RES25-301
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 599

*PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE)

***PUBLIC SAFETY & ECONOMY (PSE) Meeting**

Meeting Date: Nov 20, 2025 @ 01:00 PM

Support: 78

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 4

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Natalie Graham-Wood	ngrahamwood@hotmail.com	96712
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 17, 2025 @ 12:02 PM

Testimony:

I support RES25-301. I abhor the tactics of ICE. My name is Natalie Graham-Wood and I am resident of Sunset Beach.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Shawn Benton	shawn@jaclhonolulu.org	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 17, 2025 @ 03:54 PM

Testimony:

My name is Shawn Benton, and I am submitting testimony as a private resident in strong support of Resolution 25-301, which affirms the City and County of Honolulu's commitment to protecting constitutional rights for all people who live in our community.

1. This Resolution Upholds Core Constitutional Values

Resolution 25-301 restates a fundamental truth: every person in Honolulu, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, is entitled to the protections guaranteed by the U.S. and Hawai'i Constitutions. These include: (1) due process and equal protection under the 14th Amendment, (2) freedom of speech, religion, press, assembly, and petition, (3) protection against unlawful searches and seizures, and (4) the right to habeas corpus.

These rights ensure fairness, safety, and justice for all who call Honolulu home.

2. All Residents Are Protected and Clarity Matters

The resolution correctly acknowledges that federal courts, including the U.S. Supreme Court, have repeatedly affirmed that constitutional protections extend to all persons in the United States, not only citizens. In times of uncertainty or fear, a clear affirmation from local government helps ensure that people, especially immigrants, mixed-status families, and other vulnerable residents, feel safe interacting with City agencies and law enforcement.

3. This Resolution Reflects Honolulu's Identity

The resolution acknowledges that O'ahu is known as "The Gathering Place," and our island is built on a foundation of Native Hawaiian values and generations of immigrant communities. Affirming constitutional protections is not just a legal statement--it reflects the aloha, inclusivity, and compassion that define our community.

4. Importance of Clarifying the Role of City Agencies

I also support the resolution's emphasis on: (1) City agencies carrying out their duties in ways consistent with constitutional protections, and (2) Honolulu Police Department (HPD) remaining within its jurisdiction as set forth in the City Charter. This promotes transparency, public trust, and the appropriate use of City resources. The request for the Mayor to review any memorandum of agreement affecting residents' rights is also an important measure to ensure consistency with constitutional standards.

As a resident of Honolulu, I believe it is important that our City stands clearly and publicly for: fairness, equal treatment, due process, protection of individual rights, and the rule of law. These are values that keep our community safe, strong, and united.

Therefore, I respectfully urge the Council to adopt Resolution 25-301. This resolution sends a clear message that Honolulu remains committed to protecting constitutional rights for all who live here, and it reinforces the values that make our island a place of aloha.

Thank you for your consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Nandita Sharma	nanditaranisharma@gmail.com	96744
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 17, 2025 @ 04:44 PM

Testimony:

It is crucial that the Honolulu City Council reaffirm that all people have the right to due process and equal protection under the U.S. and Hawai'i Constitutions, regardless of their immigration status. This is crucial, because anti-immigrant politics is being used to intensify racism and white nationalism across Oahu by creating fear amongst non-White people that they could be randomly targeted by federal agencies charged with rounding up people for deportation to meet the Trump administratin's quota of 3,000 deportations per day.

Various federal agencies, including ICE, HSI, CBP, and others, are violating the rule of law and violating people's fundamental rights. We expect the Honolulu City Council to stand with us, not with Trump's unlawful activities.

The U.S. constitution is what stands between us an open fascism. Both City agencies and the HPD must act in accordancewith constitutional principles and rights. To deny the long history of migration to Oahu, starting with Hawaiians and, later, with those brought to the island to labor on plantations, to today's migrants from around the world, is to deny the history of Oahu.

Please do the right thing and stand up for justice and against cruel, unconstitutional acts.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Robert Perkinson	perk@hawaii.edu	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 11:17 AM

Testimony:

Aloha. I am worried that public safety in Honolulu will be compromised if we allow HPD to get deputized or pulled into federal enforcement. I think this resolution will signal that we want to spend Oahu tax dollars for Oahu priorities. Thank you.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lisa Gibson	lisahgibson@gmail.com	96817-1432
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 01:52 PM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Lisa Gibson, and I am the Group Leader of the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Lisa Gibson

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tiffany Ishida	tmi2601@iolani.org	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 02:02 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Marguerite Koster	margueritekoster@aol.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 02:09 PM

Testimony:

RE: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Aloha Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Marguerite Koster, and I am a resident of Kaka'ako. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of ALL residents of Honolulu.

This is a critical resolution, as it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection in Honolulu
- Ensures public confidence in our schools, workplaces, hospitals, and religious institutions—so that residents feel safe accessing essential services
- Respects Honolulu's diverse communities—including many Filipino, Pacific Islander/COFA migrants, and immigrant families
- Provides a clear signal that we value inclusion, fairness, and unity
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Mahalo for your consideration.

Marguerite Koster

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cameron Goya Lynde	cameron.lynde@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:10 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Betty Kamida	betty.kamida2@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:12 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Betty Kamida, and I have lived in Hawai'i since 1981. I am a private citizen and a member of Indivisible Hawaii. Out of concern and outrage over the Trump administration's actions trampling on civil rights, maliciously targeting immigrant communities, and violating basic human rights, I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of ALL residents of Honolulu.

Resolution 25-301 is critical as a pledge to:

- Uphold DUE PROCESS and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforce our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflect and protect Honolulu's values of aloha, diversity and inclusion.

Please adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Betty Kamida

Hawaii Kai

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Chris Hobbs	cshobbs13@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:20 PM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Chris Hobbs, and I am a Kaimuki resident and owner of a Hawaii-based sustainability consultancy. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Chris Hobbs

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dwight Martin	dwightmartin@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:22 PM

Testimony:
I am strongly in support of due process in the U.S. and in the C&C of Honolulu. There are no lawful or moral exceptions to following due process in the United States of America.

I am a Hawaii resident, registered voter and live in Honolulu.

Thank you.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Barbara Riker	barb.a.riker@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:31 PM

Testimony:
Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Barbara Riker, and I am constituent. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:
- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice,

and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Riker

96825

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Barbara Riker	barb.a.riker@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:33 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Thomas H Brandt	tbhawaiiowan@aol.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:35 PM

Testimony:

Support!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Perle Besserman	psbesser@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Sierra Club; Indivisible	I wish to comment	Nov 18, 2025 @ 03:44 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

*Upholds due process and equal protection under the law

*Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status

*Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Dr. Perle Besserman

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Dr. Vanessa Zepeda	vkz@hawaii.edu	96876

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:09 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Dr. Vanessa Zepeda, and I am a constituent of Pearl City. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical during these unsettling times because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law. This is imperative when we have a federal administration who constantly violates this constitutional right.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status. This is not upfor debate. ALL persons have the right to due process under our constitution.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion. We are a State made of immigrants. Diversity is not an option, it is essential in the growth of humanity.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Dr. Vanessa K. Zepeda

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Karen A Valasek	valasek.karen@gmail.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:16 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Karen Valasek and I am a resident of the Beautiful City of Honolulu. I STRONGLY Support Resolution 25-30, which affirms the constitutional rights of ALL residents of Honolulu.

The resolution is critical because it Upholds Due Process-equal protion under the law.

The resolution reinforces fairness and justice of ALL-regardless of Imigration status and the resolution reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution. Mahalo for your consideration

Karen Valasek

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Sheryl Gardner	spgardner94@gmail.com	96789-1878
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:18 PM

Testimony:

Testimony in support of Res25-301

Dear Chair and Members of Honolulu City Council:

I am a Mililani Town resident. I strongly support this resolution because our immigrants are our neighbors and deserve fairness, dignity, rights under our Constitution, and justice. The Aloha spirit and diversity of Hawaii residents render our state exceptional. Let's affirm that by passage of Res25-301.

Sincerely,

Sheryl P. Gardner, M.D.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Taylor Moux	taylormoux@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:23 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Cardenas (Cards) Pintor	pintorcards@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:28 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Cardenas Pintor. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all Honolulu residents.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Cardenas Pintor

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jill Wheatman	jillwheatman@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:31 PM

Testimony:

I support due process for everyone, regardless of citizenship, immigration status, race, gender or political affiliation. Everyone must be able to trust that they will be given fair and equal treatment under the laws of our city, state and country.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Tim Huycke	timhuycke@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:33 PM

Testimony:

Aloha,

As a retired police officer and Army veteran, I know how important due process rights as set forth in the Constitution are. The Constitution applies to everyone within the boundaries of the United States. We all have equal rights, no matter how many people believe they're superior to others.

Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Colleen Milbury	cmilbury@gmail.com	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:39 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Colleen Milbury

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Steven Singer	singer808@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:39 PM

Testimony:

Due process is a fundamental principal of a free people. This nation was founded on the need for due process. This applies to all people of this land, citizens and non citizens. Please affirm this basic need of all democracies.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
James Cooper	jimcooper@mindspring.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 04:41 PM

Testimony:

As a resident of O'ahu, I firmly support due process and all the rights accorded to us, regardless of immigration status, in the U.S. and Hawai'i Constitutions.

Therefore I fully support RES25-301.

Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Amanda Christie	aadamshandy@gmail.com	96822

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 05:00 PM

Testimony:

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is Amanda Christie. I am a high school teacher in Honolulu and a volunteer with The Legal Clinic, an organization dedicated to providing accessible legal services to immigrants across Hawai'i. I am writing today to support Resolution 25-301.

As a high school teacher, teaching a population made up of many first and second generation immigrants, I have spent the past year facing a growing sense of fear. I wake up with the fear that at any point in my day, armed agents may descend upon my classroom and detain any number of my students – innocent children, excited to learn and live in safety and care. I watch in concern as violent ICE encounters increasingly unfold on streets, in stores, in churches, and in schools across the United States, and recently, close to home across coffee farms on the Big Island.

As a volunteer at the Legal Clinic, I have worked on data collection over the last year, and I have learned that since January ICE detentions in Hawai'i have been on the rise (doubling and tripling) across the months. Many of these detainees are held for "immigration related" rationales (rather than for criminal warrants or criminal activity). Additionally, many of these detainees have limited access to family, lawyers, and language support. Our state is increasingly feeling like a place where due process is tenuous, at best, and not a guaranteed right afforded to all.

I stand in strong support of Resolution 25-301. This Resolution is essential for affirming our state's dedication to its immigrant heritage and to safeguarding the right to due process for all. Additionally, the resolution's call to limit HPD's cooperation with the Department of Homeland Security and federal immigration enforcement is an essential one so that immigrants (both documented and undocumented) do not fear constant harassment from local authorities who are supposed to protect and defend them from harm.

For all of the reasons outlined above, I am urging you to vote "yes" on Resolution 25-301.

Best,

Dr. Amanda Christie

Name:	Email:	Zip:
B. A. McClintock	808redahi@gmail.com	96814

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 05:31 PM

Testimony:

I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.

- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.

- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Christine Trecker	christinet54@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 05:32 PM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Christine Trecker and I firmly support Resolution 25-301 to affirm the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

The Trump administration has trashed due process and equal protection under the law. It is imperative that Honolulu makes it very clear via Resolution 25-301 that we stand for upholding the constitutional rights for all our residents, including our immigrants!

Thank you,

Christine Trecker

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Lois Langham	llangham7@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 06:24 PM

Testimony:

We are the Aloha state. The very least we can do is carry out the protections and rights granted by the Constitution of the United States. I support this action.

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Kathleen Dickson	kid1949@yahoo.com	96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2025 @ 07:14 PM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Kathleen (aka “Kate”) Dickson and I am a legal resident of Waikiki, Honolulu, Hawai’i. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu’s values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu’s unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Dickson

Name: Darryl Nordstrom	Email: daigoro@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2025 @ 07:15 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Darryl Toshio Nordstrom and I am a resident of Manoa. I want to let you know that I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional right of all residents of Honolulu.

We need to uphold due process and equal protections under the law, commit to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status, and not allow dehumanizing behavior to destroy peoples lives and families.

We need to show the character and integrity of Honolulu, Hawaii, the USA and decent human beings all over our planet.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution.

Mahalo,

Darryl

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Melissa Yamanaka	melissa.y.yamanaka@gmail.com	96789-2813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 07:30 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Randall Castello	nichmari02@gmail.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 08:00 PM

Testimony:

Hawaii is a beautiful place to live - as you probably already know. It is also a beautiful place to raise a family - even though it is expensive. One of the reasons Hawaii is so special is that it is a place where diverse groups of people live and work together and take care of each other. This resolution sends a strong message that Honolulu stands for fairness, for justice, for inclusion. Please affirm your support for the constitutional rights of ALL of the residents of our beloved city!

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Peggy Brandt	peggy.brandt@gmail.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 09:28 PM

Testimony:

My name is Peggy Brandt, and I am an Indivisible group leader. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu’s values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu’s unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community.

This resolution is critical for supporting democracy from our local vantage point.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Peggy Brandt

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Bettina Mok	director@tlchawaii.org	96813
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
The Legal Clinic	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 09:37 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gaye Chan	gayechan@gmail.com	96744-4743
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 10:10 PM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Gaye Chan. I am an artist and a retired professor. We are living in worrying times, as we see our rights eroding before our eyes. I urge the Council to adopt Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

Thank you for your consideration. Gaye Chan

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Mona Eisa	miszeisa@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 10:42 PM

Testimony:

Aloha and good evening. My name is Mona Eisa and I have been a resident of Honolulu for the last 9 years. I am writing you today in support of Res 25-301. Everyone, immigrants included, need to be protected and awarded due process. We are living in a fascist state where secret masked police are going after people with no criminal history, putting them in unmarked vehicles and detaining them in cages. They have in many cases, been physically assaulted and not given adequate food, water, hygiene practices etc. The ongoing treatment of immigrants under this administration has been nothing short of inhumane and no matter what side of the aisle you land on politically, human beings should not be

treated this way. We need to do everything in our power to protect the marginalized members of our community. We must hold all areas of law enforcement accountable. Protect the constitutional rights of immigrants as they are also entitled to these rights. The constitution states "persons," not citizens. We can not allow people to be treated so cruelly. Protect due process. Protect immigrants. Mahalo.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Ziyun Li	ziiiiyunli@gmail.com	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 18, 2025 @ 11:06 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kanani Kai	kanani.kai@yahoo.com	96817
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 01:00 AM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Kanani Kai and I am your community affiliation]. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu’s values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu’s unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely, and Mahalo.

Kanani Kai

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Luca Oishi	lho2701@iolani.org	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 02:49 AM

Testimony:

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is L.O. and I attend ʻIolani high school. I am writing today to support RESOLUTION 25-301.

The problem that exists in Hawaii is that despite the Constitution of the U.S. protecting natural liberties of people such as the right to due process, that right is not being protected by the government and people that should have equal access to these rights don't have them. My grandmother is an immigrant, and if she did not receive equal constitutional rights just because she is an immigrant, it would be unfair. It would affect her as well as our family, and if this was on the basis of national origin, that would be morally wrong. I also learned in my government class that constitutional rights cannot be taken away by the government, so this resolution is doing the right thing by protecting rights that should not be undermined in the first place.

According to the American Immigration Council, only 37% of all immigrants have counsel and only 14% of detained immigrants get an attorney. Detention without cause and a lack of adequate legal aid is a due process violation. Constitutional rights for immigrants not being protected is a huge problem.

I support resolution 25-301. "Be it further resolved that the City affirms its commitment to protecting and upholding the rule of law, due process, and other constitutionally established rights of all residents, and reaffirms its deep respect for multiculturalism, the City's immigrant history, and the diverse communities that call O'ahu home;": Hawaii upholding due process for all residents would increase multiculturalism and would show respect for immigrants by providing fair legal representation. It would directly address the issue of immigrants not having their constitutional rights equally protected. With Hawaii being composed of over 268,980 immigrants, immigrants have significant influence in the state. With unfair representation of immigrants, wide scale distrust may occur. The protection of constitutional rights for immigrants would directly increase trust in government within immigrant populations.

This is why I highly recommend the passing of this resolution.
Thank you, L.O.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Muhtadia Rice	muhtadia@yahoo.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 02:59 AM

Testimony:
Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is [Your Name], and I am [your role/community affiliation]. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu’s values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu’s unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Muhtadia Rice

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Elizabeth Jameson	jamiejameson11@gmail.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 02:59 AM

Testimony:

subject:%20Testimony%20in%20Support%20of%20Resolution%2025-301%0A%C2%A0%0ADear%20Chair%20and%20Members%20of%20the%20Honolulu%20City%20Council,%0A%C2%A0%0AMy%20name%20is%20Elizabeth%20Jameson,%20and%20I%20am%20from%20Moiliili,%20Honolulu.%20I%20strongly%20support%20Resolution%2025-301,%20which%20affirms%20the%20constitutional%20rights%20of%20all%20residents%20of%20Honolulu.%0A%C2%A0%0AThis%20resolution%20is%20critical%20because%20it%3A%0A-%20Upholds%20due%20process%20and%20equal%20protection%20under%20the%20law.%0A-%20Reinforces%20our%20commitment%20to%20fairness%20and%20justice%20for%20all,%20regardless%20of%20immigration%20status.%0A-%20Reflects%20Honolulu%E2%80%99s%20values%20of%20diversity%20and%20inclusion.%0A%0AMy%20parents%20were%20both%20immigrants%20(my%20father%20from%20Sweden,%20my%20mother%20from%20the%20Philippines),%20and%20became%20naturalized%20American%20citizens%20%20in%201930s%20(father)%20and%201953%20(mother),%20and%20my%20brother,%20sister%20and%20I%20were%20all%20born%20abroad.%20My%20father%20worked%20as%20a%20federal%20employee%20for%20the%20US%20military%20from%20at%20least%201940%20until%20he%20retired%20in%201970.%20My%20mother%20worked%20for%20the%20US%20Army%20for%2016%20years,%20my%20brother%20served%20in%20the%20Air%20Force%20for%20six%20years%20during%20the%20Vietnam%20war,%20both%20my%20husbands%20served%20in%20US%20Army,%20and%20I%20worked%20for%20the%20Army,%20Navy,%20Air%20Force,%20Marine%20Corps,%20IRS,%20National%20Park%20Service%20and%20NOAA%20until%20I%20retired%20I%202021.%20We%20were%20a%20very%20patriotic%20family%20and%20love%20our%20beautiful%20country.%20My%20parents%20would%20be%20horrified%20at%20the%20actions%20of%20the%20current%20administration.%20%0A%0AI%20am%20determined%20to%20live%20my%20life%20even%20though%20I%20feel%20anxious%20about%20losing%20my%20social%20security

%20that%20we%20all%20paid%20into%20for%20years%20and%20worry%20each%20time%20I%20leave%20the%20country%20that%20I%20may%20not%20be%20permitted%20to%20reenter%20because%20I%20was%20born%20while%20my%20father%20served%20abroad.%20WE%20will%20have%20to%20support%20my%20disabled%20sister%20if%20she%20permanently%20loses%20her%20Medicaid.%20%0A%0AIn%20our%20wealthy%20country,%20I%20believe%20the%20government%20should%20tax%20those%20very%20wealthy%20companies%20and%20people%20who%20gained%20their%20wealth%20through%20the%20purchases%20and%20taxes%20of%20the%20rest%20of%20us.%20Even%20a%20minimal%20tax%20could%20provide%20health%20care%20for%20all,%20free%20education%20for%20all,%20a%20decent%20living%20wage,%20affordable%20housing,%20and%20improved%20social%20services%20while%20preserving%20our%20natural%20resources.%20I%20believe%20is%20we%20all%20just%20loved%20one%20another%20including%20our%20necessary%20and%20helpful%20immigrant%20community%20regardless%20of%20race%20or%20color,%20sharing%20our%20wealth%20and%20resources%20that%20we%20would%20not%20have%20so%20much%20crime%20and%20violence%20and%20could%20enjoy%20peace%20and%20harmony%20with%20the%20rest%20of%20the%20world.%20%0A%C2%A0%0AI%20urge%20the%20Council%20to%20adopt%20this%20resolution%20and%20reaffirm%20Honolulu%E2%80%99s%20unwavering%20commitment%20to%20constitutional%20rights,%20justice,%20and%20the%20inclusive%20values%20that%20define%20our%20community%0A%C2%A0%0AThank%20you%20for%20your%20consideration.%0A%C2%A0%0ASincerely,%0AElizabeth%20Jameson%20%0A%0A%0A

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Gordon Fuller	fullervision@me.com	96825
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Nov 19, 2025 @ 06:43 AM

Testimony:

I am writing in strong support of Resolution 25-301. While I am not a native Hawaiian, I have lived in Hawai'i long enough to witness firsthand the impacts of colonial occupation and forced statehood on this land and its people. The unique culture, values, and voices that make these islands special have been sidelined by a system that imposes policies from afar—policies that often harm the land, water, sea, and community life we all depend on. Under United States control, I see daily evidence of disregard for both the natural world and the diverse communities that call Hawai'i home.

Many who have come to these islands are themselves displaced by violence, ecological destruction, and undemocratic, extractive policies that trace their roots to imperial and capitalist systems. Here, instead of finding sanctuary, they are met with further exclusion and harmful actions from the current administration. I stand appalled by this ongoing injustice, the racism and political terrorism that undermine both new arrivals and longstanding residents alike. It is time for those of us who care about dignity, justice, and self-determination to speak up and take a stand. Resolution 25-301 moves us closer to a more just and compassionate future for everyone in Hawai'i, and I am proud to endorse it.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jane Aquino	aquinoj002@hawaii.rr.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:

Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 07:21 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Jane Aquino, and I am a citizen and belong to HCCR. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jane Aquino

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Skylar Ogoso	skylarogoso@gmail.com	96707
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:05 AM

Testimony:

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is S.O. and I am currently a junior at 'Iolani School. Today, I am writing in support of Resolution 25-301.

