



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1886 HD1
RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho'okolokolo a me ke Kuleana
Hawai'i
(House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs)

Ke Kapitala 'o Hawai'i
(Hawai'i State Capitol)

Pepeluāli 25, 2026

2:00 PM

Lumi 325

Aloha e Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, a me Members of Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Ho'okolokolo a me ke Kuleana Hawai'i:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1886 HD1** which establishes limitations on state and county collaboration in certain federal immigration enforcement activities, strengthens safeguards against unconstitutional joint operations, and requires visible identification standards for law enforcement officers engaged in public interactions. This measure advances core constitutional principles of due process, accountability, and transparency in government operations while clarifying boundaries to ensure that state and county resources are not used in ways that undermine Hawai'i's constitutional protections or erode public trust.

For Native Hawaiian communities, historical experiences of surveillance, over-policing, and unequal enforcement of the law have contributed to longstanding mistrust of government systems. Hawai'i's history, including the overthrow and the long legacy of militarization, means that deployments of armed forces in civilian contexts can have an outsized impact on community trust, particularly among Kānaka Maoli. When enforcement operations occur without clear identification, transparency, or constitutional guardrails, that mistrust deepens and community safety suffers. Requiring visible identification during public-facing law enforcement activities strengthens accountability while preserving officer safety through carefully tailored exemptions for tactical, undercover, and hazardous operations.

Public safety is strengthened when communities trust law enforcement, understand who is exercising authority, and know that constitutional protections will be upheld. HB1886 HD1 reinforces transparency, protects civil rights, and provides clarity for state and county agencies navigating complex federal-state dynamics. For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

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

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February 24, 2026

HB 1886, HD1: RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports** HB 1886, HD1. This measure establishes statutory standards governing state and county collaboration with federal immigration enforcement operations, strengthens transparency requirements for law enforcement officers through visible identification and limitations on facial coverings, and creates clear statutory guardrails regarding unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

Transparency and Public Confidence in Law Enforcement

The OPD previously supported this measure because codifying identification and facial covering standards reinforces existing departmental policies across the counties and promotes professionalism and transparency in public interactions.

HB 1886, HD1 builds upon those principles by:

- Requiring clear, visible identification during public engagement;
- Establishing reasonable, clearly defined exceptions for tactical, undercover, and environmental safety circumstances;
- Providing accountability mechanisms for intentional violations.

Clear identification standards protect both law enforcement officers and the public. They reduce the risk of impersonation, prevent misidentification that could escalate encounters, and reinforce the legitimacy of lawful police authority.

Protecting Access to Courts and Due Process

The OPD is particularly concerned with ensuring that courts remain neutral and accessible forums for all people. This measure appropriately limits state and county facilitation of civil immigration enforcement operations, including at or near courthouses, schools, health facilities, and places of worship. These are spaces where individuals must be able to appear to seek justice, participate in proceedings, serve as witnesses, or comply with court orders without fear of unrelated civil detention.

When individuals are afraid to enter courthouses, several system-wide harms follow:

- Defendants may fail to appear, resulting in bench warrants;
- Witnesses may refuse to testify;
- Victims may decline to seek protective relief;
- Juror participation may be chilled.

Protecting courthouse access safeguards due process, strengthens compliance with court orders, and promotes confidence in the fairness of our justice system.

Clarity Reduces Litigation and Protects Judicial Resources

From the OPD's experience, ambiguity in arrest authority or civil immigration enforcement often results in extensive suppression litigation under the Fourth Amendment and Article I, Section 7 of the Hawai'i Constitution. These cases can involve complex evidentiary hearings, appeals and reversals, dismissals of otherwise prosecutable offenses and significant strain on judicial resources.

This measure provides clear statutory delineation between state criminal enforcement and federal civil immigration authority. Clear guardrails reduce the likelihood of constitutional violations that could destabilize prosecutions and burden the courts. Clarity benefits all stakeholders: law enforcement, prosecutors, defense counsel, courts, and the public.

Narrowly Tailored Safeguards Regarding Civil Immigration Detention

The measure creates a narrowly drawn offense addressing unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention. It applies only when an officer acts intentionally or knowingly beyond lawful authority. It also requires the absence of reasonable suspicion based on specific and articulable facts thereby preserving lawful stops, arrests, and detentions supported by reasonable suspicion or probable cause under state law, and provides an affirmative defense for compliance with valid judicial warrants or court orders.

The statute also clarifies that reasonable suspicion cannot be based solely on race, ethnicity, nationality, language, accent, religion, or other protected characteristics. In a diverse state such as Hawai'i statutory clarity is essential to avoid constitutionally problematic enforcement practices and to ensure that implicit bias does not become a basis for detention.

The OPD's mission is grounded in fairness, dignity, and equal access to justice. Indigent clients are often among the most vulnerable to confusion regarding authority and the legal process. When enforcement lines are blurred, the resulting fear and misunderstanding can undermine compliance with probation conditions, court appearances, and lawful orders. Clear guidance promotes stability and enhances voluntary compliance with the justice system.

For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **supports** HB 1886, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino
In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino, and we submit this testimony in **support of HB1886 HD1**, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

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

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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



STONEWALL CAUCUS OF THE DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAII

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1886 HD1

Relating to Government Operations – State and Federal Collaboration, Visible Identification, and Immigration Enforcement Limits

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs:

On behalf of the Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawaii, we submit this testimony in strong support of HB1886 HD1.

HB1886 HD1 establishes clear, enforceable standards that strengthen transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement operations within our state. The bill limits state and county collaboration in civil immigration enforcement operations, requires visible identification for law enforcement officers engaged in public duties, and creates guardrails to prevent unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

Visible identification and clear operational rules reduce fear and confusion in public settings. When officers display their name, agency, and badge number, the public can more readily distinguish legitimate law enforcement activity from impersonation or abuse. These standards help prevent impersonation risks, discourage anonymous enforcement activity, and promote de-escalation and accountability.

The measure also clarifies boundaries between federal immigration enforcement and state public safety priorities. Hawaii's state and county resources should remain focused on serving our local communities, protecting constitutional rights, and maintaining public safety. By limiting participation in civil immigration operations - particularly in sensitive locations such as schools, health facilities, places of worship, and courthouses - HB1886 HD1 reinforces community trust and ensures that individuals are not deterred from seeking education, medical care, legal protection, or spiritual support.

Importantly, the bill establishes criminal penalties for violations of identification standards and for unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention. These provisions create meaningful accountability and affirm that constitutional protections apply to everyone within our state.

Public trust is foundational to effective law enforcement. When community members fear anonymous or unidentifiable officers, cooperation declines and public safety suffers. HB1886 HD1 strengthens transparency, reinforces constitutional boundaries, and ensures that Hawaii remains committed to civil rights, accountability, and responsible governance.

For these reasons, the Stonewall Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB1886 HD1.

Testimony in Strong Support of HB1886 HD1

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to protecting the rights and safety of our communities.

Respectfully submitted,

Abby Simmons (she/her)
Chair
Stonewall Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i



The House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
February 25, 2026
Room 325
2:00 PM

RE: **HB 1886 HD1, Relating to Government Operations**

Attention: Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, Members of the
Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports HB 1886 HD1, with amendments.**

UHPA believes it is important to establish clear boundaries regarding the use of state resources and personnel for federal immigration enforcement. We agree that public trust is essential for the effective operation of state institutions, including our university system. Ensuring that our public employees remain focused on their state duties, rather than acting as an extension of federal immigration authorities, protects the educational environment and ensures that all students and staff feel safe and welcome on our campuses. We also appreciate the bill's new provisions regarding visible identification for law enforcement, which promote accountability and public trust.

Explicitly Protect University Campuses. To ensure this measure effectively covers our educational environments, UHPA notes that Section -2(b)(2) prohibits assistance with enforcement operations occurring at or near a "school," yet the bill does not currently define this term. To prevent ambiguity regarding post-secondary institutions, **we respectfully request that the Committee amend the bill to explicitly define "school" to include "public institutions of higher education, including University of Hawai'i campuses."** This aligns with the definitions found in similar legislative measures and ensures our campuses are legally recognized as sensitive locations.

Protection for Faculty Acting in Good Faith. Finally, we must raise a grave concern regarding the criminal liability placed on frontline faculty members in Section -6. Our members are educators and researchers, not legal experts. They may confront high-pressure situations where they feel compelled or intimidated by armed federal agents into providing information or access. We are deeply concerned that under the current language, a faculty member who acts out of confusion, or under duress, could be charged with a misdemeanor, face up to a \$2,000 fine, and be imprisoned for up to a year. **We respectfully urge the committee to ensure that the measure includes adequate "Safe Harbor" protections or exemptions from criminal**

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penalties for non-law enforcement employees who act in good faith when attempting to comply with this chapter, or when responding to perceived federal authority.

With these amendments, UHPA supports the passage of HB 1886 HD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

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HB-1886-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:00:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kristen Young	Faith Action for Community Equity	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

We have seen the attacks on immigrants and even citizens by federal agents. We must do everything we can to protect our communities.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Kristen Young
Honolulu, HI 96813



FEBRUARY 25, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1886 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

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Kris Coffield,
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David Negaard,
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Director

Corey Rosenlee,
Director

Amy Zhao,
*Policy and Partnerships
Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1886 HD1, relating to government operations, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations; establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers; and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, and combating all forms of systemic exploitation in our society. We have encountered numerous migrant survivors of sexual exploitation in our work, which is why we strongly support measures that advance community safety and survivor protections by reducing the harmful spillover of immigration enforcement into local institutions people rely on for protection, care, and due process.

An important protection for survivors and immigrant communities is banning the use of masking, face coverings that conceal identity, and other practices that prevent clear identification of immigration agents during enforcement actions. **When federal agents operate in camouflage or without visible identification, it creates an atmosphere of fear and confusion that compounds trauma for trafficking survivors, discourages victims from seeking help, and undermines trust in institutions that are meant to offer safety and support.**

The sense that agents could be "secret police" operating in neighborhoods, schools, or community spaces deters survivors from accessing critical services, reporting abuse by traffickers, seeking medical care, or engaging with law enforcement on serious crimes, a documented chilling effect that contributes to further exploitation and isolation.

Some states and localities have already moved to increase transparency and accountability in immigration enforcement by limiting masking practices for federal agents. In California's 2025 "No Secret Police Act," the legislature adopted laws that prohibit certain federal and local law enforcement officers from wearing masks that hide their identities during enforcement operations, requiring clear identification by name or badge number except in narrowly defined safety situations. Additionally, proposals in cities like Denver have considered face-mask prohibitions for ICE agents as part of efforts to ensure that immigration enforcement does not resemble clandestine operations in community spaces.

At the federal level, bills like the No Anonymity in Immigration Enforcement Act of 2025 (H.R. 4004) would similarly require ICE agents to be identifiable during enforcement activities absent exigent circumstances, underscoring a growing bipartisan concern about transparency and accountability in immigration enforcement.

A ban of masking by law enforcement must be considered as part of our state's overall movement to defend against aggressive ICE enforcement operations, which endanger our community and are especially concerning for victims of exploitation, many of whom are trafficked migrants.

Trafficking survivors are uniquely harmed by escalating ICE raids and related abuses. For survivors of labor and sex trafficking, contact with law enforcement, courts, schools, hospitals, and service providers is already difficult due to trauma, language barriers, isolation, threats from traffickers, and fear of retaliation. When aggressive immigration enforcement expands—especially raids and "at large" arrests—survivors are less likely to report trafficking, cooperate with investigations, seek protective orders, access emergency shelter, or obtain medical care because they fear that asking for help could expose them or their family members to detention or removal. This directly benefits traffickers, who commonly use immigration status as a tool of coercion ("If you go to the police, you'll be deported"). In short: when ICE presence and surveillance intensify, traffickers gain leverage, and survivor safety declines.

Recent reporting underscores how quickly enforcement tactics can scale and how that creates broader community fear. For example, national coverage in early 2026 described heightened enforcement operations and resulting backlash after fatal incidents involving federal agents in Minnesota—events that have amplified fear and mistrust, especially among immigrants and mixed-status families. Separately, investigative reporting described a nationwide "skip tracing" surveillance initiative launched in late 2025 to locate large numbers of immigrants using contractors and technology, raising civil liberties concerns that matter deeply for trafficking survivors trying to stay safe from both exploiters and abusers.

