahalo,
Donna Grabow, Hilo**

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:45:51 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lynn Otaguro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for hearing this bill. Please pass it.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:00:10 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony in strong support. Thank you.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:21:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Robert Justice, M.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Robert Justice, M.D.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:52:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kehaulani Coleman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 5:53:53 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Judith Mura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I Judith Mura Strongly Support SB2054 SD1

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:51:23 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ellen Caringer, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony of Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD1

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 26, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Ellen Caringer, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2054 SD1**, which prohibits the Hawai‘i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawai‘i when the Governor has objected to the deployments.

I am a clinical psychologist and I am testifying as an individual. SB2054 SD1 reinforces local accountability and ensures Hawai‘i resources are not used to support deployments Hawai‘i’s elected leadership has formally objected to. When outside forces operate in our communities, clear limits help prevent escalation, confusion, and fear, and they strengthen public trust that decisions reflect Hawai‘i’s needs and values.

This bill provides a straightforward safeguard and helps prevent mission creep where “support” roles can expand without clear boundaries. It also protects the integrity of the Hawai‘i National Guard’s mission by ensuring deployments align with Hawai‘i’s leadership when there is an objection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2054 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

(808) 281-7463

drcaringer@gmail.com

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:27:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua Kona, HI. I support SB2054 which Prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawaii when the governor has objected to the deployments. I object to the fascist Trump regime and their use of these unconstitutional practices.

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:32:49 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jason Lewis	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SB2054 LIMITS NATIONAL GUARD DEPLOYMENT

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

Jason Lewis

Lahaina Resident

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:51:34 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Janelle Mosher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Janelle Mosher, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD1, which prohibits the Hawai‘i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the National Guard of any other state operating in Hawai‘i when the Governor has objected to such deployments.

I am a citizen of Hawai‘i and an immigration attorney. I testify as an individual concerned with public safety and the protection of civil rights for all people living in our state.

I support this bill because it reinforces local accountability and ensures that Hawai‘i’s resources are not used to support deployments to which Hawai‘i’s elected leadership has formally objected. When outside forces operate in our communities, clear limits help prevent escalation, confusion, and fear, while strengthening public trust that decisions reflect Hawai‘i’s needs and values.

This measure provides a straightforward safeguard against mission creep, where “support” roles can expand without clear boundaries. It also protects the integrity of the Hawai‘i National Guard’s mission by ensuring that deployments remain aligned with Hawai‘i’s leadership when an objection has been raised.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD1.

Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani
In SUPPORT of SB2054 SD1

Committee on Judiciary

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 26, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Wendy Naomi Sodetani, and I submit this testimony in support of SB2054 SD1, which prohibits the Hawai'i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawai'i when the Governor has objected to the deployments.

I am testifying as an individual born and raised in Hawai'i and an active member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN). I recently retired from a community health center in Kalihi caring for underserved populations, primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant families. Among our state's most vulnerable residents, many struggle to understand or speak English.

I strongly support SB2054 SD1, for it reinforces local accountability and ensures Hawai'i resources are not used to support deployments Hawai'i's elected leadership has formally objected to. When outside forces operate in our communities, clear limits help prevent escalation, confusion, and fear, and they strengthen public trust that decisions reflect Hawai'i's needs and values, and that limited resources will be allocated accordingly.

This bill provides a critically needed and straightforward safeguard that helps prevent mission creep where "support" roles can expand without clear boundaries. It also protects the integrity of the Hawai'i National Guard's mission to protect our local community by ensuring deployments align with Hawai'i's leadership when there is an objection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2054 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wendy Naomi Sodetani
Member of Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN)
naomisodetani@gmail.com
(808) 741-0555

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 9:35:48 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Mala Wingerd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN).

This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland OR, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant unlawful, unconstitutional, overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important issue.

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

LATE

HEARING:

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 am
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2054, SD1 - RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY.

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

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing today in strong support of SB 2054, SD1, which prohibits the Hawaii National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawaii when the governor has objected to the deployments.

I currently volunteer as a Know Your Rights and constitutional protector trainer and educator statewide. I have helped train teachers and students, business owners and union members, faith leaders and health care providers, parents and senior citizens on what their constitutional rights are, that these rights apply to all within the United States, regardless of citizenship status, and how to ensure these rights are not violated. I have also trained them how to prepare themselves, their staff, and their places of work and community service for interactions with federal agents.

As an attorney, it has been hard to witness what is happening on the mainland. It was especially chilling to see state national guard being deployed over the objection of the governors of the state whose guard was deployed and over the objection of the governors of the state they were deployed to. It is beyond the scope of the intended purpose of the national guard for them to engage in law enforcement matters in the manner that they were. I was living in St Paul, Minnesota at the time that the state national guard was deployed there, at the request of the governor, and in response to civil unrest. I remember walking with my daughter down the street in my neighborhood, and having the guard there, with their military vehicles and weapons. It was unnerving then. More recently, I visited my daughter at graduate school in Baltimore while the national guard was deployed in Washington, DC. I traveled to DC and the presence of the national guard there made it feel like I was not in the United States anymore. DC always has a ton of law enforcement presence, but I have never seen anything like the national guard in their military garb, carrying weapons like that. It felt dystopian.