Over the past year, I have watched many of my peers grow more anxious and unsure about whether their constitutional rights would really be protected. As teenagers, the largest news source outlet that we run to is social media. On TikTok, Instagram, and even YouTube, it has become easier to learn about things that are going on in the world. I know that I have seen lots of these videos and, with all of the negativity that has circled the internet this past year, I know that a lot of young

people today are questioning their own constitutional rights—especially young people from immigrant families. According to the Honolulu Civil Beat, the number of new deportation cases in FY 2024 hit the new highest in over a decade—amounting to 888. Hawai'i has between 41,000 to 51,000 undocumented residents (ACLU). Hawai'i is a diverse, multicultural state filled with many who are unsure about their constitutional rights during an uncertain time. These rights must be protected and affirmed by Hawaii's government.

I stand in support of Resolution 25-301. This resolution addresses the protection of due process and also establishes a clear limit on the power of police. By doing this, it reassures residents that Hawai'i will uphold the protections of constitutional rights for all. This also reduces fear of the misuse of authority. When the community's trust in the government increases, it has been shown that this could lead to increased civic engagement and policy effectiveness, while also improving public safety as a whole.

I urge you to vote in support of Resolution 25-301.

Best regards,

S.O.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Aaron Zhao	azhao3243@gmail.com	96816
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:07 AM

Testimony:

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is Aaron Zhao and I go to 'Iolani School in Honolulu Hawaii. I am writing today to support RESOLUTION 25-301.

My mom was born in 1972 and my grandparents immigrated to Honolulu around 1977. From there on, my mom and her family, a family of immigrants, have lived and contributed to the community. Hawaii in general has a welcoming atmosphere due to its high immigrant population, and it is important to make sure that this legacy remains. But with a high immigrant population, there is also the possibility of the growth of xenophobia in our community. This creates social friction and is also a driver of racism.

RESOLUTION 25-301 should be supported in order to prevent the potential increase in xenophobia in the future. As stated in RESOLUTION 25-301, the Constitution, the supreme law of the land, should be imbedded on a state by state basis:

“WHEREAS, the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments to the United States Constitution and Article I, Section 5 of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii clearly state that no individual shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law, a right that applies to all persons and which reflects our nation's core ideals of fairness and justice.” Xenophobia can foster an environment with hate crimes, personal racism, and marginalization. This creates a huge barrier to an individual’s access to life, liberty, and property. If RESOLUTION 25-301 is passed, everyone under equal influence of the Constitution can help create a better community where no culture is seen as dominant. In addition, due process can provide a legal framework to protect individuals from discriminatory treatment by the government. In fact, a diverse community is helpful and should be embraced as stated by Ed Case in his “HONORING NATIONAL IMMIGRANTS DAY; Congressional Record Vol. 171, No. 179” speech: “Throughout our history immigrants have made, and today continue to make, invaluable contributions to our country, including invigorating our economy and sharing their unique cultures to enrich the fabric of our society.” In general, diversity is a driving force in our economy, and it is important to ensure that the individuals of each culture are treated equally and are all viewed as citizens. If the Fifth and Fourteenth Amendments of the Constitution are not applied, there is a risk for xenophobia in our community which could cause disparities economically and socially by the increase in bias between races.

I hope the pros of RESOLUTION 25-301 can be greatly reflected upon.

Mahalo,

Aaron Zhao

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Emma Garcia	elg2701@iolani.org	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:13 AM

Testimony:

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

I am EG and I have learned about the rights of due process in school. I am writing in support of Resolution 25-301

I am currently enrolled in high school and am in my junior year. This year we are learning about the government and policy in history. Due to this I have read the Constitution numerous times. This would include the due process clause. Due to my knowledge of this I am speaking about this issue with what I know about the Constitution. In our current government I think that the biggest issue would be the lack of due process for undocumented immigrants. The main thing that we are seeing in the news is ICE removing people off of the streets and imprisoning them. I believe that this is a violation of due process, and many other rights that are given to anyone on American soil. This is not only dangerous and a restriction of

civil liberties for the undocumented immigrants, but it invokes fear in those that are documented. Although legal immigrants have the documents that are required to have, the way that the government is handling undocumented immigrants is frightening, and makes me wonder if they will even care whether someone is legal or not. Due to the uncertainty in our nation of the standing of due process, I believe that this resolution would be beneficial to calm the minds of many.

I support Resoltuion 25-301. Within the document it states, "...that the City affirms its commitment to protecting and upholding the rule of law, due process..." I think that this is really reassuring especially to those who are documented, and are simply scared. This means that the government will make a conscious effort to carry out its duties without infringing on individual rights. The resolution also states that, "the City recognizes other fundamental rights and liberties granted to all persons..." This, to me, shows that there are protections for everyone, including undocumented immigrants. This is really good because everyone is deserving of civil liberties, as basic human rights.

"There are 988 allegations of perpetrators of immigrants sexually assaulting women" This shows how there is a disregard of human rights within this government agency. Reaffirming due process will allow for them to be protected as people. No one that is being detained is getting cared for, and they are simply left to fend for themselves. Source :https://pmc.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/articles/PMC10408271/

Therefore I urge you to accept this resolution.

Sincerely, EG

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Marlene Thom	mmlthom@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:15 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Colleen Coleman	kehau_coleman@yahoo.com	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:17 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Colleen Coleman and I am a Honolulu resident]. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Colleen Coleman

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Benjamin Sadoski	bsadoski@5.unitehere.org	96818
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
UNITE HERE Local 5	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:34 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Morgan Lee	mepaynl@gmail.com	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 09:09 AM

Testimony:
Roughly one in five Hawai'i residents were born outside the United States. They are our colleagues, loved ones, leaders, and essential members of our island community. Yet in recent months, we've seen an administration increasingly willing to intimidate immigrants—detaining longtime undocumented residents and even detaining and arresting those with legal status, including green card holders and naturalized citizens.

This climate of fear and uncertainty discourages people from participating fully in public life, and at worst, drives them away from the country altogether. I support this resolution as one modest step to fight the federal government's aggression and reaffirm Honolulu's hospitality.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Aria Juliet Castillo	ariajuliet@hapahi.org	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 09:39 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Janice Hayashi	ijan808@gmail.com	96816
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 09:48 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council:

My name is Janice Hayashi and I am a registered voter and I live in Kaimuki. I'm just an ordinary Senior Citizen but I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the Constitutional Rights of ALL residents in Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of of immigration status.
- reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to to constitutional rights, justice and the inclusive values that define our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Janice Hayashi, Kaimuki

Name: ELIZABETH JUBIN FUJIWARA	Email: EJF@FRLAWHI.COM	Zip: 96813
Representing: FUJIWARA & ROSENBAUM, LLLC	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 09:52 AM

Name: Addison Craig	Email: agc2701@iolani.org	Zip: 96707
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 10:05 AM

Name: Jesse Hutchison	Email: jesse.hutchison@gmail.com	Zip: 96815
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 10:28 AM

Testimony:

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Jesse Hutchison, and I am a Honolulu resident. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jesse Hutchison

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Elizabeth Saldana	esaldana@hawaii.edu	96822
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 10:40 AM
Testimony:		
I wish to testify on my supprt for this resolution in front of the city council memebers.		

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Leilani Stacy	lstacy@acluhawaii.org	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
ACLU of Hawai'i	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 11:09 AM

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Deborah King	dking0923@gmail.com	96817
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 11:45 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Council Chair Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

I am a resident of Chinatown and I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

Our home is strengthened when everyone living here—regardless of immigration status—can trust that their rights will be protected and feel safe engaging in our communities.

Honolulu's diverse communities—including many Filipino, Pacific Islander/COFA migrants, and immigrant families—have built this place; supporting the resolution is a clear signal that we value inclusion, fairness, and unity.

Upholding due process and equal protection in Honolulu ensures public confidence in our schools, workplaces, hospitals, and religious institutions—so that residents feel safe accessing essential services.

The efforts of our local police are best spent doing community policing and not being pulled into federal politics.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Deborah W. King

Name: Kayla Branco	Email: kkbranc07@gmail.com	Zip: 96706
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 11:49 AM

Testimony:

Position: Strong Support for Resolution 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kayla Branco, and I am a constituent of Ewa Beach. I write to strongly support Resolution 25-301.

Here in Hawai'i, about 20% of us are immigrants, and even more of us are here because of our immigrant ancestors. Immigrants are part of our community, and immigration is how our community thrives and how it is the way it is today. The civil rights of immigrants are being threatened right now. Many immigrants are being unlawfully detained, and some are even being deported.

This resolution will foster a safer and more just environment for immigrants. Hawai'i is a state full of immigrants, and it is important that we uphold their civil liberties and due process.

As I said before, civil rights are being threatened, and so are our communities. Families are being torn apart due to the lack of representation and aggressive immigration enforcement. Parents, grandparents, aunties, and uncles are being deported or detained. There are even children at risk, children with no fighting chance when it comes to legal proceedings. I believe that allowing this to happen does not exemplify the spirit of Aloha that we want to show here in Hawai'i.

Immigrants contribute so much to our community. They make up part of the Aloha spirit here in Hawai'i. They also contribute financially, culturally, and socially. We should lift up these valued members of our community and ensure that they retain their civil liberties. Because of this, I urge you to vote to adopt this resolution.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Kayla Branco
Ewa Beach, HI

Name: Heleina Willis	Email: willis4@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96822
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 11:53 AM

Name: Tiffani Nguyen	Email: heyitsmetoof@gmail.com	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 12:17 PM

Name: Sara Bailey	Email: sara.jill.bailey@gmail.com	Zip: 96744

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 12:22 PM

Testimony:

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Sara Bailey and I am an active member of the Honolulu chapter of Indivisible Hawaii. I strongly support Resolution 25-301 affirming the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu County.

This resolution is critical to uphold the rule of law and right of due process for all residents of our great county. It reinforces this County's commitment to fairness and justice for all regardless of immigration statues and reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion, a critical reason why most of us choose to live and work here.

I urge the Council to adopt the resolution and reaffirm this county's unwavering commitment to constitutionally grants rights for all in our Honolulu community.

Thank you,

Sara Bailey

Kaneohe, Hawaii resident

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Della Belatti	repbelatti@capitol.hawaii.gov	96826
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 12:47 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Laila Gallardo	lailag@hawaii.edu	96814
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 12:55 PM

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Pamela Lichty	PAMELALICHTY@GMAIL.COM	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 01:49 PM

Testimony:

My name is Pamela Lichty and I am a 40 year resident of East Honolulu. I strongly support resolution 25–301 which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical right now because it would uphold due process an equal protection under the law. Importantly it reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for ALL of our residents regardless of their immigration status.

This is particularly important at this moment since our federal Administration is showing a distinct lack of support for immigrant and refugee committee communities, which are such a vital part of Hawaii nei. Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion are a vital part of what makes this community the cohesive and welcoming place it is.

I urge the Council to adopt this critically important resolution reaffirming our County's commitment to constitutional rights, justice and the inclusive values that define us.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify today.

