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**February 24, 2026**

**HB 2540, HD1: RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

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

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) supports HB 2540, HD1.

As set forth in the bill, Hawai'i is home to approximately 258,000 immigrants - nearly eighteen percent of our State's population. Many of our clients and their families are part of this community. The OPD represents indigent individuals from every racial, ethnic, and cultural background in Hawai'i, including citizens, lawful permanent residents, and undocumented individuals. We see firsthand how fear of immigration consequences can undermine access to justice, discourage cooperation with courts, and erode public trust in the legal system.

This measure establishes thoughtful guardrails to clarify the respective roles of state and federal authorities and to ensure that civil immigration enforcement within Hawai'i proceeds with due process, judicial oversight, and respect for constitutional protections. The bill does not prevent compliance with valid judicial warrants or lawful criminal investigations. Instead, it draws careful boundaries to ensure that state resources are not diverted toward civil immigration enforcement activities that exceed statutory authority or compromise constitutional rights.

**Protecting Constitutional Rights and Preventing Prolonged Stops**

The bill appropriately prohibits law enforcement officers from initiating or prolonging a stop, detention, or arrest for the purpose of determining a person's civil immigration status absent specific and articulable reasonable suspicion and makes clear that such suspicion cannot be based solely on race, ethnicity, language, national origin, or other protected characteristics.

From the OPD's experience, prolonged stops or collateral inquiries into immigration status can lead to coercive encounters, custodial complications, and significant downstream legal consequences particularly for individuals already navigating poverty, language barriers, or limited familiarity with the legal system. Clear statutory limits reduce the risk of unlawful detention and strengthen compliance with both the United States and Hawai'i Constitutions.

### **Requiring Transparent, Written Policies**

By requiring each law enforcement agency to establish and publicly post written policies regarding civil immigration enforcement, the bill promotes transparency, consistency, and accountability. Written policies help ensure uniform standards across counties and agencies and provide guidance to officers in the field. Public accessibility also builds community trust and allows courts to meaningfully evaluate whether actions were consistent with adopted policies and legal authority. For the OPD clients, clarity in enforcement standards can reduce confusion, misinformation, and unnecessary litigation over whether detentions were lawful.

### **Limiting State Participation in Civil Immigration Operations**

The bill limits state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement operations absent proper legal authority. It further restricts such activity in sensitive locations, including schools, health facilities, courthouses, and places of worship. The OPD strongly supports these provisions. Access to courts, health care, education, and places of worship should not be chilled by fear of immigration enforcement. If individuals fear that appearing in court to answer a summons, serve as a witness, or comply with probation will expose them or their loved ones to immigration action, the administration of justice suffers. Courts function best when individuals can appear freely, without intimidation or deterrence.

### **Maintaining Separation Between Criminal and Civil Enforcement**

The measure clarifies that agreements for criminal law enforcement with federal authorities must be limited in scope, in writing, subject to review, and may not authorize federal participation in certain checkpoints or stops. This preserves the traditional distinction between criminal enforcement, where the State has clear authority and responsibility, and federal civil immigration enforcement. The OPD believes maintaining that distinction is critical. Conflating civil immigration enforcement with routine policing can undermine community cooperation, decrease reporting of crime, and impair effective criminal justice outcomes.

For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **supports** HB 2540, HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



# POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



**DEREK S.K. KAWAKAMI**, MAYOR  
**REIKO MATSUYAMA**, MANAGING DIRECTOR

**ELLIOTT K. KE**, CHIEF OF POLICE  
**MARK T. OZAKI**, DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 24, 2026

The Honorable Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair  
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**RE: Testimony in Opposition to HB 2540 HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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

On behalf of the Kaua'i Police Department, I am submitting testimony in **OPPOSITION** to HB 2540 HD1, which proposes to regulate law enforcement practices by restricting the use of facial coverings, mandating visible identification in all official interactions, imposing new vehicle marking requirements, and establishing statutory limits and criminal penalties related to civil immigration enforcement.

Although the goal of promoting transparency and accountability is understandable, HB 2540 HD1 improperly relies on criminal penalties for issues that are more appropriately handled through professional standards, policy guidance, and administrative oversight.

The bill places law enforcement officers and their families at increased risk. Hawai'i's small, close-knit communities already limit officer anonymity. Prohibiting the use of masks or face coverings during most law enforcement interactions exposes officers to retaliation, harassment, and doxing – particularly those assigned to gangs, narcotics, drug trafficking, and organized crime investigations. The use of masks or protective coverings is not intended to avoid accountability, but rather to safeguard officers and their families from long-term harm resulting from lawful enforcement actions. Criminalizing mask use in these contexts could jeopardize officer safety and compromise ongoing operations.

Additionally, while an exemption exists for undercover officers, the bill fails to adequately account for support personnel who assist at scenes of law enforcement operations. These individuals may not be formally designated as undercover officers, yet they often perform duties that directly support undercover or sensitive investigative work. Requiring such personnel to remain unmasked may compromise operations and place them at unnecessary risk.

HB 2540 HD1 further requires conspicuous vehicle markings that are incompatible with current county programs allowing the use of personally-owned, county-subsidized vehicles for patrol functions. Requiring permanent markings would raise off-duty safety and privacy concerns for officers and create avoidable financial and logistical challenges for departments.