I live on Maui, and I remember when the Hawaii National Guard was deployed here to assist after the 2023 wildfires. The image in my mind, like the popular imagination, is that our national guard is here to help us in the event of a disaster. I want to keep it that way. I do not want our Guard deployed over the objection of the governor, simply as a matter of public safety and state's rights, and there is also the broader issue of costs and care. It seemed that there was uncertainty about who was paying for the forced deployments on the mainland, and that the guard were not properly provided for or housed. Hawaii cannot and should not bear the financial cost, the reputational cost, or the readiness cost of deploying our Guard over the objection of the governor. That is why I respectfully request your vote in support of SB 2054, SD1.

Mahalo,

Christine Andrews, JD
Wailuku, Maui

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:10:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Doris Segal Matsunaga	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, I support this measure

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:39:20 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tina Even	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support SB2054

Tina Marie Even

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 1:46:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Starr Cole	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

We need to keep our militia here, in State, on Island at this time of great geopolitical uncertainty.

I moved to the Big Island in 1981, as a child, with my father. We moved to the District of Ka'u and a hot topic back then was that the South Point Hawaiian Homelands were not being parcelled out to the community, because it was being reserved for military uses. However, that has not happened in the nearly half a century that I have been a grateful resident. My first point being that if that land remains undefended after all this time, the government either needs to get their act together and put their plans into action, or release that under-defended aina to the Hawaiian community so they can populate it as the treaties mandate and to defend it themselves. If the world keeps going in the direction it is going, eyeballs in remote spots may be as valuable as a satellite launching pad and not need quite so many environmental impact reports and red tape to get going.

This is not a good period of time to have the islands under-defended and great tracts of land unoccupied. It is no secret that there are currently top officials in our own government, who are representing foreign interests, some of whom would love it if the most valuable American military asset in the South Pacific was left under- defended. As it stands, if a global war were to break out, there are already too many localities in the State that would be easy landing spots, (more so on on the Big Island , than Oahu, but their North Shore is also not defended and the other islands are sitting ducks).

The point being, if the local military is forced to vacate the State, for any reason, rather than expand their presence that has held up *due process of law* for local communities for so long, than the government needs to fulfill either mandate down at South Point, a military base or Hawaiian Homelands (for re-greening and farming, which we also desperately need).

The ICE mandate is starting to look strategic, but not for the United States best interests.

For these reasons I support SB2054! Keep up the great work Abbira and Austin! Many thanks for providing a direct link to decision makers.

Starr Cole; sstarrcole@gmail.com

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 4:22:57 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Diane Ware	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I Diane Ware strongly support this bill to restrict out of state National Guard actions.

Sincerely,

Diane Ware Volcano HI 96785

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 6:11:01 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jesse Hutchison	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you!

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:11:36 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Lum	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2054, both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This Bill would amend §121-30 HRS to prohibit the Hawaii National Guard from assisting or cooperating with either the National Guard of another state or federal troops or law enforcement deployed to Hawaii if the Governor has objected to the deployment, except as required by law.

As we have seen in Los Angeles, Portland, Minneapolis, and now Maine, among other cities, the federal deployment of ICE, CBP, and other agencies is a threat to civil society, the rule of law, and the very lives of our neighbors and family members. The President called out the California National Guard over the objection of the state Governor, and according to court decisions, in violation of the U.S. Constitution. Hawaii must act now, before the crisis comes to our shores with massive force, to protect our Guard and the people of the state from the rampant, unlawful, unconstitutional overreach of the Trump administration and federal agencies.

SB2054 will provide one piece of a defense against federal power being used to abuse our people. I strongly urge its passage.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, 'Ewa Beach

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 4:01:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Alyce Dodge, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2054 SD1**, which prohibits the Hawai‘i National Guard from deploying to assist federal troops, federal law enforcement, or the national guard of any other state operating in Hawai‘i when the Governor has objected to the deployments.

I am a Hawaii resident, an educator, and a concerned citizen.

SB2054 SD1 reinforces local accountability and ensures Hawai‘i resources are not used to support deployments Hawai‘i’s elected leadership has formally objected to. When outside forces operate in our communities, clear limits help prevent escalation, confusion, and fear, and they strengthen public trust that decisions reflect Hawai‘i’s needs and values.

This bill provides a straightforward safeguard and helps prevent mission creep where “support” roles can expand without clear boundaries. It also protects the integrity of the Hawai‘i National Guard’s mission by ensuring deployments align with Hawai‘i’s leadership when there is an objection.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2054 SD1**.

Mahalo,

Alyce Dodge

LATE

SB-2054-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2026 8:47:31 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
David Cuthbert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for considering my testimony on SB2054. My name is David Cuthbert and I reside in Pahoa, Hawai'i.

On Nov. 5, 2025 U.S. District Court Judge Karin Immergut issued a 100 page final decision¹ blocking the federal government from deploying Oregon and California National Guard troops from deploying in Oregon against the objections of Oregon's governor. SB2054 codifies in state law the power of our governor to have the final say on such deployments.

Reference

STATE OF OREGON and the CITY OF PORTLAND, and STATE OF CALIFORNIA v. DONALD TRUMP, et al.

<https://www.courtlistener.com/docket/71481149/146/state-of-oregon-v-trump/>