Sincerely

Pamela Lichty

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Miriam Beams	mimibeams@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 01:50 PM

Testimony:

My name is Mimi Beams and I am private citizen. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:

- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Respectfully,

Mimi Beams

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Byron Graper	biffandmimi@gmail.com	96817
Representing:	**Position:**	**Submitted:**
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 02:13 PM

Testimony:

Our home is strengthened when everyone living here—regardless of immigration status—can trust that their rights will be protected and feel safe engaging in our communities.

Honolulu's diverse communities—including many Filipino, Pacific Islander/COFA migrants, and immigrant families—have built this place; supporting the resolution is a clear signal that we value inclusion, fairness, and unity.

Upholding due process and equal protection in Honolulu ensures public confidence in our schools, workplaces, hospitals, and religious institutions—so that residents feel safe accessing essential services.

The efforts of our local police are best spent doing community policing and not being pulled into federal politics.		
Name: Alphonso Braggs	Email: naacphawaii@gmail.com	Zip: 96809
Representing: NAACP	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 02:16 PM
Testimony: The NAACP strongly supports this bill and urges its passage.		
Name: Harin Yoo	Email: hy2702@iolani.org	Zip: 96826
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 02:38 PM
Name: Lauren Debutiaco Odviar	Email: lvdeodv1ar@gmail.com	Zip: 96792
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 03:07 PM
Testimony: I am in support of this resolution.		
Name: Alex Sumailo	Email: glena3@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96797
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 04:08 PM
Name: Liza Ryan Gill	Email: lryangill@hicir.org	Zip: 96816
Representing: Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2025 @ 04:11 PM
Testimony: Date:Nov. 19th, 2025 To: Chair Tulba, Vice-Chair Kia'āina and Members of the Committee Honolulu City Council City & County of Honolulu Honolulu, Hawai'i Re: Support for Resolution 25-301		

Dear Chair [Name], Vice Chair [Name] and Committee Members:

On behalf of the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), I respectfully submit this testimony in support of Resolution 25-301. HCIR is a coalition of more than 30 immigrant rights organizations, community-based service providers, legal advocates, and grassroots leaders throughout Hawai'i. Our mission is to protect and advance the civil, human and labor rights of immigrants, refugees and Limited English Proficient (LEP) populations. We work to ensure that these communities—who are essential contributors to our State's workforce, economy, and social well-being—have access to safe, inclusive and equitable systems, free from fear of discrimination or undue enforcement. Our coalition engages in policy advocacy, community education, capacity-building, and partnership with service providers across the islands to amplify the voices of those often marginalized in public decision-making.

We believe Resolution 25-301 represents a timely and needed step for our community. The resolution's affirming language signals that the City & County of Honolulu acknowledges the dignity, contributions and rights of all residents—regardless of immigration status or language proficiency. In a time of heightened enforcement anxieties and shifting federal policies, this measure sends a clear message that immigrant and LEP families are valued, welcomed and protected in our island home. It will bolster trust between immigrant communities and local institutions such as schools, hospitals, places of worship and workforce providers—trust that is essential for public safety, however we define it in Hawai'i's inclusive context.

We respectfully urge the committee to pass this resolution and stand with our diverse, multilingual communities. By affirming that no resident of Honolulu should live under the shadow of fear when accessing basic services, engaging in civic life or contributing economically, the City and County takes a strong leadership role in safeguarding our shared values of aloha, kuleana, and inclusion. We appreciate your consideration and remain ready to partner with you and the administration on implementation strategies that keep all residents safe, empowered and included.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and attention.

Liza Ryan Gill

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jo-Ann ADAMS	jmainpardise@gmail.com	96815
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 07:54 PM

Testimony:

Please pass this resolution.

As an attorney, more particularly as a Public Defender, you know the importance of preventing government overreach.

The federal government, particularly ICE, is out of control. This resolution reaffirms due process, commits the City to uphold the rule and law, and urges City agencies, including HPD, to act consistent with our Constitutional Principles. Honolulu has a rich history of welcoming immigrants, and we are a shining beacon in the world when it comes to honoring multicultural values.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Richard Velasquez	rsv314@aol.com	96734

Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:03 PM

Testimony:

Please take steps to insure

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Jessica Faige	jfaige8@yahoo.com	96819
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 08:20 PM

Testimony:

I support affirming these constitutional rights.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Aidan Landeroz	aidanlanderoz05@gmail.com	96786
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 19, 2025 @ 10:15 PM

Testimony:

My name is Aidan Landeroz, and I am an Animal Sciences Major at the University of Hawai'i at Manoa, based on O'ahu. I am testifying on the behalf of immigrants in the state of Hawai'i, who should receive legal representation regardless of documentation or immigration status. Allowing UREP (Universal Representation) would increase the strength of our community, as well as keep families together.

I come from a long lineage of immigrants on both sides of my family. My mother's side immigrated from the Philippines, while my father's side immigrated from Mexico. My mother had her friend deported when she was in middle school. It caused great distress, and this all occurred without a fair trial. Her classmate had no say and was forcefully ripped away from her friends and family.

I share this story to convey how these deportations affect people of this community. These memories stay with them for their entire lives, and some of these events could be prevented if fair trials were conducted. Allowing UREP would prevent negative experiences like these and allow for better memories to be made.

We're not asking to pardon all immigrants of the accused crimes. All that needs to be given is a fighting chance for these people to stay where they consider home. Many immigrants go through this injustice daily, whose first language is not English; even children. How can they defend themselves in court? If UREP is passed, more families will be kept together, which not only benefits the community, but the state. Having less detained immigrants means less resources used for detention centers. It allows for a better allocation of funding, which can be used to support legal representation for all immigrants.

As known, immigrants make up a large part of the population on the island of O'ahu. They should be treated like people, no matter what their country of origin or immigration status. They are essential to our community and economy, and thus, should be given the same rights US born residents have. UREP would be the first step in the right direction, pushing for equal opportunities for all immigrants.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Quinn Grimes	qmg808@gmail.com	96734
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	I wish to comment	Nov 19, 2025 @ 10:34 PM

Testimony:

I wish to comment on RES25-301 because I want Oahu tax dollars to be used for Oahu priorities, and because I want our city agencies to serve all of our residents, protect all of our rights, and stay out of federal politics.

Name:	Email:	Zip:
Kris Kealiinohomoku	kris.kealii@gmail.com	96789
Representing:	Position:	Submitted:
Self	Support	Nov 20, 2025 @ 06:23 AM

Testimony:

Kris Kealiinohomoku

R.Perkinson

AMST 442

17 November 2025

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Karisa Kealiinohomoku. I'm from Ewa Beach, I now live in Mililani, and I am a full-time student at UH Mānoa. I'm here today to ask for your support on Resolution 25-301 bill that protects due process and basic rights for immigrants in our islands.

Hawai'i has always been a place shaped by migration, hard work, and hope. Many of our neighbors, classmates, and co-workers are immigrants who contribute to our community every single day. Some have lived here for decades, raised families, and built their lives here. They deserve the same fairness and clarity in legal processes that any of us would want for our own loved ones.

This bill isn't just about politics. It's about safety, trust, and justice. When people understand their rights, when they aren't afraid to report crimes, seek help, or show up to school and work, our entire community becomes stronger and safer.

As someone who grew up here and now studies social work, I believe deeply in supporting the dignity of every person. Approving this bill shows that Hawai'i stands for fairness and compassion.

Mahalo for your time and for considering this important step for our community.

Name:	Email:	Zip:

Harrison Fulbright	hfulbrig@hawaii.edu	96744
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2025 @ 06:33 AM

Testimony:

I support Resolution 25-301.

Name: Oral Sledge	Email: oralm1234@gmail.com	Zip: 96786
Representing: Self	Position: I wish to comment	Submitted: Nov 20, 2025 @ 07:13 AM

Testimony:

Good afternoon esteemed council members. I am Oral Sledge a registered voter as well as a filmmaker, U.S Air Force Veteran, a court ordered single parent of a 13-year-old daughter and full-time student at UH Manoa. I need to comment on the current cycle of activities occurring across this land.

I am a part of the travel industry here in Hawaii, and meet tourists from around the world on a daily basis. As you know, 70 percent of Hawaiian revenue comes from tourism. The scenic beauty and their overall belief that they have arrived in paradise, where the people of multiple cultures all get along and the spirit of Aloha brings love, kindness and respect to all who come here, is the basis of their motivated arrival.

How the City of Honolulu handles and interacts with ICE during this turbulent time will resound around the world. If the city allows the violation of human rights, illegal apprehensions and violations of law to go unaddressed as you have seen in other cities around the country, this belief of Hawaii being a paradise filled with Aloha becomes damaged or eradicated. If this tourism dollar that we all depend upon diminishes permanently, Hawaiians will suffer. At the very least I encourage the city council to amend the introduced resolution 25-301 so as to establish and create a plan of action that supports the God given rights of all Honolulu residents facing deportation and provide, at no cost to the accused, legal representation and/or pro se support in Federal court. This action will show the world, Hawaii is in fact, unique, compassionate and the paradise all dream of coming to enjoy someday. Aloha

Name: Edward Stoddard	Email: egs2@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96815
Representing: Uh Manoa	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2025 @ 12:11 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

My name is Edward, and I am submitting testimony in strong support of 25-301. Supporting that constitutional rights are accessible for all Hawai'i residents. Our main goal is to ensure that anyone going through the immigration court system should have a fair shot to help maintain a fair and just community.

Immigration law is complex even for lawyers, and many individuals in our state face the court system without any legal representation. Universal representation would give residents a chance to understand their rights and navigate the system to present their cases accurately and strategically. When people have proper representation, court proceedings move more efficiently and outcomes are more just.

Hawai‘i has always valued inclusivity and compassion. 25-301 upholds those values by making sure everyone in our community are treated with dignity and fairness by the law. I respectfully ask for your support to pass 25-301.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is Tiffany Ishida, a student at ʻIolani School, and I was born and raised in Honolulu. I am writing today to support RESOLUTION 25-301.

As a daughter of Japanese immigrant parents, I grew up watching my parents struggle to articulate their thoughts into English. At retail stores, restaurants, social gatherings, and more, communication was hindered by language barriers. Fortunately, Hawai'i is a welcoming and inclusive community, but the majority of immigrants across the United States face discrimination. According to the Kaiser Family Foundation (KFF)-Los Angeles Times partnership survey of immigrant adults across the country in 2023, 33% report that they have been told to "go back to where [they] came from." These acts of hostility directly violate the U.S. Constitution, which states that "all men are created equal," regardless of citizenship status. As a nation founded with principles of equity, we must recognize the rights of immigrants who have diligently worked in our country.

I support the RESOLUTION because it would recognize the "fundamental rights and liberties granted to all persons." Hence, it would protect the rights that all people, regardless of status, deserve, and take a stand against racial discrimination and harassment.

It is for these reasons that I strongly urge you to vote "yes" for RESOLUTION 25-301.

Thank you for your time and consideration,
Tiffany Ishida

November 20, 2025

To: Chair Augie Tulba and Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Economy

From: Cameron Goya Lynde

Re: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Aloha Chair Augie Tulba and Councilmembers,

I am writing today in support of Resolution 25-301 which affirms the constitutional rights of all individuals within the United States, regardless of their immigration status.

