

JAN 23 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

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



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 **S139-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.

13

INTRODUCED BY: *Dee*



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.

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