2025–2026 data show a growing share of ICE targets have no criminal history. This measure is also necessary because current enforcement patterns increasingly sweep in people without criminal convictions.

- TRAC (Syracuse University) reports that 73.6% of people held in ICE detention had no criminal conviction as of November 30, 2025.
- A January 2026 analysis reported the number of detained individuals with no convictions or pending charges rose sharply— from 3,165 in February 2025 to 25,193 in January 2026, based on ICE data summarized by an independent fact-checking review.
- Reuters reported that since January 20, 2025, 27% of ICE arrests involved individuals without other criminal charges or convictions (as of March 2025), contradicting claims that enforcement is narrowly focused on serious offenders.

When enforcement expands beyond serious public safety threats, the predictable result is broader community fear, precisely the environment in which trafficking thrives.

Constitutional and legal foundations support state and local limits on immigration enforcement entanglement. This measure is consistent with well-established constitutional principles and case law recognizing that states and localities cannot be compelled to administer or enforce federal regulatory programs.

- Under the anti-commandeering doctrine, the federal government generally may not require state/local officials to carry out federal enforcement. This principle is grounded in Supreme Court precedent including *Printz v. United States* (1997) and later reaffirmations of anti-commandeering limits.
- Courts have also reinforced that immigration enforcement is a federal domain and that state action must be carefully cabined, often cited in debates about state/federal boundaries in immigration enforcement (e.g., *Arizona v. United States* (2012)).

Put simply: Hawai'i can protect public safety while maintaining clear boundaries that prevent immigration enforcement from chilling access to services and justice for survivors.

Similar approaches exist across the U.S. Many jurisdictions have adopted policies to limit state/local participation in federal civil immigration enforcement—often described as “sanctuary” policies—precisely because community safety depends on residents’ willingness to report crimes and seek help. The Congressional Research Service summarizes that such jurisdictions typically limit assistance with federal civil immigration enforcement.

Examples include statewide frameworks like the California Values Act, SB

54 (restricting use of state/local resources for immigration enforcement in many circumstances) and TRUST-style limits on detention and cooperation, which have been widely adopted in various forms across states and cities. More recently, proposals and ordinances in places like New York State and New York City have continued this trend, seeking to curtail deputization agreements and ICE footprint in local facilities.

For trafficking survivors, the ability to safely access shelters, clinics, schools, and the courts can be the difference between escape and continued exploitation. This measure helps ensure that survivors can seek help without fear that the act of reporting abuse will trigger detention, family separation, or deportation. That improves cooperation with law enforcement against traffickers, strengthens prosecutions, and supports safer communities statewide.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1886, HD1 - RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of HB1886, HD1**, which promotes transparency and accountability by establishing standards for the identification and conduct of federal law enforcement officers operating in Hawai'i.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and across the state. Formed after the August 2023 wildfires, our team has worked alongside families through every phase of recovery by providing aid, navigating systems, and building community trust that remains the foundation of our work today.

Since early 2024, we've kicked into action to meet this new man-made disaster head-on, responding to the fear and confusion caused by federal enforcement activity. Through EPA Maui, we coordinate a community tipline and rapid response network. To date, we have:

- Distributed over 3,500 Know Your Rights flyers
- Trained more than 700 residents through workshops
- Provided 50+ trainings to health, education, business, and faith sectors
- Responded to over 450 community calls regarding enforcement activity
- Trained over 60 volunteer observers in verification, de-escalation, and peaceful documentation

We have repeatedly documented incidents involving masked, unidentified federal agents employing excessive force and refusing to identify themselves. These actions have sown fear across our islands with parents afraid to take children to school, patients delaying medical care, and survivors of domestic violence scared to call for help. *When enforcement loses transparency, trust in all law enforcement erodes and undermines community safety for everyone.*

HB1886, HD1 is a measured and necessary response. It restores clarity, accountability, and the public's trust by requiring identifiable officers and clarifying that warrantless arrests by federal officials are treated as actions in their individual capacity under state law, allowing appropriate accountability when rights are violated. These safeguards better protect both civil rights and public safety.

For the sake of our communities and the integrity of law enforcement, we **respectfully urge you to pass HB1886, HD1**.

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica Mendoza', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*

HB-1886-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:37:32 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Gollin	Indivisible	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing in strong support of HB1886 HD1.

Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation—while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions.

Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations.

We don't want Hawaii to be subjected to the abuse, fear and legal line-crossing that other "blue" states are experiencing. Listen to: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/880/what-is-your-emergency>

- The amended bill text spells out the ID requirements, exceptions, training/policy requirements, and the Class C felony provision.
- LegiScan description confirms this is HD1 and lists the main components (collaboration limits, ID/face coverings standards, criminal offenses).

Mahalo for keeping Hawai'i safe, sane, and protecting the value of aloha.

Lisa Gollin



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

February 24, 2026

House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Rep. David Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1886, HB 2540, and HB 1839

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

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

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

We urge your support of HB 1886, HB 2540, and HB 1839. These measures are important steps toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill
In SUPPORT of HB1886**

Representative Tarnas, Chair
Representative Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 25th, 2026

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

My name is **Liza Ryan-Gill**, testifying on behalf of the **Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)**. HCIR is a coalition of **30+ immigrant-serving and immigrant-led organizations** across the pae ‘āina working to advance policies that protect immigrant and migrant communities and strengthen Hawai‘i as a place where all families can thrive.

We submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1886 HD1**, which establishes **clear identification and facial-covering standards** and strengthens safeguards around **state and county collaboration with federal law enforcement**.

HB1886 HD1 strengthens public safety by preventing “secret policing” tactics and impersonation

Across the country, communities have raised urgent concerns about masked, unidentified agents conducting enforcement actions in public spaces—fueling fear, confusion, and the risk of escalation and violence. Hawai‘i has also seen the impacts of federal immigration enforcement in our islands, including Kaua‘i, and residents should never have to guess whether the person arresting and detaining someone is a legitimate immigration officer or a vigilante impersonator.

HB1886 HD1 addresses this directly by requiring visible identification—**name, agency, and unique badge number**—and by requiring agencies to maintain **publicly available written policies** and ensure **training** for officers on these requirements. These are basic, common-sense accountability measures that protect the public *and* protect officers by reducing dangerous confusion during fast-moving encounters.

The Minneapolis experience illustrates how anonymity in enforcement can escalate encounters, reduce accountability, and create widespread fear in communities—particularly among immigrant and other marginalized populations. Unbridled, unchecked power by federal officers acting without clear identification or accountability has contributed to these horrors on the continent, undermining civil liberties and eroding public trust. Masking and anonymity allow agents to act with impunity, obscuring their authority and making it harder for the public and local officials to assess whether enforcement actions are lawful or necessary—heightening the



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risk of unnecessary escalation, violence, and tragic outcomes. Hawai‘i has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to prevent similar harms here by ensuring that enforcement in our communities is transparent, accountable, and subject to clear standards.

Other jurisdictions have already enacted “No Secret Police” laws—Hawai‘i should not lag behind

Hawai‘i is not alone in pursuing this approach. **California enacted the nation’s first statewide “No Secret Police Act” (SB 627)**, which prohibits most law enforcement officers—including federal immigration agents operating in the state—from wearing identity-concealing facial coverings during operations, with carefully defined exceptions (e.g., undercover work, medical masks, hazardous conditions). The law takes effect **January 1, 2026**.

At the local level, **Los Angeles County adopted an ordinance that requires visible identification and restricts masking** by law enforcement operating in the County’s unincorporated areas; it **went into effect January 8, 2026**.

These measures reflect a growing consensus: community safety and democratic accountability require that officers who exercise state power in public be identifiable, subject to meaningful oversight, and constrained by clear rules.

This type of framework does not “regulate federal officers” in the abstract; rather, it **sets Hawai‘i’s rules for Hawai‘i**, and it clarifies what conduct is required to ensure transparency, prevent impersonation, and protect the public.

These safeguards are pro-community, pro-democracy, and pro-public safety

HB1886 advances real safety. When people fear law enforcement—or cannot identify who is acting under color of authority—they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with investigations. Transparent identification standards are also an anti-impersonation measure: they help the public and local officials distinguish legitimate enforcement from opportunistic bad actors.

Just as importantly, Hawai‘i must ensure that **state and county agencies are not involuntarily drawn into federal immigration enforcement actions** that tear families apart and destabilize communities. Clear limits on collaboration protect local priorities, preserve community trust, and keep public institutions focused on serving residents—especially in emergencies, schools, courts, and health settings.

Conclusion



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For these reasons, HCIR respectfully urges you to **PASS HB1886 HD1**. Hawai‘i has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to affirm that secrecy and anonymity have no place in public-facing enforcement. Our communities thrive when families can live with dignity and without fear, and when government power is exercised with transparency and accountability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Liza Ryan Gill

Executive Director

Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights



TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
FR: Mandy Fernandes, Policy Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i
ON: Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 2:00 PM HST
AT: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
RE: **Testimony of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of HB 1886, HD1, Relating to Government Operations**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HB 1886, HD1** which would prohibit secret policing tactics by requiring law enforcement officers operating in the state to be clearly identifiable, limiting state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations, and prohibiting the deputization of federal agents for general policing.

At its core **HB 1886 HD1 is about preserving Hawaii's constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations**, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself—legally, financially, or morally—in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.

Across the country, states and local governments have learned—often through costly litigation—that cooperation with federal law enforcement is not neutral. When state or county agencies lend personnel, data, facilities, or credibility to federal operations, they also absorb the **downstream consequences: exposure to civil liability, erosion of community trust, and complicity in actions that violate constitutional norms**. HB 1886 HD1 reflects a decision to draw principled boundaries around such cooperation.

I. Non-Cooperation is a Lawful and Necessary Exercise of State Power

HB HD1 rests squarely on **the anti-commandeering doctrine, a foundational principle of American federalism**. The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that while the **federal government may enforce federal law, it may not compel states to use their resources**, officers, or political subdivisions to do so. In *New York v. United States*, the Court made clear that Congress may not “commandeer the legislative processes of the States.”¹ In *Printz v. United States*, the Court extended that principle to state executive officials, holding that the federal government may not

require state officers to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program.ⁱⁱ These cases do not describe an exception; they articulate a structural protection of liberty.

Immigration enforcement is federal, governed by shifting priorities that state governments neither control nor supervise. **When states entangle themselves in those efforts, they surrender authority over how their residents are policed while remaining legally liable.** HB HD1 affirms that Hawai‘i will not be commandeered into service of federal programs that it does not direct and cannot meaningfully oversee.

Federal courts have consistently upheld this choice. In *United States v. California*, the Ninth Circuit reaffirmed that states are under no obligation to assist with federal immigration enforcement and may affirmatively restrict the use of state resources for that purpose without violating the Supremacy Clause.ⁱⁱⁱ HB 1886 HD1 reiterates this.

II. Cooperation with Abusive Federal Actors Creates Real and Predictable Liability

The risks of cooperation are neither speculative nor abstract. Courts have repeatedly found that **Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) agents have engaged in unconstitutional conduct, such as warrantless arrests, prolonged detention without probable cause, racial profiling, and retaliation against protected speech.** When state agencies assist in these operations—by honoring detainers or embedding officers—they invite liability under both federal and state law.

In *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas County*,^{iv} for example, a federal district court held that a county violated the Fourth Amendment by detaining an individual at ICE’s request without probable cause.^{iv} Numerous jurisdictions have paid significant settlements or judgments arising directly from cooperation with ICE requests later deemed unlawful.

HB 1886 HD1 is a prophylactic measure, reducing the likelihood that Hawai‘i agencies will need to defend unconstitutional conduct at the taxpayer’s expense.

III. Deputization and 287(g) Agreements Are Especially Dangerous

HB 1886 HD1 is particularly **important in rejecting deputization arrangements and 287(g)-style cooperation.** Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act authorizes the federal government to deputize local law enforcement officers to perform civil immigration enforcement functions, often leading to widespread abuse.^v

By placing local police officers—trained to enforce criminal law—into the role of civil immigration agents, **287(g)-style agreements and memoranda of understanding encourage pretextual policing while blurring lines of accountability. Cooperation**

also undermines public safety. When residents fear that contact with state or county agencies may expose them to federal immigration enforcement, they may be less likely to report crimes, seek medical care, enroll children in school, or participate as witnesses. The resulting erosion of trust makes communities less safe.