Our nation is riddled with conflict over rights. The rights pertaining to citizens and immigrants are continually being violated today. The benefit of our nation's Constitution is its protection of the rights of all those within our borders.

Foundational and fundamental to our constitutional rights are our human rights. These rights apply to all people and govern what is kind, just, fair, and good in how we treat each other.

Violently shoving people into unmarked vans, invading homes without a warrant, zip-tieing children, denying the accused a free and fair trial, detaining people in inhumane conditions, and handing them over to third nations where their fair treatment is not guaranteed are violations both of constitutional rights and the deeper, fundamental human rights upon which the Constitution is based.

For this reason, I respectfully urge you to support Resolution 25-301 to protect these constitutional and human rights. This resolution:

Restates the guarantees of fair legal procedures and equal rights found in both the U.S. and Hawai‘i Constitutions.
Pledges that the City will honor the rule of law and safeguard essential freedoms.
Encourages City departments and the Honolulu Police Department to operate in alignment with constitutional standards.
Acknowledges Honolulu's legacy of immigration and its diverse cultural traditions.
Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Cameron Goya Lynde
(808) 436-1787

Subject: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Barbara Riker, and I am constituent. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:
- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Barbara Riker
96825

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is Taylor Moux, and I am a resident of Honolulu and a high school student. I am writing today in support of Resolution 25-301, which affirms constitutional rights for all residents of the City and County of Honolulu.

Across O'ahu, many families, especially immigrant and mixed-status households, live with the uncertainty about whether their rights will be respected in interactions with local authorities. One thing that makes this issue personal to me is my own family. My mother was adopted from Japan as a child, and my father became a US citizen in his twenties after moving from Tahiti. I grew up hearing how grateful they were to feel protected and treated equally here in Hawai'i; but not everyone feels that same sense of safety today. I've seen this fear on a smaller scale too- for example in elementary school, when my classmate's parents hesitated to meet with our school's Parent Advisory Committee (PAC) meeting simply because they were worried that their limited English proficiency or immigration/green card status might cause differences in how people view them. They weren't doing anything wrong, but their anxiety showed me how easily people can feel unprotected or unsure of their rights. With nearly 18% of Hawai'i's population being foreign-born, this uncertainty affects many families across our island.

For these reasons, I strongly support Resolution 25-301. The resolution clearly states that "the Council affirms its support for the constitutional rights of all residents of the City," which directly addresses the fear and confusion many people experience. It also reinforces accountability by requiring that "all City agencies, departments, and employees…carry out their duties in a manner consistent with the United States Constitution, the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i, the rule of law, and the inclusive values of our community." These statements ensure that local agencies respect due process and stay within their proper jurisdiction so that no department oversteps its authority or engages in enforcement actions that belong solely to the federal government; this helps prevent confusion, wrongful actions, and mistrust. Other counties, including Hawai'i County through Resolution 320-25, are making similar commitments, showing a broader effort across the state to support fairness and uphold constitutional protections.

For these reasons, I respectfully request the Council to pass Resolution 25-301 and continue strengthening trust, fairness, and safety for all who call Honolulu home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Taylor Moux

Hello, and thank you for having all of us here today. My name is Melissa Yamanaka, and I grew up here on Oahu in Mililani. While growing up in Mililani, I attended Hawaii Baptist Academy in Nuuanu, where I later graduated, and moved to McCully after attending UH Manoa. Being born and raised here on Oahu, I have been blessed with the privilege of being not only an American citizen but also a local of Hawaii.

I understand this is quite a controversial topic right now, and it may not have the same implications in Hawaii as on the mainland. Still, I urge you to support our plea for increased funding for universal representation here in our home state. Hawaii is a very small state with a tight-knit community. This community is one of the main reasons that I love my home so much. These deportations have caused wide spread panic and fear throughout the areas in which individuals are being violently detained by ICE agents without being given the opportunity to defend themselves. This type of fear and panic has no place here in our home.

Our state is known for its strong sense of community. Kuleana, the idea that we take care of one another. Supporting or condoning the type of violence and hysteria that these deportations has caused would not only shine a negative light on our community but would also send a detrimental message to many that live here. Many people of Oahu have rich histories of immigration and being complacent on this issue at hand has the potential to leave a very bitter taste in the mouths of many.

Councilmembers I know you care about the well-being of local families and fairness in our city. Supporting universal representation is a way to live out those values of aloha, compassion, and justice that define who we are as a community in Hawai‘i. I hope you’ll consider supporting this important initiative so that everyone in Honolulu, regardless of background, has a fair chance.

Statement Before the Committee on Public Safety & Economy
of the Honolulu City Council
Thursday, Nov. 20, 2025

RE: SUPPORT for Resolution 25-301
Constitutional Rights of All Residents of the City & County of Honolulu

Submitted Nov. 18, 2025 online at https://hnldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/testimony

Dear Chair Augie Tulba, Vice Chair Esther Kia'aina, and Members Scott Nishinmoto, Val Okimoto, Andria Tupola:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) **strongly supports Resolution 25-301**, affirming the City & County of Honolulu's commitment to protecting and upholding the rule of law, due process, and other constitutionally established rights of all residents, and reaffirming its respect for multi-culturalism and the City's immigrant history.

As a nonprofit organization dedicated to advancing justice for Hawai'i's immigrants and migrants, TLC witnesses daily the intensifying fear of local families and workers in the face of rising immigration enforcement activities and ongoing threats to due process.

Reports from the Deportation Data Project show that ICE arrests and detentions in Hawai'i have almost tripled since early 2024. An average of 70 individuals who have been picked up by ICE, are being held daily at the Federal Detention Center (FDC) and the majority of those have no criminal history and little access to counsel.

Resolution 25-301 requires that the Mayor review agreements with public and private partners to ensure protection of residents constitutional rights. This is especially important to avoid unecessary cooperative agreements between local law enforcement and federal agencies such as Homeland Security Investigations and ICE. When local police officers are deputized to serve as immigration enforcers, public safety suffers. Communities lose trust in police, victims of crime are afraid to seek help, and liability risks increase for police and their departments.

We urge this committee and the Council to build on this resolution with actionable policies such as allocating County funding for legal defense in immigration court, for Honolulu's most vulnerable—who don't have the means to secure legal counsel. Immigration court is the only court in the United States where people can face detention, deportation, and separation from their families without the right to a public defender. A national study (Syracuse Univ) shows that those facing immigration court with counsel are 5.5 times more likely to obtain relief from deportation, and detained cases over 10x more likely.

Mahalo to the Council for your leadership, and for your efforts to preserve the values of fairness, inclusion, due process and multiculturalism that are reflected in this Resolution.

Sincerely,

Bettina Mok
Executive Director
director@tlchawaii.org

Ziyun Li
Regarding Honolulu City Council
20 November 2025

Aloha, my name is Ziyun Li and I am in full support of Resolution 25-301. I am testifying due to the slow, complex, and alarming immigration system that we currently face, even in our isolated paradise. I am currently a student at UH Manoa and a first-generation immigrant who arrived in Hawaii on a green card. I watched and waited for 10 years as my mother struggled to achieve legal status, which many would consider doing "the right way." I grew up without a mother figure, and a father who worked a full-time job living paycheck to paycheck trying to live in the so-called "American Dream." An intense language barrier persisted, with my father unable to afford English classes. This set my education, my development, and my childhood ahead of the duties a child was supposed to care about. I walked myself to and from elementary school. I learned how to shower, cook, clean, and care for myself at 7. My homework was self-taught, my English I learned on my own. During school talent shows, open houses, scholarly awards, parent-teacher conferences, I stood alone– either filling in for my parents or translating for them if they managed to make time to show up.

Children bear the harsh realities of a broken system, one that tears families apart rather than finding real, viable solutions. About 1 in 5 Hawaii residents are immigrants, a statistic that is more than just a number. Within that demographic, undocumented immigrants make up 17% of them. In the state, 13,536 children live with at least one undocumented family member. My family has done immigration "the right way." But– at what cost? What did it mean for me–a 7 year old–to navigate the system that failed me? Where were the language supports for my parents, in an area with over 130 languages being spoken? My story is one of too many. It is time for a change, a call to action for the thousands of children who live in fear in the place we call paradise. We can help make the immigration system easier, faster, and more organized. Adequate funding is necessary in this current immigration crisis. I call on city council to support funding for legal immigration defense and for HPD to stay within its duties so as to not increase fear amongst our communities.

Mahalo for your time. Your consideration of this pertinent issue is greatly appreciated.

Dear Chair and Members of the Honolulu City Council,

My name is Marlene Thom, and I am a resident of the C & C of Honolulu. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of Honolulu.

This resolution is critical because it:
- Upholds due process and equal protection under the law.
- Reinforces our commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status.
- Reflects Honolulu's values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge the Council to adopt this resolution and reaffirm Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Marlene Thom

UNITE HERE!
Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer Gemma G. Weinstein, President Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

November 18, 2025

Committee on Public Safety and Economy, Honolulu City Council
Councilmember Augie Tulba, Chair
Councilmember Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair

Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301

Chair Tulba, Vice Chair Kiaʻāina, and Committee Members,

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. We are in strong support of Resolution 25-301. It is important that our community stands strong to uphold the fundamental freedoms and rights necessary for an open, diverse, multicultural society to thrive. Working people throughout Hawaiʻi face many struggles; they should not have to live in fear that any people or organizations – public or private – could ignore, negate, or override essential civil rights like due process, free speech, and habeas corpus.

We strongly urge you to support Resolution 25-301.

Mahalo.

HAWAIʻI ALLIANCE *for* PROGRESSIVE ACTION

Honolulu City Council
Hawai‘i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports: Resolution 25-301
November 20, 2025

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers,

Mahalo for the chance to submit testimony. HAPA writes in strong support of Resolution 25-301.

This resolution simply reaffirms what should already be a given: that everyone living in the City and County of Honolulu is entitled to the basic constitutional rights guaranteed under federal and state law. These protections apply to *all people*, regardless of citizenship or immigration status, and the City must make that clear.

For many residents, especially immigrant families, mixed-status households, and people who may not always feel seen or safe, hearing their local government take this stand matters. It builds trust, encourages engagement, and strengthens our communities.

We also support the resolution’s call for the City to review its agreements and make sure they align with constitutional protections. Clarity about the roles of City departments, including HPD, helps prevent overreach and ensures that residents’ rights are respected in practice, not just in theory.

HAPA is concerned about existing MOUs between the Honolulu Police Department and HSI that risk entangling local law enforcement in federal immigration enforcement. While HPD has stated these agreements do not authorize enforcement of immigration law, their existence raises serious concerns about mission creep, community trust, and civil liberties. To protect both immigrant communities and the civil rights of all residents- including the right to free speech- we urge the Council to terminate any such MOUs and to prevent any future 287(g)-type agreements that would deputize local officers for immigration enforcement.

