Sample Testimony

General format: I support X, that will do Y, because Z.

I support HB 2061, that will allow a portion of child support collected by the states be passed through to families receiving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds. In return, the Federal portion of these monies would be waived as long as the pass through was not counted as additional income by the states. Currently, 27 states have some level of child support pass through. This initiative proposes a $100 child support pass through for Hawaiʻi families with one child and a $200 pass through for families with 2 or more children. This proposal helps parents have the resources to take of their children.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I support SB2345. Children with incarcerated parents suffer lifelong consequences from the long period of separation. Family visitation centers create a space to build and maintain a healthy relationship. Stronger family connections are linked to higher levels of success post-incarceration. Hawaiʻi should establish an accessible, child and family friendly visitation center at Waiawa Correctional Center that is operated by community-based service providers as a pilot project.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I support SB2352, that would appropriate funding for education and awareness on the state’s Safe Haven law. A public awareness campaign would provide education on the resources that the Safe Haven Law provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I support HB2541 and suggest amendments. The minimum wage should be raised to $17 by 2025. $13 an hour is about $27,000 a year for full-time work. That’s not enough to live on in 2020, let alone 4 years from now. In the most expensive state in the nation, Hawai‘i’s minimum wage workers need to make enough to be able to afford the basics. Additionally, I suggest keeping the current structure of the food/excise tax credit that phases out the amount of the credit as incomes rise as well as the different eligibility levels for married and single-parent households versus single households and instead adjusting it to catch up the amounts and eligibility levels that have fallen behind, due to inflation.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I support HB1958, improving the child and dependent care tax credit. The CDCTC would help families with their child care costs. Across all child care settings, the cost for full time care can range from $700-$1100 monthly. Care for infants and toddlers specifically is the most expensive with an average of $1100 per month.  The CDCTC is the second most commonly claimed credit but each year fewer people are eligible. Increasing the income levels would allow more families to take advantage of it.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

I support HB 2676, which would expand private insurance coverage requirements. This legislation would strengthen and expand our state law by requiring insurers to cover a wide range of sexual and reproductive health care services, including abortion and vasectomy, with no co-pays and on a non-discriminatory basis.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.