IV. Federalism Serves as a Shield for Civil Liberties

Federalism is not merely an abstract allocation of power; it is a concrete safeguard for individual rights. When national enforcement policy veers toward repression, state **refusal to cooperate is one of the most effective lines of defense for civil liberties.**

This principle carries particular force in Hawai‘i as **our State Constitution provides broader protections for individual rights than the federal Constitution.** The Hawai‘i Supreme Court has recognized that our Constitution is an independent source of rights and that federal constitutional minima do not define the outer bounds of liberty in Hawai‘i. In *State v. Zuffante*, the court reaffirmed that Hawaii’s Constitution may—and often does—offer greater protection than its federal counterpart.^{vi} So, even when protections are weakened or eliminated at the federal level, **Hawai‘i retains the authority to safeguard civil liberties under its own constitutional framework.**

By limiting state participation in federal enforcement schemes that threaten due process, equal protection, and expressive freedom, HB 1886 HD1 ensures that Hawaii’s constitutional commitments are not undermined. **HB 1886 HD1 is a prudent response to a federal enforcement landscape that increasingly disregards civil liberties and transparency.** By embracing a general position of non-cooperation, rejecting dangerous deputization schemes, and reaffirming the State’s sovereign rights under our federal system, the Legislature can protect Hawai‘i residents while shielding the State from unnecessary legal and financial liability.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Mandy Fernandes
Policy Director
ACLU of Hawai‘i

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*With more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the United States and Hawai‘i State Constitutions through legislative, litigation, and public education work. 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 our communities in Hawai‘i for over 60 years.*

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<sup>i</sup> *New York v. United States*, 505 U.S. 144, 161–66 (1992), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/505/144/>.

<sup>ii</sup> *Printz v. United States*, 521 U.S. 898, 925–33 (1997), <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/521/898/>.

<sup>iii</sup> *United States v. California*, 921 F.3d 865, 888–91 (9th Cir. 2019), <https://cdn.ca9.uscourts.gov/datastore/opinions/2019/04/18/18-16496.pdf>.

<sup>iv</sup> *Miranda-Olivares v. Clackamas Cnty.*, No. 3:12-cv-02317-ST, 2014 WL 1414305, at \*11–13 (D. Or. Apr. 11, 2014), <https://law.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/oregon/ordce/3:2012cv02317/110279/163/>. Unreported.

<sup>v</sup> Immigration and Nationality Act § 287(g), 8 U.S.C. § 1357(g), [https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=\(title:8%20section:1357%20edition:prelim\)](https://uscode.house.gov/view.xhtml?req=(title:8%20section:1357%20edition:prelim)).

<sup>vi</sup> *State v. Zuffante*, 157 Haw. 194, 200, 576 P.3d 243, 249 (2025), <https://law.justia.com/cases/hawaii/supreme-court/2025/scwc-23-0000376-0.html>.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:44:37 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna Blakemore     | Indivisible Hilo    | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation—while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions.



## *Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C*

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

### **House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs**

Date: Wednesday, February 25, 2026, 2:00 pm, CR 325

Re: Fujiwara & Rosenbaum<sup>1</sup> Testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of **HB 1886, HD1 RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C submits this testimony in **strong support** of this measure. We commend this Committee for advancing legislation that honors our State Constitution's express commitment to individual liberty, privacy, and equal protection.

#### **I. THE HAWAI'I CONSTITUTION DEMANDS THIS LEGISLATION**

The Bill of Rights enshrined in Article I of the Hawai'i Constitution reflects our people's deliberate choice to provide individual protections that exceed federal minimums. This measure directly implements several of those constitutional commands.

##### **A. Article I, Section 1: Political Power Resides in the People**

Our Constitution opens with a declaration that "[a]ll political power of this State is inherent in the people and the responsibility for the exercise thereof rests with the people." This founding principle means that government actors, including law enforcement, derive their authority from and remain accountable to the people they serve. When masked, unidentified agents conduct enforcement operations in our communities, they invert this relationship. They act as though authority flows from power alone, rather than from the consent of the governed.

Requiring visible identification of law enforcement officers is a basic expression of popular sovereignty. The people have a right to know who exercises governmental power over them.

##### **B. Article I, Section 5: Due Process and Equal Protection**

Article I, Section 5 of the Hawai'i Constitution provides: "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."

Note that this provision protects "persons," not merely citizens. Our Constitution extends due process and equal protection to all people within Hawai'i's borders, regardless of immigration status. This measure honors that commitment by establishing basic procedural safeguards that protect everyone's ability to verify the legitimacy of those who claim governmental authority to arrest or detain them.

The provision's explicit prohibition on discrimination based on "ancestry" carries particular weight in Hawai'i, a state built by successive waves of immigrant communities.

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<sup>1</sup> Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, L.L.L.C is a civil rights law firm originally established in 1986, with a focus on protecting workers and holding law enforcement accountable.

Enforcement operations that target individuals based on perceived national origin implicate this constitutional protection directly.

### **C. Article I, Section 6: The Fundamental Right to Privacy**

Hawai'i's Constitution contains one of the nation's strongest privacy protections: "The right of the people to privacy is recognized and shall not be infringed without the showing of a compelling state interest. The legislature shall take affirmative steps to implement this right."

The 1978 Constitutional Convention added this provision specifically to recognize privacy as a fundamental right requiring proactive legislative protection. The Constitution does not merely prohibit government intrusion on privacy; it affirmatively commands the Legislature to take steps to implement privacy rights.

This measure answers that constitutional command. By limiting state and county cooperation with federal immigration enforcement operations absent specific legal requirements, it protects residents from invasions of privacy that lack the "compelling state interest" our Constitution requires. When federal agents conduct enforcement operations that sweep up individuals without regard to whether a compelling interest justifies each intrusion, state cooperation enables constitutional violations.

### **D. Article I, Section 7: Protection Against Unreasonable Searches, Seizures, and Invasions of Privacy**

Article I, Section 7 provides: "The right of the people to be secure in their persons, houses, papers and effects against unreasonable searches, seizures and invasions of privacy shall not be violated."

The Hawai'i Supreme Court has repeatedly held that this provision "guarantees persons in Hawai'i a 'more extensive right of privacy'" than the Fourth Amendment provides. In *State v. Dixon*, the court confirmed that "article I, section 7 of the Hawai'i Constitution provides broader protection than the Fourth Amendment to the United States Constitution because it also protects against unreasonable invasions of privacy."

The warrant requirement exists to protect human dignity from unreasonable government intrusion. When federal officers conduct warrantless arrests, state entities should not facilitate those seizures absent clear legal obligation. This measure ensures Hawai'i does not become complicit in enforcement actions that may violate the heightened privacy protections our Constitution guarantees.

### **E. Article I, Section 8: Rights of Citizens**

Our Constitution provides that "[n]o citizen shall be disfranchised, or deprived of any of the rights or privileges secured to other citizens, unless by the law of the land." The phrase "law of the land" echoes Magna Carta and demands that deprivations of rights occur only through lawful process.

The identification requirements in this measure protect this right. When individuals cannot determine whether someone claiming arrest authority is a legitimate officer or an impersonator, they cannot meaningfully invoke or exercise their rights. Visible identification is not a bureaucratic nicety; it is a prerequisite for the rule of law.

## **II. THE MEASURE'S PROVISIONS ARE CONSTITUTIONALLY SOUND**

### **A. Identification and Facial Covering Requirements**

This Committee correctly finds that residents "should never have to guess whether a person arresting and detaining someone is a legitimate immigration officer or a vigilante impersonator." This is a constitutional concern, not merely a policy preference. The ability to identify government actors is essential to holding them accountable and to asserting one's rights.

The exemption for undercover operations authorized by supervising personnel or court order appropriately balances law enforcement operational needs with accountability requirements.

### **B. Limitations on State-Federal Collaboration**

The Constitution of the United States is adopted on behalf of the people of Hawai'i, but our state retains authority to decline participation in federal enforcement programs that conflict with our own constitutional values. Nothing in federal law compels state and county agencies to assist in immigration enforcement. This measure exercises Hawai'i's sovereign authority to ensure its resources advance its constitutional commitments.

### **C. Criminal Penalties**

Establishing criminal consequences for violations provides meaningful enforcement. Without penalties, identification requirements become suggestions rather than obligations. The misdemeanor classification is proportionate and appropriate.

## **III. CONCLUSION**

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum urges this Committee to pass this measure. It implements the express commands of our State Constitution, protects the dignity and safety of all Hawai'i residents, and ensures that those who exercise governmental authority remain accountable to the people from whom that authority derives.

Our firm stands ready to provide any additional analysis or support this Committee may require.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

[Addressee - Header]

February 24, 2026

Page 4

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:19:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b>                 | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| wilfredo tungol     | hawaii filipino lawyers association | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and members of the Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs committee:

My name is Wilfredo Tungol and a board member of the Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association. I am also the chair of HFLA's advocacy committee. On behalf of HFLA with over 100+ members, we are submitting our strong support of this bill.

Under our constitution, every person is entitled to due process. Unfortunately federal immigration enforcement authorities, namely ICE, continue to disregard to right of due process. This bill will ensure accountability of ICE agents by requiring them to be unmasked, identify themselves, and show their badges. The bill also restrict local law enforcement from assisting ICE in its enforcement efforts.

Over 25 percent of our island population are immigrants. Most are either US citizens or permanent residents. Among "undocumented" immigrant population, most are long time residents who have established roots in our island. Most of the "undocumented" immigrant are free of any criminal record and do not pose any public safety concerns.

We ask that you ask favorably to pass this bill.

Wilfredo Tungol

Chair, HFLA Advocacy Committee

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:23:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b>    | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|-----------------------|------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Susan B Roberts Emery | Green Party of Hawai'i | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Honorable members of Committee,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co Chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i, I write to you on behalf of our members. The Green Party of Hawaii is in VERY STRONG SUPPORT for HB1886 HD1, which helps promote visible identification and clear rules when it comes to state and federal collaboration for the purpose of immigration enforcement operations. No one is above the law. Establishing identification and facial coverage standards for the state and federal enforcement officers, along with criminal offenses laid out for improper facial coverings or failure to have visible identification, is a win for the public and a win for the officers.

Transparency, creates enforceable standards that discourage anonymous law enforcement activity.

Green Party of Hawai'i urges this committee to Pass HB1886 HD1.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:39:12 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>               | <b>Organization</b>     | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>       |
|-----------------------------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| Michael Golojuch, Jr.<br>(he/him) | Pride at Work – Hawai‘i | Support                   | Remotely Via<br>Zoom |

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i is an official chapter of [Pride at Work](#) which is a national nonprofit organization that represents LGBTQIA+ union members and their allies. We are an officially recognized constituency group of the AFL-CIO that organizes mutual support between the organized Labor Movement and the LGBTQIA+ Community to further social and economic justice.

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 1886 HD 1.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

Michael Golojuch, Jr. (he/him)  
President  
[Pride at Work – Hawai‘i](#)



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB1886, HD1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

Rep. David Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: February 25, 2026 | Letter Date: February 25, 2026

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) strongly supports HB1886, HD1, and HB2540, HD1, two measures that draw clear boundaries on state and county collaboration with federal civil immigration enforcement and reinforce safety and constitutional protections for all Hawai'i residents. These goals are among the highest priorities of the Campaign for Immigrant Justice (CIJ) this legislative session. TLC is a nonprofit organization that advances immigrant justice statewide through legal services, education, and advocacy; we also serve on the CIJ steering committee alongside the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights and the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i.

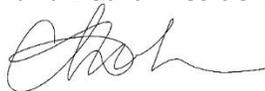
HB1886, HD1 establishes firm limits on state-federal cooperation – prohibiting assistance in civil immigration enforcement, restricting state deputization of federal officers and joint task force participation, and strengthening oversight of any criminal law enforcement cooperation by requiring written, time-limited agreements subject to Attorney General review. The bill also creates enforceable transparency standards requiring visible identification and restricting the use of facial coverings by law enforcement officers, with narrowly tailored safety exceptions and misdemeanor penalties for violations. Importantly, the bill additionally establishes criminal penalties for unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention, ensuring that constitutional safeguards are meaningful and enforceable.