HAPA also wants to underscore that protecting immigrants and protecting the civil liberties of citizens are not separate issues. Our communities are safest and strongest when everyone’s constitutional rights are respected. When immigrants feel threatened or silenced, it harms the broader community and weakens the public’s ability to speak out, organize, and participate. Upholding civil liberties - including the right to free speech- is essential for all of us, regardless of where we were born.

HAPA urges the Council to adopt Resolution 25-301 and continue taking these steps that strengthen protections for all who call Honolulu home.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC
Alakea Corporate Tower
1100 Alakea St., Fl. 20, Suite B
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

November 20, 2025

To: Andria Tupola, Chair
Esther Kiaʻāina, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Re: Res.25-301, Affirming Support for the Constitutional Rights of All Residents of the City and County of Honolulu**, SUPPORT with Amendment**

Thursday, November 20, 2025, 1p.m. City Council Chamber

From: Elizabeth Jubin Fujiwara, Senior Partner

We are all aware that Federal immigration arrests are surging across Hawaiʻi, with ICE agents reportedly targeting courthouses, hospitals, schools, workplaces—raising serious concerns about due process and community safety. *See, e.g.,* https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/11/immigration-arrests-surge-hawaii-federal-agents-target-courthouses/

As a civil rights attorney since 1986 I offer this analysis to assist the Committee in further understanding the profound State constitutional foundations that support this resolution. My testimony addresses how Resolution No. 25-301 aligns with, and advances core principles enshrined in our Hawai'i State Constitution, statutory law, and our state's foundational values.

CONSTITUTIONAL ANALYSIS

I. Alignment with the Hawai'i Constitution's Foundational Principles

Resolution No. 25-301 stands firmly rooted in the constitutional bedrock of our state. The Hawai'i Constitution's Preamble establishes our commitment to governance "with an understanding and compassionate heart toward all the peoples of the earth."[i] This foundational principle directly supports the resolution's affirmation of the County's commitment to multiculturalism and protection of constitutional rights for **all residents**.

The resolution's request that the Mayor review all current and future agreements and memoranda with public and private partners to ensure constitutional rights of residents are protected directly implements the constitutional mandate for compassionate governance toward all peoples.

II. Due Process and Equal Protection Guarantees

The resolution's emphasis on due process protection finds explicit constitutional support in Article I, §5 of the Hawai'i Constitution, which guarantees both due process and equal protection.[ii] This provision requires that all persons within the state's jurisdiction receive fair treatment under law, regardless of immigration status.

The resolution's request that the Honolulu Police Department “confine its powers, duties, and functions only to those matters within its original jurisdiction pursuant to Section 6-1604(a), Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973 (Amended 2017 Edition) should be **amended** to clearly state that **HPD must limit its involvement with Immigration and Customs Enforcement to cases involving criminal activity**. This amendment would serve as a clearer and crucial safeguard ensuring that **civil immigration violations** do not become pretexts for circumventing due process protections guaranteed to all residents.

III. Cultural Preservation and Diversity Mandates

Article IX, Section 9 of the Hawai'i Constitution explicitly grants the State power to "preserve and develop the cultural, creative and traditional arts of its various ethnic groups." Resolution No. 25-301's affirmation of the County's commitment to multiculturalism and its immigrant heritage directly advances this constitutional mandate by protecting the diverse communities that contribute to Hawai'i's rich cultural tapestry.

The resolution recognizes that protecting immigrant communities from excessive federal enforcement actions preserves the cultural diversity that our Constitution explicitly values and protects.

IV. The Law of the Splintered Paddle and Public Safety

Article IX, Section 10 enshrines the Law of the Splintered Paddle (māmala-hoe kānāwai) as "a unique and living symbol of the State's concern for public safety," decreeing that "every elderly person, woman and child lie by the roadside in safety."[iii] This ancient law, established by Kamehameha I in 1797, mandates protection for all vulnerable persons.

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has reaffirmed that this principle requires that "all people, including the elderly, women and children, could lie by the pathways in safety" and that "equality before the law has long been a guiding principle in Hawai'i."[iv] Resolution No. 25-301 advances this constitutional principle by ensuring that immigrant families, including vulnerable elderly persons, women, and children, can access essential services and interact with local government without fear of immigration enforcement actions unrelated to criminal activity.

V. The Aloha Spirit Statute as Constitutional Guidance

The Aloha Spirit Statute (HRS §5-7.5) provides constitutional guidance for governmental decision-making. The statute defines "Aloha Spirit" as "the coordination of mind and heart within each person" and establishes that "each person must think and emote good feelings to others." The statute specifically provides that those "using their power" in government "may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the 'Aloha Spirit.'"[v]

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has recognized that the Aloha Spirit law "establishes that 'aloha means mutual regard and affection in which each person is important to every other person'" and that "these words define the shared vision for our state that we adopted as a people."[vi]

Resolution No. 25-301 embodies the Aloha Spirit by ensuring that all residents—regardless of immigration status—are treated with the mutual regard and affection that our constitutional framework demands.

LEGAL IMPLICATIONS AND PRECEDENTS

I. Historical Context and Constitutional Imperative

The constitutional importance of this resolution gains particular urgency when viewed against Hawai'i's historical experience with discriminatory federal enforcement actions. As documented "after the Empire of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, FDR ordered the internment of the Japanese Americans, regardless of their citizenship" through Executive Order 9066.[vii]

The historical record shows that "these prisoners were never even charged with a crime, let alone convicted. Two-thirds of them were U.S. citizens, born in the U.S." In Hawai'i specifically, "the U.S. government interned 2,270 people of Japanese ancestry" with "military personnel and local authorities collaborating on arrests."[viii]

This historical precedent demonstrates the constitutional necessity of local governments establishing clear boundaries regarding cooperation with federal enforcement actions that may violate due process rights.

II. Contemporary Constitutional Concerns

Current federal immigration enforcement policies raise similar constitutional concerns. Recent analysis warns that "America is now poised to allow a new version of the same profound injustice" with plans to "begin rounding up as many as 20 million immigrants — including U.S. citizens born here and granted birthright citizenship." [ix]

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has recently reaffirmed its commitment to constitutional principles, stating: "We reject any suggestion that programs that seek to welcome all people into our courtrooms, and support all members of our workforce, are in any way inconsistent with our national and Hawai'i state civil rights laws. Rather, they protect against bias, allow each individual to be judged on their merits, strengthen our community, and enable us to live up to the promise of equal justice for all."[x]

III. Federal-State Constitutional Balance

Resolution No. 25-301 appropriately balances federal immigration enforcement authority with state constitutional obligations. By limiting local cooperation to cases involving criminal activity, the resolution would maintain appropriate law enforcement cooperation while protecting the due process and equal protection rights guaranteed by the Hawai'i Constitution.

The resolution does not interfere with federal immigration enforcement authority but rather ensures that local resources and authority are not used in ways that violate state constitutional protections for residents.

REASONS for ADOPTION

Based on this constitutional analysis, I strongly recommend that the Council adopt Resolution No. 25-301 for the following reasons:

1. Constitutional Compliance

The resolution directly implements multiple provisions of the Hawai'i Constitution, including due process and equal protection guarantees, cultural preservation mandates, and the Law of the Splintered Paddle's protection for vulnerable persons.

2. Historical Responsibility

Given Hawai'i's experience with discriminatory federal enforcement actions during World War II, the resolution represents a constitutional commitment to preventing similar violations of residents' rights.

3. Spirit Implementation

The resolution embodies the Aloha Spirit's mandate for mutual regard and affection toward all persons, implementing this constitutional principle in practical governance.

4. Judicial Alignment

The resolution aligns with the Hawai'i Supreme Court's recent reaffirmation of principles supporting equal justice for all and rejection of discriminatory enforcement practices.

CONCLUSION

The resolution honors Hawai'i's constitutional commitment to governance "with an understanding and compassionate heart toward all the peoples of the earth" while learning from our historical experience with discriminatory federal enforcement actions.

I respectfully urge the Committee to adopt Resolution No. 25-301 with the suggested amendment as a necessary implementation of our state's constitutional principles and values. This resolution strengthens our community by ensuring that all residents can access essential services and contribute to our diverse cultural heritage without fear of immigration enforcement actions unrelated to criminal activity.

Thank you for your consideration of this constitutional analysis and for your continued commitment to protecting the rights and dignity of all Honolulu County residents.

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[i] **PREAMBLE**: "We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of our Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, 'Ua mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono.' We reserve the right to control our destiny, to nurture the integrity of our people and culture, and to preserve the quality of life that we desire. We reaffirm our belief in a government of the people, by the people and for the people, and with an understanding and compassionate heart toward all the peoples of the earth, do hereby ordain and establish this constitution for the State of Hawaii."

[ii] **HRS Const. Art. I, § 5:**
"No person shall be deprived of life, liberty or property without due process of law, nor be denied the equal protection of the laws, nor be denied the enjoyment of the person's civil rights or be discriminated against in the exercise thereof because of race, religion, sex or ancestry."

[iii] **HRS Const. Art. IX, § 10:** "The law of the splintered paddle, mamala-hoe kanawai, decreed by Kamehameha I — Let every elderly person, woman and child lie by the roadside in safety — shall be a unique and living symbol of the State's concern for public safety.
"The State shall have the **power to provide for the safety of the people from crimes against persons and property**."

[iv] **Statement by the Hawai'i Supreme Court Affirming Principles of Equal Justice for All (March 5, 2025):** "These principles of justice and servant leadership run deep in Hawai'i. In 1797, King Kamehameha I decreed the Law of the Splintered Paddle: Ke Kanawai Mãmalahoe, that people great and humble should be respected alike, and that all people, including the elderly, women and children, could lie by the pathways in safety. Equality before the law has long been a guiding principle in Hawai'i. It seeks to elevate all people by recognizing their common humanity and eliminating the barriers that keep them from fully participating in society. It is a message that remains as important today as it was in 1797, and will always continue to guide the work we do at the Hawai'i State Judiciary."

[v] **HRS § 5-7.5 --Aloha Spirit.**
(a) **"Aloha Spirit"** is the coordination of mind and heart within each person. It brings each person to the self. Each person must think and emote good feelings to others. In the contemplation and presence of the life force, "Aloha", the following unuhi laula loa may be used:

"Akahai", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;

"Lokahi", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;

"Oluolu", meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;

"Haahaa", meaning humility, to be expressed with modesty;

"Ahonui", meaning patience, to be expressed with perseverance.

These are traits of character that express the charm, warmth and sincerity of Hawai'i's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawai'ians and was presented as a gift to the people of Hawai'i. "Aloha" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation. "Aloha" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return. "Aloha" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence. "Aloha" means to hear what is not said, to see what cannot be seen and to know the unknowable.

(b) In exercising their power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people, the legislature, governor, lieutenant governor, executive officers of each department, the chief justice, associate justices, and judges of the appellate, circuit, and district courts may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the "Aloha Spirit".

