

JAN 23 2026

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1       SECTION 1. Chapter 139, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4       "§139-A Law enforcement identification policies. (a) By  
5 January 1, 2027, any law enforcement agency operating in the  
6 State shall maintain a policy on the visible identification of  
7 law enforcement officers. The policy shall include, at a  
8 minimum, the following:

9       (1) A purpose statement affirming the department's or  
10       agency's commitment to:

11       (A) Transparency, accountability, and public trust;

12       and

13       (B) Restricting situations in which law enforcement  
14       officers do not visibly display identification to  
15       specific, clearly defined, and limited  
16       circumstances;



1        (2) A requirement that all law enforcement officers  
2        visibly display identification that includes their  
3        department or agency and either a name or badge  
4        number, or both a name and badge number, when  
5        performing enforcement duties; and

6        (3) A list of narrowly tailored exemptions for the  
7        following:

8        (A) Law enforcement officers engaged in active  
9        undercover operations or investigative  
10       activities;

11       (B) Law enforcement officers engaged in plainclothes  
12       operations;

13       (C) Law enforcement officers wearing personal  
14       protective equipment that prevents display;

15       (D) Exigent circumstances involving an imminent  
16       danger to persons or property, the escape of a  
17       perpetrator, or the destruction of evidence,  
18       including if the law enforcement officer is  
19       responding to those circumstances while off-duty;  
20       and



1           (E) When there is a specific, articulatable, and  
2           particularized reason to believe identification  
3           would pose a significant danger to the physical  
4           safety of the law enforcement officer.

5           (b) Each law enforcement agency shall make its visible  
6           identification of law enforcement officer policy adopted  
7           pursuant to this section accessible to the public.

8           (c) For the purposes of this section:

9           "Enforcement duties" means:

10          (1) Active and planned operations involving the arrest or  
11          detention of an individual; or

12          (2) Deployment for crowd control purposes.

13          "Law enforcement agency" includes a law enforcement agency  
14          of another state.

15          "Law enforcement officer" includes any sworn officer of a  
16          law enforcement agency of another state vested by law with a  
17          duty to:

18          (1) Maintain public order; or

19          (2) Make arrests for offenses or to enforce the criminal  
20          laws, whether that duty extends to all offenses or is  
21          limited to a specific class of offenses.



1       "Visibly display identification" means to wear externally  
2       on the uniform in a size and location that is reasonably visible  
3       to a member of the public with whom the law enforcement officer  
4       interacts.

5       **§139-B Visible display of identification requirements.**

6       (a) Any law enforcement officer shall visibly display  
7       identification that includes their agency, name, and badge  
8       number, if applicable, while performing enforcement duties.

9       (b) This section shall not apply to an officer engaged in  
10       undercover duties in the regular performance of the officer's  
11       official enforcement duties.

12       (c) For the purposes of this section:

13       "Enforcement duties" has the same meaning as defined in  
14       section 139-A.

15       "Law enforcement officer" has the same meaning as defined  
16       in section 139-A.

17       "Visibly display identification" has the same meaning as  
18       defined in section 139-A."

19       SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
20       matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
21       begun before its effective date.



1       SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the  
2 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
3 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
4 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the  
5 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
6 of this Act are severable.

7       SECTION 4. In codifying the new sections added by  
8 section 1 of this Act, the revisor of statutes shall substitute  
9 appropriate section numbers for the letters used in designating  
10 the new sections in this Act.

11       SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

12       SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:                     JGL                    



# S.B. NO. 2174

**Report Title:**

Law Enforcement; Visible Identification; Policy; Requirement

**Description:**

By January 1, 2027, requires each law enforcement agency operating in the State to maintain a publicly available policy on the visible identification of law enforcement officers. Requires all law enforcement officers in the State to visibly display identification including certain information while performing enforcement duties. Exempts officers performing undercover duties from the visible display of identification requirements.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