HB2540, HD1 complements this framework by restricting the use of state resources to assist federal immigration enforcement; requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt and publicly post written civil immigration enforcement policies; restricting immigration enforcement activity at sensitive community locations; limiting the collection and sharing of immigration-related personal data; and requiring public reporting of civil immigration requests. Like HB1886, HD1 this measure limits state deputization of federal officers, places guardrails on criminal law enforcement agreements and participation in joint task forces, prohibits officers from initiating or prolonging stops solely to investigate civil immigration status and clarifies that reasonable suspicion may not be based on race, ethnicity, language, or other protected characteristics. The Department of Law Enforcement is directed to assist state and county agencies in maintaining compliance.

Both bills offer provisions that restrict state and county participation in civil immigration operations and joint federal-state task forces or activities that exceed statutory authority or risk violating constitutional rights. Both bills promote transparency and accountability in law enforcement. Because these bills and others pending before the Legislature this session address overlapping subjects and amend related chapters of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, TLC respectfully recommends harmonizing these measures to strengthen implementation, reinforce safeguards on constitutional rights, and provide clear guidance to agencies and officers.

We appreciate the Legislature's leadership in carefully examining how state and county resources are used, how law enforcement accountability can be strengthened, and how trust between communities and local law enforcement institutions can be protected - particularly in this national moment of intensifying federal immigration enforcement and documented violations of constitutional rights. These important measures reflect Hawai'i's commitment to safety, dignity, and due process for all residents, and TLC stands ready to support their effective implementation.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of The Legal Clinic  
and Board President Amefil Agbayani,



Christina Sablan  
Community & Policy Advocate

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:18:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| lynne matusow       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am a citizen. I was born in the United States. It is a shame that it has come to this. But after watching ICE and the rest of Trump's goons in Minneapolis, I believe that this bill is necessary law. I strongly support HB2540 and ask you to move it forward.

lynne matusow

**HB-1886-HD-1**

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

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Emma Waters         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Writing in strong support of this extremely important bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:33:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| B.A. McClintock     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support this important bill. Mahalo.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:15:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kayla Marie         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:20:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl burghardt    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members

I strongly support HB 1886 HD1 and I ask that you do so as well.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:47:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diann Karin Lynn    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am in strong favor of limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations. I strongly support establishing identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 4:54:14 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Tim Huycke          | Individual          | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

As a retired police officer after 34 years of service, I find it appalling that a police officer would hide their identity and/or refuse to identify themselves. A professional police officer knows they are accountable to the public for their actions. A police officer is aware the job is dangerous yet shows the courage to perform their duties. Any police officer who is afraid of someone being able to identify who they are while they engage in their duties should not be a police officer.

No police officer should wear anything covering their face except for an extreme medical or cold-weather situation. Every police officer performing law enforcement in public should be uniformed and that uniform should include the name of their agency and their own name (or at least their department's individual identification number). Every police officer engaged in law enforcement duties in public should be in a marked vehicle if they use a vehicle. If a police officer is asked who they are, that officer should as soon as possible clearly identify themselves.

If a police officer does their job properly, they should be proud, not hide in fear. These standards should apply to everyone (including federal law enforcement) enforcing the law in Hawaii.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:29:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sherry Pollack      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB1886 HD1. Our communities deserve real safety measures and transparency, not secret policing tactics. Masked agents and unmarked vehicles terrify our neighbors. It is unacceptable and should not be allowed.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:36:06 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Nandita Sharma      | Individual          | Comments                  | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing to convey my very strong support for HB1886. The fear that has been sown by unidentified DHS agents wearing masks is absolutely unacceptable anywhere that is considered a free and democratic society. Passing this Bill should be a no-brainer. Who would defend allowing any law enforcement agents to remain anonymous? There is simply no good reason to allow DHS agents to be masked, but there are lots of horrifying ones. The horror of it can be seen daily across the U.S. as federal agencies that have repeatedly been shown to hire and keep agents who lie, purposefully and actively violate people's constitutional rights, attack without provocation, and refuse to be held accountable.

Your vote on this Bill will reveal where each of you stands on the issue of constitutional rights and protecting the safety of your constituents. Please be brave, stand up to bullies, and do the right thing.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:13:07 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|----------------|
| Francis Nakamoto    | Individual          | Support                   | In Person      |

Comments:

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

I support HB1886 HD1, which among other things, prohibit the use of masks by law enforcement officers and confirms the power to arrest and prosecute federal agents who violate the State criminal law and State constitution while engaging in immigration deportation activities.

We should not forget the importance of immigrants to the State of Hawai‘i, including so-called undocumented immigrants, many of whom have earned their inclusion into Hawaiian society.

According to the American Immigration Council, 258,000 Hawai‘i residents are foreign-born, 18% of the population. They make up 22.3% of our labor force and contribute \$11.6 billion to the economy and pay \$1.4 billion in state and local taxes and \$2.1 billion in federal taxes, \$1.0 billion in social security and \$265 million in Medicare contributions, benefiting all Hawai‘i residents.

According to the Migration Policy Institute, an estimated 42,000 undocumented or “unauthorized” immigrants reside in Hawai‘i, 28,000 of who have lived in Hawai‘i and built lives and families for ten or more years; 16,000 for 20 or more years.

Fourteen thousand own their own homes. All are in jeopardy of imminent and inhumane removal from their homes and families.

As we have seen in the media, undocumented immigrants (and those who look and speak like them in the minds of federal agents) are being treated like criminals, as we have witnessed Immigration and Custom Enforcement (ICE) and Custom and Border Protection (CBP) agents cruelly assault and detain immigrants and citizens alike in Minneapolis and elsewhere on the mainland.

At the very least, every person in the US, citizens and non-citizens alike, are entitled to due process of law. That includes not being arrested without probable cause and their homes and vehicles invaded without constitutionally-mandated judicial warrants. That includes a fair hearing before a neutral judge to determine whether an arrestee is indeed illegally here or not a misidentified US citizen or authorized resident. That means agents be easily identifiable and be

barred from wearing masks to conceal their faces to avoid accountability for their actions, but more importantly, discourage them from committing crimes in the first place.

To assure our residents are protected, the authority of local and state police to stop, arrest and prosecute federal agents who disrespect our people, commit crimes and violate our State Constitution must be reaffirmed.

For the reasons stated above, I urge your support for HB1886 HD1.

Francis M. Nakamoto, Moanalua Valley

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:42:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kanani Kai          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT HB1886.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:43:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dina Shek           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I write in SUPPORT of HB 1886 HD 1. This important measure protects local residents from unlawful surveillance, profiling, and civil rights violations by restricting harmful state–federal cooperation. It prevents state resources from being used to support federal immigration enforcement beyond statutory authority, and it ensures law enforcement accountability by requiring visible identification in public interactions. Please support these important measures to protect all residents of Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of my strong support of HB 1886 HD1.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jeremiah Brown and I strongly support HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.<sup>[OBJ]</sup>

In Minnesota and elsewhere, we have witnessed how the ICE and Border Patrol have been employing secret police tactics, including ordering masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities. Federal agents are taking our immigrant neighbors. This has happened on Kaua'i already.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:11:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Joie Yonamine       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee,

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1886 both as an individual and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). HB1886 bans extreme masking and requires visible identification by law enforcement officers.

Under this administration, particularly in Minnesota, we have witnessed the increase in secret police tactics, including ordering masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities.

We are all less safe when masked agents are in our streets. When people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. Additionally, the lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community. It also makes it difficult for identification and accountability in the event of excessive force, constitutional violations, and death that we have seen play out in recent events.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass this bill to promote community safety and trust in law enforcement.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:28:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| ANDREW ISODA        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

**Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair**

**Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair**

**Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026**

**Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,**

**My name is Andrew Isoda, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.**

**HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.**

**This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i**

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:54:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marie Iding         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Dear legislature,

This bill protects all of us -- immigrants, non-immigrants, and police officers by specifying the limited conditions under which masking can be used. it protects us from non-law-enforcement criminal use of masks.

Thank you

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:08:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mona Bomgaars       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

This bill subtitled No Secret Police says it all. Cheating masks to hide from the public is only done when bad actions are planned. They should never be used to contact Residents of our country.

Please

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:12:45 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ramona Hussey       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I urge your support of HB1886 which would ensure No Secret Police in Hawai`i. This is a critically important protection for the citizens of Hawai`i given the current federal law enforcement.

Thank you,

Ramona Hussey

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:16:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Younghee Overly     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB1886.

A member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:17:40 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Deanna Espinas      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Testimony in strong support. Thank you.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:23:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Robert I Nehmad     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I am a resident of the State of Hawaii and support this Bill.

I expect your support of this Bill since it reinforces the will of the residents of the State of Hawaii.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:23:59 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Leah K              | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:29:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Greg Puppione       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,**

**My name is Greg Puppione, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.**

**HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.**

**This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:31:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Karen Hester | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**I am supporting this bill both as an immigration activist and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii.**

**Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations.**

## **Testimony in Support of HB 1886 HD1**

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Vivienne, and I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa submitting testimony in support of H.B. 1886.

I support this bill because I want the people of my state to be protected, especially in moments when power feels distant or unclear. This measure creates important guardrails around law enforcement practices and state-federal collaboration, which I see as necessary for maintaining public trust and community safety.

The visible identification requirements matter to me. When officers engage with the public, people deserve to know who they are interacting with. Clear identification reduces confusion and fear and makes accountability possible. The bill also includes exceptions for tactical or hazardous situations, which shows that officer safety is being considered along with transparency.

Local resources should be focused on keeping communities safe, not on actions that separate families or make people afraid to seek care at schools, hospitals, or places of worship. This bill helps ensure that Hawai'i's agencies are not contributing to harm or violations of basic rights, while still allowing cooperation when legally required.

**As a young person, student, and kama'āina of Hawai'i, I want to live in a place where constitutional protections are respected and where the government works for everyday people. H.B. 1886 sets clear standards, strengthens oversight, and shows that Hawai'i values safety and accountability for all.**

Please support H.B. 1886.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Vivienne  
Student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa



**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:41:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Judith Cucco | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I submit this testimony in **support of HB1886 HD1**, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Judith Cucco

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:53:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Mark Van Horne      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:01:03 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elli Pace           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this bill because it helps ensure that DHS agents clearly identify themselves and follow consistent standards, which builds trust and ensures accountability for the actions they take within our communities. It also sets important limits on state and federal collaboration with immigration enforcement, helping protect civil rights while maintaining public safety for our community.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:28:39 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cheryl Bellamy      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this bill because communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation.

Mahalo

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
February 23, 2026

Dear Representative Tarnas, Chair, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha, Representatives,

**I am submitting testimony in Favor of HB1886 HD1, Relating to Government Operations.**

Law enforcement officers in Hawai'i must be required to respect and uphold all laws related to **Due Process and any other aspects of residents' civil rights**. Limits are needed regarding what Hawai'i law enforcement officers may do when it comes to collaborating with federal agents. Human rights must be respected.

**Arrests and Due Process:** Arresting officers in Hawai'i (and elsewhere) need to be **legally required to identify themselves. Hiding their identity is un-American.** Wearing black masks is no better than the wearing of white hoods by the Ku Klux Klan to hide their identities. **If arresting officers are legitimate, they need to be identified and identifiable.**

**Officers cannot be permitted to hide their identity when they make an arrest and then claim that they do so for "privacy."** (They only get to have privacy when they're not working.) The gestapo-like tactics that have been used during immigration raids are un-American. We in Hawai'i need to know who is making an arrest and what the charges are, and that the arrest is carried out with a warrant signed by a judge.

**Due Process is also guaranteed under the Constitution for everyone. If anyone is denied due process, then everyone could lose their right to due process.** We are all at risk. Everyone has a right to legal counsel and a chance to plead their case, just as Donald Trump himself had when he was charged with crimes. He always had due process.