[vi] **Statement by the Hawai'i Supreme Court Affirming Principles of Equal Justice for All (March 5, 2025):** "We strive to ensure that all people receive fair and respectful consideration in our court rooms. We are guided in this work by the Aloha Spirit law, Hawai'i Revised Statutes § 5-7.5, which establishes that 'aloha means mutual regard and affection . . .in which each person is important to every other person.' **These words define the shared vision for our state that we adopted as a people."**

[vii] After the Empire of Japan attacked Pearl Harbor on December 7, 1941, FDR ordered the internment of the Japanese Americans, regardless of their citizenship two months later. Executive Order 9066. The War Relocation Authority (WRA) was established on March 18th to organize their removal. "These prisoners were never even charged with a crime, let alone convicted. Two-thirds of them were U.S. citizens, born in the U.S.-the remainder could not have become citizens because at that time people of Asian origin were prohibited from naturalization." https://www.hawaiiinternment.org/untold-story/resources [Emphasis added]. *See also* ***Removed by Force: The Eviction of Hawai'i's Japanese Americans During WWII*** **[Removed by Force,** directed by Ryan Kawamoto and produced by Hawai'i attorney Bill Kaneko, is a full-length documentary which describes the untold story of 1,500 Americans of Japanese ancestry in Hawai`i who were unlawfully evicted from their homes during WWII. These cases were separate and apart from the unlawful incarceration of 120,000 Japanese American incarcerated on the West Coast and Hawai`i. **The film is based on the research and writings about the legal cases spearheaded by the Honolulu JACL which resulted in $30M in redress compensation from the US Department of Justice];** Michi Weglyn's landmark **Years of Infamy, The Untold Story** of America's Concentration Camps, and the

NBC-produced documentary "**Guilty by Reason of Race**."

[viii] Fueled by suspicions of disloyalty with military personnel and local authorities collaborating on arrests, the U.S. government interned 2,270 people of Japanese ancestry in Hawai'i. The "internees" were at first confined to the local internment camps, with most being sent to O'ahu's U.S. Immigration station before being transferred to internment camps on the mainland.

[ix] America is now poised to allow a new version of the same profound injustice that nearly destroyed the Japanese in America. Donald Trump has vowed that he will move immediately to begin rounding up as many as 20 million immigrants — including U.S. citizens born here and granted birthright citizenship - - and deport them. "If he achieves his goal, approximately one in 16 people living in America could be imprisoned and deported over the next four years. The time between President Roosevelt's executive order and the first arrival to the Manzanar War Relocation Center was 30 days." A Racist Purge Almost Destroyed My Family. Another One Is Coming. Timothy Soseki Kudo, https://www.nytimes.com/2025/01/18/opinion/immigration-trump-ww2-japanese- internment.html

[x] **Statement by the Hawai'i Supreme Court Affirming Principles of Equal Justice for All (March 5, 2025).**

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is Addison Craig, and I am a 16 year-old who has been a resident of Hawai'i since 2020. Since the pandemic, I have found myself with increasing interest in politics and social justice. As a young person who hopes to contribute to a more equal future, I feel responsible to speak up on issues that affect members of our community who are too often overlooked. I am writing today to support Resolution 25-301.

Many residents of Hawai'i, particularly those who are immigrants or from mixed households, are currently living in uncertainty about whether their rights will be protected. It has become common for individuals in our community to be treated differently based on their background, resulting in a hesitancy to interact with local government and authorities due to the fear of their rights not being respected. Considering the fact that approximately 18% of Hawaii's residents are immigrants, these problems have led to a large part of our community feeling unsafe and unprotected. The overarching issue is that too many residents are living without confidence that their constitutional rights will be respected and upheld.

I support resolution 25-301 because it reinforces that all residents are entitled to their constitutional rights. The resolution states that it will, "Guarantee certain fundamental rights, such as due process and equal protection, to all persons regardless of citizenship or immigrant upon status, and…the County of Honolulu is firmly committed to upholding these rights," explaining that all people have the right to equal treatment under the law. This ultimately is seeking to reestablish the trust and connection between residents and authorities by emphasizing that constitutional protections are universally inclusive— strengthening the community as a whole. This resolution would guarantee immigrants the rights that our country has promised them, protecting those who have been unjustly mistreated and discriminated against.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Addison Craig

ACLU Hawai‘i

Committee:	City and County of Honolulu Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Hearing Date/Time:	Thursday, November 20, 2025 at 1:00 PM
Place:	City Council Chamber & Via Videoconference
Re:	**Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai‘i in SUPPORT of Resolution 25-301: Constitutional Rights of All Residents of the City and County of Honolulu**

Aloha Chair Tulba, Vice-Chair Kia‘āina, and Members of the Committee:

The ACLU of Hawai‘i supports Resolution 25-301 in affirming the constitutional rights of all residents of the City and County of Honolulu, which include the due process and equal protection rights of all people, regardless of citizenship or immigration status.

Across the continent and here at home in Hawai‘i, we have seen mass immigration raids and deportations, a rapid increase in the detention of immigrants, and other extreme measures that create terror in our communities and do nothing to make our immigration system function more effectively.[1] The Trump administration is prioritizing locking up immigrants instead of working to serve our communities' needs and uphold our constitutional rights. This increased deportation agenda has sewn deep fear in our islands: many people are now scared to leave their house to go to work, school, or even receive medical care.[2]

We have also seen the U.S. government attack our constitutional rights to free speech, privacy, reproductive freedom, and has also launched an aggressive attack on the LGBTQ+ community in the past ten months.[3] Protecting due process, equal protection, and all constitutional rights for all our community members here in Honolulu is

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[1] Huff, D. (2025, Nov. 10). *Hawaii News Now.* Immigration arrests surge in Hawaii as federal agents target courthouses. https://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/2025/11/11/immigration-arrests-surge-hawaii-federal-agents-target-courthouses/

[2] Nolan, E. (2025, Sept. 25). *Civil Beat*. Immigrant Lahaina Fire Survivors Terrified by ICE Presence. https://www.civilbeat.org/2025/09/immigrant-lahaina-fire-survivors-terrified-by-ice-presence/

[3] Branstetter, G.. (2025, Jan. 22). *ACLU.* Trump's Executive Orders Promoting Sex Discrimination, Explained. https://www.aclu.org/news/by-issue/transgender-people-and-discrimination

essential to preventing democratic backslide into authoritarianism and government encroachment.

We support imploring the Mayor, Honolulu Police Department, and all City and County of Honolulu employees, agencies, and departments in carrying out their duties in alignment with constitutionally established and due process rights within their respective jurisdictions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Leilani Stacy
Immigrants' Rights Attorney
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.

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Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy
November 20, 2025
RE: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba, Vice Chair Kia'aina, and committee members,

My name is Heleina Willis, and I am a resident of Mānoa. I am writing today in strong support of RESOLUTION 25-301.

Immigration is not an abstract issue for my family; it is part of our lived experience. My mother left the Independent State of Samoa and moved to American Samoa entirely on her own, with no support system and no guidance. She worked tirelessly as a single mother to build stability for my brother and later for me, and her sacrifices are the reason both of us have the opportunity to pursue higher education today. Growing up, I witnessed how overwhelming it can be for families, including Pacific Islander families, to navigate legal and governmental systems in a new environment without anyone to clearly explain their rights or help them access protections they are entitled to.

According to the American Immigration Council, immigrants make up nearly 18% of Hawai'i's population, and two in seven keiki have at least one immigrant parent. These are not distant statistics as they represent the people who shape our neighborhoods, our schools, and our workforce. When such a significant part of our community faces barriers to exercising their constitutional rights, the impact is widespread and deeply felt.

At its core, RESOLUTION 25-301 affirms a simple but essential principle: constitutional rights apply to all residents, not only to those with secure immigration status. No family, and especially no child, should ever be denied due process, equal protection, or the basic civil liberties guaranteed under the U.S. and Hawai'i State Constitutions. When residents fear seeking help, reporting crimes, or accessing public systems because they are unsure of their rights, it puts entire communities at risk and erodes public trust.

By reaffirming that constitutional protections extend to every resident of Honolulu, this resolution strengthens safety, supports vulnerable families, and upholds the values of aloha, fairness, and community care. It ensures that all people, regardless of where they were born, can rely on the same foundational rights and feel secure in the place they call home.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to support RESOLUTION 25-301 and protect the constitutional rights of all residents in our city.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heleina Willis

Honolulu City Council Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Re: RESOLUTION 25-301

Aloha Chair Tulba and Committee Members,

My name is Tiffani Nguyen and I was born and raised on Oahu. I am currently a junior at ‘Iolani school. I am writing today to support RESOLUTION 25-301.

In Hawaii, many immigrant residents contribute to our community but still feel uncertain whether their rights are fully protected.
This hesitation affects a large number of people as immigrants make up about 18.6% of the population in Hawaii. Because of this uncertainty and constant fear, some immigrants may avoid contacting the police or even feel unsafe going to work. For these reasons, clearly reaffirming that constitutional rights apply to all residents regardless of immigration or citizenship status will help immigrants to feel safe and protected under the same constitutional rights as everyone else.

I support RESOLUTION 25-301. The resolution states that the City “affirms its support for the constitutional rights of all residents of the City,” and reaffirms its commitment to due process and equal protection rights which directly addresses uncertainty many immigrants face by confirming that the City will stand by their constitutional protections. Reaffirming these constitutional rights allows immigrants to fully participate in and contribute to the community without having to fear getting detained or discriminated against because of their status.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,
Sincerely,
Tiffani Nguyen

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
Hale o nā Luna Maka'āinana

STATE OF HAWAI'I
STATE CAPITOL
415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96813

November 20, 2025

Chair Augie Tulba
Committee on Public Safety & Economy
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

VIA WRITTEN & ORAL TESTIMONY
https://hnldoc.ehawaii.gov/hnldoc/testimony

RE: Testimony in Support of Resolution 25-301
Constitutional Rights of All Residents of the City and County of Honolulu

Dear Chair Tulba and Committee Members:

My name is Della Au Belatti, and I am State Representative for District 26 representing the communities of Makiki, Tantalus, Papakōlea, and Punchbowl. I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutional rights of all residents of the City and County of Honolulu.

In the past ten months, we have seen increased arrests and detentions of residents in other American cities that are sometimes shocking, outrageous, and cruel in the manner in which these arrests are conducted. We know there is also an exponential increase of individuals who have been detained throughout our State and reportedly in our own communities here on O'ahu based on news reports and the Deportation Data Project that collects and posts public, anonymized United States government immigration enforcement datasets from throughout the country.

Resolution 25-01 is critical because it upholds due process and equal protection under the law, fundamental rights that are the cornerstones of our constitutional system of governance. This resolution further reinforces our community's deep commitment to fairness and justice for all, regardless of immigration status, and reflects Honolulu's enduring values of diversity and inclusion.