I am haole (caucasian) and have lived in Hawai'i for nearly 50 years; I embrace diversity and oppose white-supremacist behavior that is playing out in the US.

**Please vote for HB1886 HD1.**

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,

Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:42:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jill Asmar          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

My name is Jill, and I respectfully urge your support for HB1886. This bill will increase transparency, safeguard our communities and deliver measurable benefits to our state by protecting families. Its provisions are practical, evidence-based, and implementable without undue burden.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB1886 and ask the committee to pass it. Thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:53:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Lynn Otaguro and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1886 HD1**, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:56:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gaye Chan           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement actions — often through 287(g) agreements — is dangerous, because it erodes community trust, discourages crime reporting, and fuels racist profiling. Collaboration between local law enforcement and federal immigration enforcement ultimately makes us all less safe.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:59:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jennifer Kau'i Young | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB1886 HD1 and its establishment of identification and facial covering standards for state and federal law enforcement officers. I absolutely do not support the presence of any ICE personnel in Hawai'i nei. No human being is illegal, period, and no foreign occupying government has any business telling anybody that they aren't welcome here. I fully support any bill that regulates the presence of ICE personnel in our homeland, especially any that holds them fully accountable and fully transparent.

me ka 'oia'i'o,

Kau'i Young

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:49:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

I am writing to strongly support HB1886.

HB1886 HD1 establishes a new “state and federal collaboration” framework limiting state/county assistance in immigration enforcement operations (with federal-law exceptions), restricts certain joint agreements/task-force participation tied to protected activities/immigration objectives, requires visible identification + limits on facial coverings for law enforcement (with narrow safety/undercover exceptions), creates penalties, and establishes crimes/standards around improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention (Class C felony).

**Why it’s important:**

Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations.

**Why it matters:**

Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation—while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions.

Mahalo,

Darryl Nordstrom

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:03:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Dale VanderBrink    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly Support HB1886. As it is clear with the Trump administration, immigration enforcement can be taken wildly out of control by whomever is president. As a result our state needs to take action to limit any joining actions together with the federal government for immigration reasons. Please pass HB1886

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:06:47 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kehaulani Coleman   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:39:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Bonk       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please keep local law enforcement's focus on protecting and serving the Hawai'i public, not being the federal administration's force for terror and suppression. Please pass this bill.

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 24, 2026

RE: House Bill 1886 HD1  
Measure Title: RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.  
Report Title: Law Enforcement; State and County Law Enforcement; Federal Law  
Enforcement; State and Federal Collaboration; Visible Identification; Facial  
Coverings; Criminal Offenses

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 1886 HD1. Thank you for your  
consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:00:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Noelle Lindenmann   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I am providing testimony today in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

I am providing testimony as an individual who believes we should not have secret police and that we should have law enforcement who works on our behalf, to actually protect and serve.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:06:14 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By          | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Gerald Tariao Montano | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Gerald Montano, DO

In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Gerald Montano, and I submit this testimony in **support** of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

I am a pediatrician on Maui, and I care for a diverse group of patients, including those coming from immigrant backgrounds.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. *It will also prevent people from seeking health care, creating a public health crisis.* Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS** HB1886 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gerald Montano, DO

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:19:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Anne Leake          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Dear Committee Chair, Co-chair and members:

Please give favorable consideration to HB 1886. Don't let what happened in Minneapolis happen in Honolulu. We must limit state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations, and that includes removing masks for enforcement officers.. Mahalo for this opportunity to state my views.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:27:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>            | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|--------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| George "Bud" Antonelis.<br>PhD | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:44:39 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Stephanie Chou      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE:** HB1886 HD1

**Position:** In Support

Aloha,

My name is Stephanie Chou, and I'm testifying in support of HB1886 as both an individual and a member of Indivisible Hawaii.

The additional clarifications, well-defined limits, and enforceable consequences make this bill a strong safeguard against human rights abuses. I urge members of the committee to keep this important piece of legislation moving forward.

Mahalo,

Stephanie

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:39:10 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Olderr      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support this Bill! We will not welcome ICE into this state willingly if they are gonna act like the lawless goons they have been in Minnesota! We will not welcome ICE if they murder in the streets like they have been doing in Minnesota! We will not welcome Ice if they hide their faces like they have been doing in Minnesota! We will not welcome ICE if they continue their rampage against the rights guaranteed by the Constitution, as they have been and continue to do across this nation! Support this Bill and Support the people of Hawai‘i.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:42:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terri Yoshinaga     | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:48:08 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Karen Takamine      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Don't let them cover their faces. Actually, they should be wearing high vis uniforms.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:52:25 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Michael Paul        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and JHA Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of HB1886 HD1.

This bill will help protect the public from malfeasance, whether intentional or not, of law enforcement officers of all stripes. It helps to strengthen rights of all state residents including U.S. citizens.

No law enforcement officer should be hiding their identity during official actions. It denies accountability and hinders the people's ability to address potentially wrongful actions of HPD or federal officers. I have personally witnessed plainclothes HPD officers donning face masks to hide their identities while performing enforcement actions. It makes those interactions seem more intimidating, and whether intentional or not, more threatening.

This bill also strengthens the rights of state residents to protest, to render aid, to not be racially profiled, unlawfully surveilled, or unlawfully detained, all things we have witnessed happening in other states.

I urge you to pass this bill.

Thank you for your time,

Michael Paul, Resident of House District 27

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:12:37 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1886 both as a Lahaina resident and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN), to ban extreme masking by law enforcement, require officers visibly identify themselves, and limit state and county law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

For months we have seen video evidence of aggressive, heavily armed federal agents snatching people off the street, subjecting them to excessive force, and now committing unjustified killings. Masked agents have terrorized the public, detaining a five-year-old boy, shooting and killing two U.S. citizens, raiding churches, utilizing teargas on peaceful protesters which include children and the elderly, sexually assaulting people they have in detention...the list of atrocities multiplying exponentially each day. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. They are acting with impunity heightened by anonymity the masks afford, violating basic human rights and showing a gross disrespect for our Constitution and bedrock principles of liberty and justice for all. This is how secret police under authoritarianism operate; not legitimate, accountable law enforcement in a democracy.

The inconsistency of masked agents with our democratic constitutional principles was outlined by Ronald Reagan-appointed judge, Honorable William G. Young, United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, in his decision in *American Association of University Professors v. Rubio*,[\[1\]](#) issued last year:

And there's the issue of masks. This Court has listened carefully to the reasons given by Öztürk's captors for masking- up and has heard the same reasons advanced by the defendant Todd Lyons, Acting Director of ICE. It rejects this testimony as disingenuous, squalid and dishonorable. **ICE goes masked for a single reason -- to terrorize Americans into quiescence. Small wonder ICE often seems to need our respected military to guard them as they go about implementing our immigration laws. It should be noted that our troops do not ordinarily wear masks. Can you imagine a masked marine? It is a matter of honor -- and honor still matters. To us, masks are associated with cowardly desperados and the despised Ku Klux Klan. In all our history we have never tolerated an armed masked secret police.** Carrying on in this fashion, ICE brings indelible obloquy to this administration and everyone who works in it. "We can not escape history," Lincoln righty said. "[It] will light us

down in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.” Abraham Lincoln, Second Annual Message to Congress (Dec. 1, 1862).

Perhaps we're now afraid to stick our necks out. If the distinguished Homeland Security intelligence agency can be weaponized to squelch the free speech rights of a small, hapless group of non-citizens in our midst, so too can the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the audit divisions of the I.R.S. and the Social Security Administration be unconstitutionally weaponized against the President's ever growing list of “enemies” or opponents he “hates” notwithstanding that political persecution is anathema to our Constitution and everything for which America stands.

Finally, perhaps we don't much care. After all, these Plaintiffs, a group of non-citizen pro-Palestinians are relatively small compared to the much larger interest groups who have every right vigorously to espouse the cause of the State of Israel. Palestine is far away and its people are caught up in the horrors of a modern war with heavy ordinance wreaking massive indiscriminate destruction, a war that is not one of our making. Why should we care about the free speech rights of their compatriots here among us?

Here's why:

The United [S]tates is a great nation, not because any of us say so. It is great because we still practice our frontier tradition of selflessness for the good of us all. Strangers go out of their way to help strangers when they see a need. In times of fire, flood, and national disaster, everyone pitches in to help people we've never met and first responders selflessly risk their lives for others. Hundreds of firefighters rushed into the Twin Towers on 9/11 without hesitation desperate to find and save survivors. That's who we are. And on distant battlefields our military “fought and died for the men [they] marched among.” Frank Loesser, “The Ballad of Roger Young”, LIFE, 5 March 1945, at 117.

Each day, I recognize (to paraphrase Lincoln again) that the brave men and women, living and dead, who have struggled in our Nation's service have hallowed our Constitutional freedom far above my (or anyone's) poor power to add or detract. The only Constitutional rights upon which we can depend are those we extend to the weakest and most reviled among us.[\[2\]](#)

HB 1886 is a limited, focused means to achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawai'i by federal law enforcement. They are a critical piece of our State's preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. This is a small step to returning law enforcement in Hawaii to public scrutiny and legal accountability. Masking “isn't about any typical policing concerns, such as safety. It's about a symbol – a way to wear utter contempt for democratic institutions and the rule of law right there on your face.”[\[3\]](#) We are all less safe when masked agents terrorize our streets. When the people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or

cooperate with law enforcement. The lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community members. Moreover, not only does this lack of identification make it difficult to identify the perpetrators of constitutional violations, community terror, and aggressive, illegal tactics.

Additionally, it is vital that we prevent our local law enforcement from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and hurting our communities. Our state and local policies must ensure our law enforcement agencies do not support this gross federal overreach. Our Hawai'i dollars should not be used in such a way to terrorize our communities.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I thank you for your commitment to our democracy.

Respectfully,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina

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[1] Civ. A. No. 25-10685-WGY (D. Mass. Sep. 30, 2025), access at <https://docs.justia.com/cases/federal/district-courts/massachusetts/madce/1:2025cv10685/282460/261>

[2] *Id.*, at pp. 98-100 (emphasis added).

[3] Danny Westneat, *The real meaning of those ICE masks, as blurted out in a WA hearing*, The Seattle Times, Jan. 28, 2026, <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/politics/the-real-meaning-of-those-ice-masks-as-blurted-out-in-a-wa-hearing/>

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:23:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Elizabeth Kamida    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB 1886 personally and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii Statewide. Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. This bill creates much needed enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:32:52 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James E Raymond     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

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

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:41:18 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Judith Mura         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I Judith Mura, Strongly Support HB1886 HD1

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:12:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gail Morrison       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation—while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions.

As an individual and member of Indivisible Hawaii, I support this bill.

Gail Morrison

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 2:00 p.m.  
Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Testimony of Joey Badua

In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs:

My name is Joey Badua, and I support HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

Public safety depends on trust and transparency. When individuals cannot clearly identify who is exercising authority in public spaces, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse, impersonation, or escalation grows. Clear identification standards protect people's constitutional rights while also protecting responsible officers by promoting accountability and reducing dangerous misunderstandings.

This measure also establishes reasonable guardrails around state and county participation in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce the risk of racial profiling, and ensure that local resources remain focused on core public safety responsibilities. When communities fear that any interaction with local authorities could trigger immigration consequences, victims and witnesses may hesitate to report crimes, cooperate in investigations, or seek emergency assistance. That undermines safety for everyone.

HB1886 HD1 promotes transparency, accountability, and community trust—principles that strengthen both civil liberties and effective law enforcement. For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to PASS HB1886 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

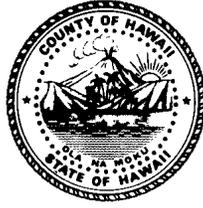
Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

**Jennifer Kagiwada**  
Council Member District 2 South Hilo



Office: (808) 961-8272  
jennifer.kagiwada@hawaiicounty.gov

## HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL - DISTRICT 2

25 Aupuni Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

DATE: February 24, 2026  
TO: House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
FROM: Jennifer Kagiwada, Council Member  
Council District 2  
SUBJECT: HB1886

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members,

I am writing in **strong support of HB1886**. Please see the attached recently passed, Resolution 399 Draft 2 from the Hawai'i County Council urging the State of Hawai'i to protect individuals against unconstitutional acts committed by federal immigration agencies. HB1886 addresses the concerns from our community regarding federal agents concealing their identities with non-medical masks, which is in alignment with the priorities outlined in the attached resolution.

This law would improve the overall trust and safety between law enforcement and the public in Hawai'i. I ask that you **pass HB1886**.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jenn Kagiwada".

Jenn Kagiwada

COUNTY OF HAWAI'I



STATE OF HAWAI'I

RESOLUTION NO. 399 25  
(DRAFT 2)

**A RESOLUTION URGING THE STATE OF HAWAI'I TO PROTECT INDIVIDUALS AGAINST UNCONSTITUTIONAL ACTS COMMITTED BY FEDERAL IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.**

**WHEREAS**, on January 20, 2025, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 14159, "Protecting the American People Against Invasion", which revoked prior immigration enforcement guidelines that prioritized public safety and humanitarian considerations, called for the expansion of state and local cooperation agreements with the federal government under Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, and directed a nationwide surge in immigration arrests, detentions, and removals, including the expanded use of expedited removals that bypass due process hearings; and

**WHEREAS**, on January 20, 2025, the Trump Administration revoked the 2021 "Guidelines for Enforcement Actions in or Near Protected Areas", a long-standing directive that discouraged federal immigration enforcement in community spaces such as schools, healthcare facilities, places of worship, and disaster relief areas, thereby allowing federal immigration agents to conduct operations in sites that were previously safe for all residents; and

**WHEREAS**, recent national and local events targeting immigrants and peaceful dissenters have underscored the importance of reaffirming the State's commitment to upholding constitutional rights for all residents, and remaining dedicated to justly enforcing laws, protecting individuals from government overreach or discrimination, and maintaining public trust; and

**WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the United States and the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i guarantee fundamental and due process rights to every individual, which the State of Hawai'i must uphold and enforce; and

**WHEREAS**, the Department of Homeland Security, (hereinafter, "DHS") and its component agencies, including Immigration and Customs Enforcement (hereinafter, "ICE") and Customs and Border Protection have dramatically escalated enforcement operations nationwide, including nearly tripling the number of detentions and removals in Hawai'i from the previous year, leading to heightened fear in immigrant communities, family separations, and workplace disruptions; and

**WHEREAS**, the 2023 U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey found that in the State of Hawai'i, one out of five residents is an immigrant, totaling more than 255,000 people, over one-third of whom are noncitizens, including nearly half of Hawai'i County's 25,000 foreign-born residents; and

**WHEREAS**, Resolution No. 320-25, Draft 2, adopted by this body on October 22, 2025, recognized the importance of ensuring that the constitutional rights of all residents and our values as a multicultural society are protected; now, therefore,

**BE IT RESOLVED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE COUNTY OF HAWAI'I** that this body hereby urges the State of Hawai'i to ensure the health and safety of Hawai'i Island residents by:

1. Prohibiting immigration enforcement officers—including ICE, DHS, and any federal agents detailed to immigration operations—from concealing their identities or wearing nonmedical masks that obscure their faces during public-facing enforcement operations, except during undercover investigations relating to criminal activity or when required due to emergency health concerns or environmental hazards;
2. Requiring state law enforcement agencies to inform any individual in custody of their rights in their preferred language when ICE requests an interview or issues a detainer;
3. Protecting sensitive community spaces from civil immigration enforcement and barring state agencies and contractors from assisting civil immigration enforcement without a judicial warrant;
4. Prohibiting State law enforcement and administration from providing privileged or confidential information, including but not limited to immigration status, to ICE or DHS;
5. Prohibiting fulfillment of detainer requests on behalf of ICE or DHS for civil matters;
6. Requiring that all immigration officers clearly identify themselves during public-facing enforcement operations, including displaying their agency and badge name and number, except during undercover investigations relating to criminal activity;
7. Prohibiting unmarked vehicles from being used for civil enforcement of ICE or DHS business; and
8. Prohibiting law enforcement agencies from entering into a memorandum of agreement with the Federal government pursuant to Section 287(g) of the Immigration and Nationality Act.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Wednesday, February 25, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1886, HD1 - RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1886, HD1** relating to government operations, which establishes provisions regarding state and federal collaboration, establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers, and specifies that when federal law enforcement officers arrest a person without a warrant, that it is done so in their personal capacity.

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

The images we see on the news and social media of aggressive, untrained, and violent unmasked, unbadged persons attacking citizens and noncitizens alike is eroding trust in law enforcement and our government. In my capacity as a volunteer educator, I have heard concerns that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call local law enforcement for assistance because they now do not trust law enforcement. I have heard from health care providers that fear of lawless, violent, unmasked and unidentified persons is making people afraid to leave their homes to seek necessary medical care. In my work as a know your rights educator, I have to try to convince people that our local law enforcement are not engaged in immigration enforcement. It is important for us to have legislative protections to ensure that our local law enforcement focus their time and resources on public safety and do not collaborate or receive funds from the federal government that would **break public trust and interfere with the relationship between local law enforcement and the community it serves. That is why I so strongly support HB 1886, HD1.**

As a lawyer with an understanding of the Constitution and who has taken an oath to uphold it and the rule of law, what I am witnessing nationwide is chilling. Seeing images of the murder of people engaged in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity has impacted my mental health. As a woman and mother, I am afraid of being targeted by unmasked, unbadged government agents or imposters. I am afraid that they will take my picture and find out who I am, where I live, and come to my house and harm not just

myself but my loved ones. Just yesterday during a training I was conducting, an audience member asked what constitutional observers like me can do to protect themselves from being targeted by federal agents. I said that there really is not much we can do other than rely on our community, document the truth, and hope that the courts and the law will protect us as we peaceably engage in constitutionally-protected activity. Our fear is justified based on the unlawful and violent behavior we are witnessing from federal agents. Behavior that is so egregious that federal agents wear masks and refuse to wear identification because of their shame of their behavior and of their desire to terrorize our communities. **It is important to public safety and trust that law enforcement not mask their identities to hide from accountability to the public they serve. That is why I so strongly support HB 1886, HD1.**

Federal agents take photos of people and use name-recognition software to identify them. They take photos of license plates to learn the identity of and track constitutional observers as well as noncitizens. I would ask that this bill be amended to ensure that law enforcement does not use license-plate identifying or tracking technology. It would be one protective step that could help protect not just me, I have chosen to assume the risk, but my family members who live with me. I should not have to fear hostile and lawless agents tracking my activities and endangering the community members I serve. **The goal of the federal executive administration is to frighten people into silence. That is why federal agents wear masks and refuse to identify themselves.** I almost hesitated to submit testimony in support of this bill for fear of retaliation. This is how far we have fallen in the direction of authoritarianism, that people like me fear speaking up for basic, civil protections such as unmasked and properly-identified federal agents. Fortunately, I am not alone. Last week, the No Kings Coalition held an Eyes on ICE: Document and Record national training call. Over 200,000 people participated. There is another training today.

I am an educated, privileged, white person. I, like millions of others, have chosen to use my privilege to stand up for and protect my neighbors and community members. People like me are being killed for it. Yet I am undeterred by the deaths of Renne Goode and Alex Pretti. I am inspired, and millions are standing alongside me. **The government agents who killed Alex Pretti felt empowered to engage in violence openly and with impunity because they felt protected from accountability because they were masked and unidentified.** This bill provides important protection for volunteers like me and for community members who no longer trust their law enforcement agents of any kind.

**I request that you support HB 1886, HD1** and help restore rule of law, instill respect on the part of law enforcement, and rebuild trust in government.

Thank you for siding with your community on this issue.

Mahalo,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

Volunteer Know Your Rights Educator and Constitutional Observer

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:05:55 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| JANE TOLLEFSRUD     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Thank you for establishing limits for state and federal officials collaborating with ICE agents, including the requirement for ID and facial coverings standards. Please establish criminal offenses for unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

Mahalo

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:24:04 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nancy D Moser       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

In support

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:40:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Marcela Montalto    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill is a critical step toward protecting civil liberties, public safety, and community trust. By limiting state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement, it ensures that local resources remain focused on serving and protecting residents rather than advancing federal immigration agendas. Requiring clear identification and prohibiting improper facial coverings by law enforcement promotes transparency and accountability, helping prevent abuse and impersonation. Establishing penalties for unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention further safeguards constitutional rights and ensures that enforcement actions are carried out lawfully and responsibly. Together, these provisions strengthen public trust while upholding fairness and due process.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:45:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Alicia Hedlesky | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

02/24/2026

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1886 HD1**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Alicia Hedlesky, a resident of Moloa'a, Kauai and a member of Indivisible Hawai'i. I am writing to strongly support HD1886 HD1, which would protect the safety of our communities and law enforcement officers. Everyone will benefit from clear policies, accountability and transparency in policing.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify on this important issue,

Alicia Hedlesky

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:45:13 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Addie Berliner      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

In Support of HB2540/HB1886

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey, and Committee Members:

My name is Addie Berliner and I strongly support [H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886], which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

In Minnesota and throughout the continent, we have witnessed the growing police force that the Trump administration is building employ secret police tactics, including ordering masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities. Federal agents are taking our immigrant neighbors. In Hawai‘i, we have seen this occur in Kaua‘i, for example.

We are all less safe when masked agents are in our streets. When people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. Additionally, the lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community members. It also makes it difficult to identify who is behind operations that may employ aggressive tactics, result in constitutional violations, or cause community harm.

We must also prevent our local law enforcement from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and hurting our communities. Our state and local policies should ensure our law enforcement agencies do not support this gross federal overreach.

We believe that this legislation is a step towards real community safety and trust. It is our kuleana to protect our neighbors' right to live without fear.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Addie Berliner

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:49:02 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Vivian S. Toellner  | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:00:02 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kate Jacobson       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1886. Our local police officers are part of our community and are respected for keeping our streets safe. Federal agents have shown themselves to be unrestrained, untrained and unable to abide to the norms of law enforcement.

Mahalo for your public service,

Kate Jacobson

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:17:00 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kristy Gund         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB1886. I am deeply concerned with the current federal administration's tactics and seemingly blatant disregard for the rule of law, due process, human decency, and the constitutional rights of persons living in these United States of America. State and local level governments must enact legislation that will allow them to stand up for these rights and statutes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB1886.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:26:44 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Margaret N Sipple   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Americans must face the truth that this federal administration has not followed the law. Any enforcement that disrupts the local needs must be analyzed carefully to insure that rights enshrined in the state constitution are not violated in conjunction with federal enforcement.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:47:04 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ron Heller          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

We have all seen far too many examples of abusive conduct by ICE. Legitimate law-enforcement officers should show their faces and/or wear ID badges, not hide behind a shield of anonymity.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:49:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kathy Hammes        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Kathy Hammes

In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Kathy Hammes, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

I have been a US citizen since 1992 and a Hawaii resident since 1988. I am testifying as an individual.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency between law enforcement and the community. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings. We are taught as keiki that masked people other than at Halloween and during COVID are a potential threat to us and this reduces community trust of our law enforcement officers while having a negative impact on public safety.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hammes

[kham337@gmail.com](mailto:kham337@gmail.com)

1-808-756-6697

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:53:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bo Breda            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

1. Prohibits state/county agencies from assisting or cooperating with immigration enforcement operations except where required by law.
2. Bars public employees from facilitating operations that penalize protected speech/assembly or immigration enforcement actions (including near sensitive locations).
3. Requires officers in public settings to display visible ID (name/agency/badge number) and prohibits face coverings that obscure identity, with exceptions for SWAT/high-risk warrants, undercover ops, and hazardous conditions.
4. Requires agencies to maintain public, written policies and provide training on the ID/face covering requirements.
5. Establishes enforceable consequences, including penalties and civil liability implications for certain torts committed while violating the ID/face covering rules.
6. Creates the offense of unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention as a Class C felony, with defined limits on what can count as “reasonable suspicion” (not based solely on race/ethnicity/language/accent, etc.).  
The amended bill text spells out the ID requirements, exceptions, training/policy requirements, and the Class C felony provision.