I urge this Committee to advance this resolution and reaffirm the City and County of Honolulu's unwavering commitment to constitutional rights, justice, and the inclusive values that define our community. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Della Au Belatti
State Representative, District 26

DELLA AU BELATTI
STATE REPRESENTATIVE • DISTRICT 26 • MAKIKI, TANTALUS, PUNCHBOWL, PAPAKŌLEA
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, ROOM 420 • 415 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HI 96813
TEL: (808) 586-9425 • REPBELATTI@CAPITOL.HAWAII.GOV

Written Testimony for RESOLUTION 25-301 – CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

To: Chair Tommy Waters and Members of the Honolulu City Council
From: Laila Marie Guerrero Gallardo
Date: Thursday, November 20, 2025
Subject: Written Testimony for RESOLUTION 25-301 – CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS OF ALL RESIDENTS OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

Aloha Chair Waters and Councilmembers,

My name is Laila Marie Guerrero Gallardo, and I am an undergraduate at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa studying political science, ethnic studies, and American studies. I write today as a first-generation college student and a proud second-generation Mexican American who was raised to believe that education, fairness, and hard work are the foundation of a better future. My grandparents on my father’s side immigrated from Mexico as teenagers, seeking stability and opportunity, and they spent their entire lives working to provide for their family. On my mother’s side, my great-grandparents brought their children to this country with the same dream, an “American Dream” to live the promise of dignity, belonging, and possibility.

Sadly they never got to see that dream fully realized, but I stand here today in pursuit of it; as their granddaughter and as a young person who believes that our city can and must lead with compassion and justice. I’m writing to express my **strongest support** for the forthcoming resolution calling for **the affirmation of supporting the Constitutional Rights of ALL residents of the City and County of Honolulu.**

This is more than a policy decision. It is a moral one. It is a statement about what kind of city Honolulu chooses to be either one that extends aloha equally, or one that allows vulnerable members of our community to fall through the cracks of an unjust system.

The Moral and Legal Imperative of Representation

Every day, immigrants in Honolulu face the prospect of deportation or separation from their families without access to legal counsel. Immigration cases are considered “civil” rather than criminal, which means that unlike defendants in criminal court, immigrants are not guaranteed the right to an attorney. As a result, many must stand alone before a judge, against trained government attorneys, often in a language they do not fully understand.

According to the **American Immigration Council (2021)**, individuals in immigration court who have legal representation are **10 times more likely** to succeed in their cases compared to those without counsel. Yet nationwide, roughly **63 percent of immigrants in detention go**

unrepresented. In Hawai‘i, the shortage is especially acute, as there are only a handful of nonprofit and pro bono attorneys handling these cases, and they are overburdened by demand.

The **Hawai‘i Immigration Justice Center (HIJC)**, based in Honolulu, reports that despite their tireless efforts, they must turn away dozens of clients each month simply because of limited resources. Without funding from the city, many of these individuals; such as workers, parents, and students are facing the legal system alone. A single deportation can devastate a family, destabilize children's lives, and rob our city of valued community members who contribute to its cultural and economic vitality.

This resolution would ensure that the City of Honolulu does its part to fill that gap by providing stable, dedicated funding to expand access to legal representation. This can be seen as a small investment with life-changing consequences.

The Local and Economic Context

Immigrants are integral to Honolulu's social and economic fabric. According to **New American Economy (2020)**, immigrants make up **19 percent of Hawai‘i's total population** and **one in four workers** in the state. Collectively, they contribute more than **$2.4 billion in taxes** and hold over **$7 billion in spending power**. From our food systems to our tourism industry to the care economy that supports our kūpuna, immigrant workers are essential to Honolulu's well-being.

Yet many of these same individuals live under constant uncertainty. Deportation or loss of legal status does not only affect one person but it also reverberates through families, schools, and workplaces. When parents are detained, children enter foster care; when workers are removed, businesses lose skilled labor; when students are deported, the promise of education and upward mobility disappears.

Cities like **New York**, **Los Angeles**, and **San Francisco** have already recognized that providing public funding for immigrant legal services is not only morally right but economically sound. A **2019 Vera Institute of Justice** study found that every dollar invested in legal representation saves taxpayers up to three dollars in detention and social service costs. Access to counsel increases court appearance rates and reduces wrongful deportations, ensuring that the system functions more efficiently and justly. Honolulu has a chance to follow that model; for example, to lead with foresight and integrity by ensuring that immigrants who call this place home are afforded due process and respect.

Connecting Values to Leadership: Speaking to the Committee on Public Safety & Economy

Each of you, as members of the Committee on Public Safety & Economy, have demonstrated a commitment to protecting the well-being, dignity, and stability of Honolulu's diverse

communities. As a student who studies political science, ethnic studies, and as someone whose own family history is rooted in migration, I understand deeply how decisions made in this committee shape the lives of families like mine. This resolution is an opportunity to strengthen that commitment and ensure that Honolulu's approach to public safety reflects fairness, due process, and aloha.

Chair Augie Tulba, your leadership has emphasized responsiveness to community concerns, accountability, and ensuring that working families feel protected. Growing up in a working-class immigrant household, I was raised with the same values of responsibility and service that guide your public work. Supporting access to legal representation reflects those principles by preventing families from being torn apart by processes they cannot navigate alone and fostering the kind of community trust that strengthens public safety.

Vice Chair Esther Kia'āina, your lifelong dedication to public service, Indigenous rights, and equitable policy has influenced many students, including me, who study the intersections of history, law, and social justice. In both my ethnic studies and political science coursework, your record is frequently cited as an example of leadership grounded in empathy and principled decision-making. Supporting this resolution aligns directly with those values by ensuring that immigrant families, many of whom contribute deeply to Hawai'i's economy and community life, are afforded basic fairness under the law.

Councilmember Scott Y. Nishimoto, your long history in the State Legislature and the Council has consistently centered on strengthening families, expanding educational access, and building opportunity. As a first-generation college student whose grandparents and great-grandparents worked tirelessly for the chance to live with dignity, those commitments resonate deeply with me. Providing legal representation supports family stability, keeps children with their parents, and strengthens the social foundations you have spent your career advancing.

Councilmember Val A. Okimoto, your emphasis on fiscal responsibility, accountability, and supporting strong families aligns closely with the values I was raised with. My family believed deeply in stability, planning, and ensuring children had the strongest possible foundation. Funding legal counsel for immigrants is not only the compassionate choice but it is the fiscally prudent one. Preventing unnecessary detentions, family separations, and disruptions to households is responsible governance that protects both families and taxpayer resources.

Councilmember Andria Tupola, your leadership has consistently uplifted youth, emphasized family unity, and encouraged civic participation; the very principles that have guided my own engagement as a student involved in community and advocacy work. Coming from a multigenerational immigrant family where family unity was everything, I see this resolution as directly aligned with the values you champion. Ensuring that parents and children are not separated due to lack of representation strengthens both families and the broader community.

Together, your votes can affirm that public safety in Honolulu is not defined solely by enforcement, but by justice, dignity, and the belief that every resident deserves due process. This committee has the opportunity to lead with foresight and aloha by ensuring that Honolulu protects its families, strengthens trust, and upholds values that reflect the best of who we are.

The Human Dimension: Why This Matters Now

When I think of my grandparents and great-grandparents, I think of people who sacrificed everything to give future generations a chance. They came here with limited English, with little money, and with dreams that were far bigger than the lives they had known. They worked hard, often in jobs that others overlooked, and they endured discrimination and struggle because they believed that someday, their descendants would thrive in a fairer world.

Their story is not unique. It is the story of millions of immigrant families across America, including many who now call Honolulu home. When I see their stories echoed in the lives of immigrants here; parents working double shifts, students striving to learn, families seeking safety. With this envisionment I am reminded that our city's strength lies in its diversity, compassion, and humanity.

Funding legal representation is not a radical idea; it is a reaffirmation of the values Hawai‘i has always stood for; *aloha, ‘ohana, kuleana, and pono.* It means standing up for fairness, not fear. It means ensuring that families stay together and that justice does not depend on the size of one's wallet or the color of one's passport.

We cannot speak of aloha while denying due process to those who seek safety and belonging. We cannot celebrate diversity while leaving our immigrant neighbors without the tools to defend their rights. By passing this resolution, Honolulu can send a clear message: that in this city, every person deserves a fair chance and a compassionate hearing.

Conclusion: A Call to Lead with Aloha and Justice

Chair Waters and Councilmembers, the vote before you is more than a procedural matter. It is a reflection of our collective values. By supporting dedicated funding for immigrant legal representation, you will help ensure that our justice system lives up to its promise of fairness and equality for all.

As a young person and a first-generation student, I look to leaders like you for examples of courage and empathy. This resolution represents a rare chance to take action that is fiscally sound, morally clear, and socially transformative. It represents the kind of leadership that future generations, including students like me, will remember as a turning point toward a more inclusive Honolulu.

Mahalo nui loa for your time, your service, and your continued commitment to justice. I respectfully urge each of you to support this resolution and to help ensure that Honolulu remains a city grounded in aloha, fairness, and dignity for all who call it home.

With gratitude and conviction,
Laila Marie Guerrero Gallardo
Undergraduate, University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa
Political Science | Ethnic Studies | American Studies

My name is H.Y., and I am a junior at ʻIolani School, living in the dorms as an international student from Korea. I am writing today to express my strong support for Resolution 25-301.

As a non-citizen and international student, being far from home means safety and legal protections are very crucial. Because I am still learning how the U.S. legal system works, I sometimes worry that—if I ever face an emergency or misunderstanding—I might not understand my rights as well as local residents. I am also constantly aware that my ability to study and live in Honolulu depends on maintaining my visa status, which makes me especially vulnerable to the consequences of any legal confusion. Without clear assurances that everyone is treated fairly regardless of citizenship, non-citizens and newcomers like me can feel uncertain and excluded. These issues highlight the need for stronger reaffirmation of due process rights for all residents.

This is why I strongly support Resolution 25-301, which affirms the constitutionality of all residents, regardless of citizenship or immigration status. The resolution states that “no individual shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law” and emphasizes that city agencies must uphold these protections in their daily work. This commitment helps ensure that people like myself, far from their real home, can feel secure and included in this community.

Thank you for your time and consideration.
Respectfully,
H.Y.

Introduction:

Aloha Chair and Councilmembers, my name is Alex Sumailo and I currently live in Waipahu, Councilmember Tulbas' district. Hawai‘i has always been a place of migration, diversity, and aloha. Our islands are built on the contributions of immigrants — from the plantation era until now — and our strength lies in our multicultural heritage. I'm testifying in support of resolution 25-301 to ensure that our city cooperates with federal immigration enforcement only to the extent required by law.

Why it matters:

- **HPD is already severely understaffed.** The department is down more than **460 officers**, with vacancies increasing by 60% since 2020. HPD has had to rely on extreme overtime, with over **125 officers logging more than 1,000 hours of overtime in a single year**. Adding immigration enforcement duties would stretch resources even thinner, leaving neighborhood beats unfilled and reducing capacity to address violent crime.
- **Immigrants would fear reporting crimes.** National surveys show that **67% of police officers report difficulty protecting crime survivors because immigrants fear deportation**, and **54% of judges have seen cases interrupted because victims were too afraid to appear in court**. When immigrants fear that contacting HPD could lead to deportation, crimes go unreported, witnesses stay silent, and our entire community becomes less safe.

Closing Statement:

I believe that regardless of what side of the aisle you're on, democrat or republican, we all want to make Hawai‘i a better and safer place. Honolulu must not compromise its values of aloha, justice, and human dignity. Delegating immigration enforcement duties to HPD officers would erode trust in local law enforcement, decrease public safety, and betray Hawai‘is' immigrant history.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.