Bo Breda

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani**  
**In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is **Wendy Naomi Sodetani**, and I submit this testimony in **support of HB1886 HD1**, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

I am testifying as an individual born and raised in Hawai'i and an active member of the Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN). I recently retired from a community health center in Kalihi serving underserved populations, primarily low-income, new immigrant and Pacific island migrant families. They often suffer prejudice from other ethnic groups, state officials, and local police. But today they live in terror, feeling targeted and hunted by federal agents coming into Kalihi wearing masks without IDs, so residents don't know who they are.

As a lifelong resident born and raised in Hawai'i, I am deeply concerned and horrified by the terror and fear these aggressive masked invaders bring into our islands. It violates our cultural values of caring for our 'ohana, neighbors and community we strive for.

HB1886 HD1 specifies the ID requirements, exceptions, training/policy requirements, and the Class C felony provision. The amended bill is critically important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

**Wendy Naomi Sodetani**

Member of Indivisible Hawai'i Statewide Network (IHSN)

[naomisodetani@gmail.com](mailto:naomisodetani@gmail.com)

(808) 741-0555

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:55:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terry McDonald      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

We strongly support this amended mask ban-crucial to maintainin the growing reputation of the HPD. Pass it with large majority please

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:07:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Calvin Black        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation, while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions. I support this bill and urge its passage.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:08:31 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>    |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|-------------------|
| Jeidy Anne Petalver | Individual          | Support                   | Remotely Via Zoom |

Comments:

**Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the Committee,**

**My name is Jeidy Anne Petalver and I am testifying in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations. It also strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public operations.**

**I am currently a student at the University of Hawaii at Manoa working towards a Bachelors degree in Social Work. With my degree my hope is to bring awareness and support to marginalized communities. I am a daughter of Filipino immigrant parents and seeing recent events have made me scared for every minority.**

**HB1886 HD1 would also help cultivate a relationship built on trust and transparency between the people and law enforcement. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.**

**Overall, Chair, Vice Chair, and members of the committee, I ask that you vote to PASS HB1886 HD1.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Respectfully,**

**Jeidy Anne Petalver**

**Bachelors of Social Work Candidate**

**University of Hawaii at Manoa**

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:27:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Cuthbert      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Thank you for taking my written testimony. Our county police officers need to be available to respond to our calls for help. And, taking time from our police officers to enforce federal civil immigration actions would be detrimental to their all-important job. HB1886 can help keep federal immigration officers from blurring the lines between their job and the job of our county police officers.

Dave Cuthbert, Pahoa, Hawai'i

February 23, 2026

**RE: HB1886 HD1**

**IN SUPPORT**

Hearing Date: Tuesday, February 25, 2026

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair  
Rep. Della Au Belatti  
Rep. Jackson D. Sayama  
Rep. Elle Cochran  
Rep. Gregg Takayama  
Rep. Mark J. Hashem  
Rep. Diamond Garcia  
Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa  
Rep. Garner M. Shimizu

Dear Chair Tarnas and Committee Members,

My individual testimony is **IN SUPPORT** of HB1886 HD1 Relating to Government Operations, regarding local and federal law enforcement and immigration. As a native Hawaiian and lifelong citizen of Hawai'i, I support transparency throughout government, especially in the course of protecting citizens' rights:

**Fifth Amendment**

No person shall be held to answer for a capital, or otherwise infamous crime, unless on a presentment or indictment of a Grand Jury, except in cases arising in the land or naval forces, or in the Militia, when in actual service in time of War or public danger; nor shall any person be subject for the same offence to be twice put in jeopardy of life or limb; nor shall be compelled in any criminal case to be a witness against himself, nor be deprived of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor shall private property be taken for public use, without just compensation.

**Fourteenth Amendment, Section 1:**

All persons born or naturalized in the United States, and subject to the jurisdiction thereof, are citizens of the United States and of the State wherein they reside. No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws.

We have the right to be protected from government actions performed under color of law and for redress:

**TITLE 18, U.S.C., SECTION 242**

*Whoever, under color of any law, statute, ordinance, regulation, or custom, willfully subjects any person in any State, Territory, Commonwealth, Possession, or District to the deprivation of any rights, privileges, or immunities secured or protected by the Constitution or laws of the United States, ... shall be fined under this*

*title or imprisoned not more than one year, or both; and if bodily injury results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include the use, attempted use, or threatened use of a dangerous weapon, explosives, or fire, shall be fined under this title or imprisoned not more than ten years, or both; and if death results from the acts committed in violation of this section or if such acts include kidnapping or an attempt to kidnap, aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to commit aggravated sexual abuse, or an attempt to kill, shall be fined under this title, or imprisoned for any term of years or for life, or both, or may be sentenced to death.*

In Hawai'i, we also have the Aloha Spirit Law. It declares how government leaders should behave in public spaces. It guides us to protect our most vulnerable and to uphold policies that are just and equitable to all. We value our immigrant community and the high value they add to our lives as hardworking contributors to the wealth of our society. They are our families, our farmers, our business owners, our laborers, our childcare workers, our caregivers, our healthcare workers, our hotel workers, and our teachers. Immigrants are deeply woven within the fabric of our everyday world, and they must be protected as one of our own, handled with care and aloha:

§ 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 laulā loa may be used:

- "Akahai", meaning kindness to be expressed with tenderness;
- "Lōkahi", meaning unity, to be expressed with harmony;
- "Olu'olu" meaning agreeable, to be expressed with pleasantness;
- "Ha'aha'a", 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 Hawaii's people. It was the working philosophy of native Hawaiians 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". [L 1986, c 202, § 1]

As a member of the League of Women Voters of Hawai'i County, I also support the Hawai'i County Police Department and the Hawai'i County Council for their efforts to protect our Hawai'i Island community from any violation of due process rights afforded to all in America, including undocumented immigrants and their children.

Mahalo to the Hawai'i State House of Representatives Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs for hearing HB1886 HD1, which provides for the protection of our civil rights and liberties afforded to all under the Hawai'i State Constitution and the United States Constitution.

###

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:42:08 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Sara Noa            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Represents,

I am writing as a resident in a neighborhood with a large immigrant population in support of this bill. DHS has already demonstrated that it is not being held accountable on the mainland nor by the DOJ. Accountability must start here at home at the state level. We must begin NOW to safeguard our most vulnerable populations starting with unmasking those who seek to terrorize us. Thank you for your time in reading this testimony.

Sara N.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:56:42 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>  | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Justice, M.D. | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am testifying in favor of HB1886 HD1 as an individual and a as a member of Indivisible Hawaii. I strongly support this bill as it establishes a new “state and federal collaboration” framework limiting state/county assistance in immigration enforcement operations (with federal-law exceptions), restricts certain joint agreements/task-force participation tied to protected activities/immigration objectives, requires visible identification + limits on facial coverings for law enforcement (with narrow safety/undercover exceptions), creates penalties, and establishes crimes/standards around improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention (Class C felony).

Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations. Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation—while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions.

The bill also prohibits state/county agencies from assisting or cooperating with immigration enforcement operations except where required by law and bars public employees from facilitating operations that penalize protected speech/assembly or immigration enforcement actions (including near sensitive locations). It requires officers in public settings to display visible ID (name/agency/badge number) and prohibits face coverings that obscure identity, with exceptions for SWAT/high-risk warrants, undercover ops, and hazardous conditions. Finally, it requires agencies to maintain public, written policies and provide training on the ID/face covering requirements.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:18:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>          | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Rev. Dr. Robert W.<br>Nelson | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support passage of HB 1886 which Hawai`i needs. We need to have clear rules and guidelines regarding visible identification that will improve public trust, increase accountability, and clarify boundaries. I ask you to please pass HB 1866.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:21:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Taylor McKenzie     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs**

**My name is Taylor, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.**

**HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.**

**This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD1.**

**Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.**

**Sincerely,**

**Taylor**

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:27:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cassidy Hollenbeck  | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in strong support of HB1886 because our communities deserve transparency, accountability, and safety; not fear or confusion. No one should have to wonder who is policing them or whether they can safely report a crime. HB1886 HD1 requires clear identification, limits anonymous or obscured policing except in truly necessary situations, and sets firm boundaries against unauthorized civil immigration enforcement. By creating real consequences for violations, it protects people from profiling, abuse, and intimidation. I stand in strong support of HB1886.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:34:58 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Giavanna Lau        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Rep David A. Tarnas, JHA Chair and Mahina Poepoe, JHA Vice Chair, and members of the committee:

Re: HB1886 HD1 No secret police/ID standards + Limits on State/Federal collaboration

My name is Giavanna Lau, Wailuku, HI 96793 I am testifying as a resident of Maui and practicing psychiatrist with grave concerns about how the atrocities witnessed in places like Minneapolis where CBP/ICE federal agents would impact the community in our state if allowed to abuse power in the ways we have all witnessed with our own eyes. We have seen U.S. citizens executed, children kidnapped, and regular people assaulted and sprayed with toxic repellants. Even undocumented residents utilizing proper procedures are detained and mistreated and witnesses exercising constitutional rights face injury and death standing up for their neighbors. In a democratic republic we answer to our laws, not to rogue leaders. In order to hold any agency of federal or local government accountable to said laws and the rights of individuals, we must be able to properly identify and hold accountable gross violations of human safety and dignity.

Agents of law enforcement are respected and trusted members of our community who protect and serve the people. Our county and municipal law enforcement officers should not be forced to aid procedures in which their neighbors and loved ones and fellow residents of our state are subjected to trauma and violence. This would be degrading to faith and morale throughout the community.

I lived in Santiago, Chile in 1984 when Pinochet was dictator of the country and we lived under a police state. We had to carry identification, a curfew was imposed, and children walked to school past armed soldiers carrying weapons of war on the street. Political opponents were disappeared and tortured or murdered. It takes decades for a community to recover from the trauma of such a regime and in Hawaii we are still recovering from unprecedented traumas caused by the Maui wildfires, plus the longstanding traumas of colonization and annexation. This bill (as well as HB 2540 and HB1839) are first steps in proactively legislating to prevent such harms being done to our residents. The best approach to trauma mitigation is primary prevention, as history tells us.

I am deeply concerned with the impact of a culture of cruelty and theatrics of deterrance against migrant families who not only contribute productively to our economy but also provide services in undesirable jobs or underserved job positions through the state. In cases where established

immigration laws are violated such matters are handled civilly and administratively and never with the types of police work used for SWAT teams and raids against violent criminals. There should be no room in the Aloha state for such flagrant abuses against fellow human beings no matter where they come from or the color of their skin. The current federal government administration does not get to define the demographics of the United States of America. Hawaii has always had its own unique mix of cultures and ethnicities where everyone has value, in theory. It is horrifying to witness a white supremacist agenda being sanitized for acceptance by our own marginalized and oppressed populations.

I am in support of this bill supporting immigrant rights in the State of Hawaii.

I am very grateful for your work in the legislative process fighting for the good of the state and thank you for your time and consideration.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:22:43 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in **strong support of HB1886**, which would establish clear standards for state and federal law enforcement collaboration, require visible identification, and restrict the use of facial coverings by officers. This bill is a common-sense measure to strengthen public trust, ensure accountability, and keep local resources focused on local priorities.

**Visible identification and clear rules reduce fear and confusion.** When law enforcement officers are easily identifiable—both by their uniforms and their vehicles—it builds public confidence and de-escalates potentially tense encounters. HB1886 ensures that residents can immediately know who is interacting with them and why, replacing uncertainty with transparency.

**The bill prevents impersonation risk and strengthens accountability.** By establishing clear standards for identification and prohibiting anonymous law enforcement activity, HB1886 closes the door on impersonation and misconduct. These are enforceable rules that encourage de-escalation and ensure that officers are answerable for their actions.

**It creates enforceable standards that discourage anonymous law enforcement activity.** Law enforcement should never operate in the shadows. By requiring visible identification and restricting facial coverings, this bill ensures that officers are present and accountable in the communities they serve.

**Finally, HB1886 clarifies boundaries so local resources stay focused on local public safety priorities.** Hawai'i's county and state law enforcement agencies have their hands full keeping our communities safe. They should not be drawn into federal immigration enforcement operations that divert time, personnel, and resources away from their core mission. This bill makes those boundaries clear, allowing our officers to focus on what matters most: protecting Hawai'i's families.

HB1886 is not about obstructing federal law enforcement. It is about ensuring that when law enforcement operates in our communities—whether state or federal—they do so openly, accountably, and with the trust of the people they serve.

I urge you to pass this bill. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.



**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:30:41 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Doug Klunder        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB1886.

This is a necessary step to take for public safety, especially in light of the abuses we have seen around the country by ICE officers.

Immigration enforcement and law enforcement must be kept entirely separate in order to ensure community support for local law enforcement. Hawaii residents--including immigrants, even those undocumented--should not be discouraged from reporting crimes, either as victims or as witnesses. But in today's environment, people will often be reluctant to cooperate with police for fear of ending up in ICE's sights. And, as we have seen, that fear of ICE can be well-founded, even when immigrants are entirely following legal process and should not be at risk.

It should also go without saying that police and enforcement officers should be public and identifiable, except for limited number undercover operations. When officers mask themselves or conceal identity, they can easily be mistaken for criminal assailants rather than officers, endangering all involved. Identification also leads to more accountability, and deters abuses. It should go without saying--but apparently \*does\* need saying now--that secret police forces have no place in Hawaii.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:32:53 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary Leigh Knittle  | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

To Whom It May Concern:

It is imperative that we vote yes on this bill. Immigration agents need ID/face covering standards just as our police do. Anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations.

Overall, this would create the offense of unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention as a Class C felony, with defined limits on what can count as “reasonable suspicion” (not based solely on race/ethnicity/language/accent, etc.).The amended bill text spells out the ID requirements, exceptions, training/policy requirements, and the Class C felony provision. LegiScan description confirms this is HD1 and lists the main components (collaboration limits, ID/face coverings standards, criminal offenses).

In particular this bill will:

1. Prohibit state/county agencies from assisting or cooperating with immigration enforcement operations except where required by law.
2. Bar public employees from facilitating operations that penalize protected speech/assembly or immigration enforcement actions (including near sensitive locations).
3. Require officers in public settings to display visible ID (name/agency/badge number) and prohibits face coverings that obscure identity, with exceptions for SWAT/high-risk warrants, undercover ops, and hazardous conditions.
4. Require agencies to maintain public, written policies and provide training on the ID/face covering requirements.
5. Establish enforceable consequences, including penalties and civil liability implications for certain torts committed while violating the ID/face covering rules.

Communities are safer when residents trust they can report crimes, seek help, and access services without intimidation. Clear rules on identification and limits on unauthorized immigration interrogation reduce risk of profiling, abuse, and impersonation—while still allowing narrowly tailored safety exceptions. Please vote yes.

Sincerely,

Mary Leigh Knittle

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:29:56 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Belinda Pate        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

As an RN who has worked in our community, I can affirm that anonymous or obscured policing undermines public trust and can increase fear and confusion. In the hospital setting, this is critical. We need to know who is who, for all of our sakes. The process of patient care will be irrevocably broken for all parties if we continue with anonymous intimidation. Hospitals are not battlegrounds.

HB1886 HD1 creates enforceable standards for identification, accountability, and guardrails on state collaboration with immigration enforcement operations. Please pass this bill for our safety and assurity of patient care.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:24:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b>      | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marcella Alohalani Boido | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please support ths bill. Thank you.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:22:16 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Ashley de Coligny   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident writing in strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:14:49 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Beth Anderson       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support HB 1886 because immigration enforcement has become brutal and in some cases, fatal for innocent people. In many cases, the rule of law, including civil rights laws and freedom of speech rights have been violated.. I strongly support any legislation addressing lack of visible identification and the use of facial coverings and establishing standards for state and federal law enforcement regarding this.

I especially agree with and support establishing criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention by state and federal law enforcement.

I only wish this law would become effective immediately, not 4 years from now.

Mahalo for supporting the rights of citizens in this State and protecting them from mistreatment by law enforcement,

Beth Anderson

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:28:31 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

**Testimony of Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.**

**In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Ellen Caringer, and I submit this testimony in **strong support of HB1886 HD1**, which establishes clear limits and standards related to state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

I am a clinical psychologist and I am testifying as an individual. HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings. We have already seen the terror, masking and lack of identification inflicts on populations in other cities.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Ellen R. Caringer, Ph.D.

[drcaringer@gmail.com](mailto:drcaringer@gmail.com)

(808) 281-7463

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:12:59 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB1886 HD1 LIMIT COLLABORATION FEDS

I am writing in strong support of HB1886 both as a Lahaina resident and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN), to ban extreme masking by law enforcement, require officers visibly identify themselves, and limit state and county law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

For months we have seen video evidence of aggressive, heavily armed federal agents snatching people off the street, subjecting them to excessive force, and now committing unjustified killings. Masked agents have terrorized the public, detaining a five-year-old boy, shooting and killing two U.S. citizens, raiding churches, utilizing teargas on peaceful protesters which include children and the elderly, sexually assaulting people they have in detention...the list of atrocities multiplying exponentially each day. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. They are acting with impunity heightened by anonymity the masks afford, violating basic human rights and showing a gross disrespect for our Constitution and bedrock principles of liberty and justice for all. This is how secret police under authoritarianism operate; not legitimate, accountable law enforcement in a democracy.

The inconsistency of masked agents with our democratic constitutional principles was outlined by Ronald Reagan-appointed judge, Honorable William G. Young, United States District Court, District of Massachusetts, in his decision in American Association of University Professors v. Rubio,[1] issued last year:

And there's the issue of masks. This Court has listened carefully to the reasons given by Öztürk's captors for masking- up and has heard the same reasons

advanced by the defendant Todd Lyons, Acting Director of ICE. It rejects this testimony as disingenuous, squalid and dishonorable. ICE goes masked for a single reason -- to terrorize Americans into quiescence. Small wonder ICE often seems to need our respected military to guard them as they go about implementing our immigration laws. It should be noted that our troops do not ordinarily wear masks. Can you imagine a masked marine? It is a matter of honor -- and honor still matters. To us, masks are associated with cowardly desperados and the despised Ku Klux Klan. In all our history we have never tolerated an armed masked secret police. Carrying on in this fashion, ICE brings indelible obloquy to this administration and everyone who works in it. "We can not escape history," Lincoln rightly said. "[It] will light us down in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation." Abraham Lincoln, Second Annual Message to Congress (Dec. 1, 1862).

Perhaps we're now afraid to stick our necks out. If the distinguished Homeland Security intelligence agency can be weaponized to squelch the free speech rights of a small, hapless group of non-citizens in our midst, so too can the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation, and the audit divisions of the I.R.S. and the Social Security Administration be unconstitutionally weaponized against the President's ever growing list of "enemies" or opponents he "hates" notwithstanding that political persecution is anathema to our Constitution and everything for which America stands.

Finally, perhaps we don't much care. After all, these Plaintiffs, a group of non-citizen pro-Palestinians are relatively small compared to the much larger interest groups who have every right vigorously to espouse the cause of the State of Israel. Palestine is far away and its people are caught up in the horrors of a modern war with heavy ordinance wreaking massive indiscriminate destruction, a war that is not one of our making. Why should we care about the free speech rights of their compatriots here among us?

Here's why:

The United [S]tates is a great nation, not because any of us say so. It is great because we still practice our frontier tradition of selflessness for the good of us all. Strangers go out of their way to help strangers when they see a need. In times of fire, flood, and national disaster, everyone pitches in to help people we've never met and first responders selflessly risk their lives for others. Hundreds of

firefighters rushed into the Twin Towers on 9/11 without hesitation desperate to find and save survivors. That's who we are. And on distant battlefields our military "fought and died for the men [they] marched among." Frank Loesser, "The Ballad of Roger Young", LIFE, 5 March 1945, at 117.

Each day, I recognize (to paraphrase Lincoln again) that the brave men and women, living and dead, who have struggled in our Nation's service have hallowed our Constitutional freedom far above my (or anyone's) poor power to add or detract. The only Constitutional rights upon which we can depend are those we extend to the weakest and most reviled among us.[2]

HB 1886 is a limited, focused means to achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawai'i by federal law enforcement. They are a critical piece of our State's preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. This is a small step to returning law enforcement in Hawaii to public scrutiny and legal accountability. Masking "isn't about any typical policing concerns, such as safety. It's about a symbol – a way to wear utter contempt for democratic institutions and the rule of law right there on your face." [3] We are all less safe when masked agents terrorize our streets. When the people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. The lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community members. Moreover, not only does this lack of identification make it difficult to identify the perpetrators of constitutional violations, community terror, and aggressive, illegal tactics.

Additionally, it is vital that we prevent our local law enforcement from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and hurting our communities. Our state and local policies must ensure our law enforcement agencies do not support this gross federal overreach. Our Hawai'i dollars should not be used in such a way to terrorize our communities.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to testify, and I thank you for your commitment to our democracy.

Respectfully,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina resident

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:14:05 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Renee Rabb          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support

Renee Rabb

Keaau, HI

Big Island

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 10:26:44 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Priscilla Stuckey | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Priscilla Stuckey, and I strongly support HB1886 HD1, which establishes clear limits and standards related to how our state and federal agencies may collaborate with the federal government in immigration enforcement operations and which strengthens accountability requirements for law enforcement identification and facial coverings in public-facing operations.

I am a community member with deep concerns about federal abuses of power and violence toward our immigrant neighbors.

HB1886 HD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

This measure also draws important guardrails around state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations. Clear boundaries help prevent mission creep, reduce profiling risks, and ensure local resources remain focused on local public safety priorities—so victims and witnesses are not deterred from reporting crime or seeking help.

For these reasons, I strongly support HB1886 HD1 and request that the committee pass this bill.

Mahalo,

Priscilla Stuckey, PhD, Kihei

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 11:42:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By    | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Anthone Sanchez | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members,

My name is Anthone Sanchez, and I am a Hawaii resident and an immigrant. I am writing to express my strong support for HB1886.

Under the current federal administration, we have seen how unchecked power within the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) can lead to a breakdown in public trust. As an immigrant, the idea of being approached by an armed individual who refuses to identify themselves is terrifying. If federal agents are acting within the bounds of the law and have a proper warrant, there is no reason they should be hiding their identities or covering their faces.

This bill is a critical step for our state because:

**It Promotes Equality Under the Law:** Everyday citizens are required to identify themselves to authorities; it is only fair and just that law enforcement officers—especially federal agents operating in our communities—do the same.

**It Builds Public Trust:** Trust in government is impossible when agents operate in the shadows. By requiring visible identification and prohibiting the masking of faces, this bill ensures that residents feel safer and know exactly who is engaging with them.

**It Establishes State-Level Accountability:** By holding federal officers liable for actions taken without a warrant, Hawaii is sending a clear message that our state prioritizes the constitutional rights and safety of all its people.

HB1886 is a necessary move to protect our community from the overreach of federal agencies that currently operate with too little oversight. It ensures that "due process" is more than just a phrase—it is a practice that applies to everyone, including those in uniform.

I respectfully urge the committee to pass **HB1886**.

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:46:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tina Even           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB1886  
Tina Marie Even

**HB-1886-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 4:03:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Monisha Das Gupta   | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Monisha Das Gupta. I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1886. The bill proposes necessary guardrails by requiring local and federal law enforcement to display their identification. It prevents the risk of impersonation and strengthens accountability and de-escalation in public settings. The bill will create enforceable standards that discourage anonymous law enforcement activity

All across the United States, ICE has been emboldened to act like a secret police with impunity. They have abducted countless people from their communities while hiding their identities and refusing to produce judicial warrants. They have wasted taxpayer dollars by creating situations that imperil our communities and that divert local law enforcement from their duties. Secret police have no place in a democracy.

The measures proposed in the bill would prevent the misuse of state resources and funds (our taxpayer dollars) to permit local partnerships with federal agencies like ICE to conduct raids, expand surveillance, and intimidate communities.

Unfortunately, the Trump administration is strong-arming state and local law enforcement to collude with a violent and lawless agency that has killed immigrants and US citizens. I urge the committee to vote in favor of the bill that protects the state from costly litigation and, most importantly, promotes the safety of its residents.