KPD believes that standards governing the use of masks or personal disguise by law enforcement officers are more appropriately developed through professional policy and oversight by the Hawai'i Law Enforcement Standards Board and individual agencies. The Standards Board is best positioned to

Chair Tarnas  
February 24, 2026  
Re: Opposition of HB 2540 HD1  
Page 2 of 2

establish consistent guidance that balances officer safety, operational needs, and public accountability, without resorting to criminal penalties for conduct better addressed through administrative regulation.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **oppose HB 2540 HD1**.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Elliott K. Ke". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Elliott K. Ke  
Chief of Police  
Kaua'i Police Department

**Testimony of Megahn Chun and Alejandro Villarino  
In SUPPORT of HB2540 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 HB2540 HD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status.

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.

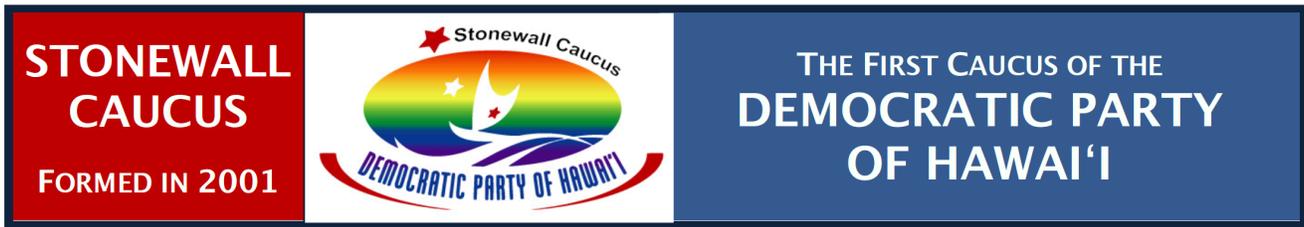
HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, we respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB2540 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 HB2540 HD1

Relating to Law Enforcement – Civil Immigration Enforcement Policies and Due Process Protections

**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 Hawai‘i, we submit this testimony in strong support of HB2540 HD1.

HB2540 HD1 establishes consistent, statewide standards governing civil immigration enforcement activity involving state and county agencies. The bill requires law enforcement agencies to adopt and publicly post written policies regarding civil immigration enforcement, including clear procedures governing when and how officers may inquire into a person’s civil immigration status. It also prohibits officers from initiating or prolonging a stop, detention, or arrest for the purpose of determining civil immigration status absent lawful authority and reasonable suspicion.

These requirements are essential to preventing ad hoc practices that can lead to profiling, unnecessary detention, and erosion of community trust. When standards are unwritten or inconsistently applied, the risk of discriminatory enforcement increases. By requiring transparent, publicly accessible policies, HB2540 HD1 creates uniform expectations across jurisdictions and strengthens accountability.

The bill also limits civil immigration activity in sensitive locations such as schools, health care facilities, domestic violence shelters, courthouses, and places of worship. These safeguards reduce fear among immigrant and mixed-status families so that individuals feel safe reporting crimes, seeking medical care, attending court proceedings, and accessing public services without fear of civil immigration enforcement actions.

Importantly, HB2540 HD1 protects due process by requiring documented, reviewable legal authority and judicial oversight before state or county resources are used in civil immigration enforcement activity. It clarifies that reasonable suspicion cannot be based solely on race, ethnicity, language, national origin, religion, or the exercise of constitutional rights.

Public safety depends on community trust. When individuals fear that routine interactions with law enforcement may transform into civil immigration investigations, cooperation declines and everyone is less safe. HB2540 HD1 promotes transparency, fairness, and constitutional accountability while ensuring that state and county resources remain focused on serving Hawai‘i’s communities.

For these reasons, the Stonewall Caucus respectfully urges the Committee to pass HB2540 HD1.

## Testimony in Strong Support of HB2540 HD1

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony and for your continued commitment to protecting civil rights and strengthening public trust.

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 2540 HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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 2540 HD1 with amendments.**

UHPA strongly supports the bill's establishment of clear statutory limits on State and Federal collaboration, as well as the restrictions on civil immigration enforcement at sensitive locations. Ensuring that state resources are not used to facilitate federal immigration operations, and protecting campuses from unrestricted enforcement, is essential to maintaining a safe, accessible, and trusting educational environment for all students and staff.

**Explicitly Protect University Campuses.** While we support the protection of sensitive locations, we must ensure there is no ambiguity that these protections extend to the university level. **We respectfully request that the Committee amend the language in Section 4 (specifically regarding proposed §353C-(b)) to explicitly define "schools" to include "public institutions of higher education, including University of Hawai'i campuses,"** similar to the definition found in the companion measure HB 1870.

**Protection for Faculty Acting in Good Faith.** Additionally, we are highly concerned with the proposed §353C-(c) in Section 4 of the bill, which mandates that "No employee or agent... shall provide voluntary consent" for a law enforcement agent to enter a nonpublic area for immigration enforcement purposes. This provision places frontline faculty and staff in a precarious administrative and legal position. Faculty members are educators, not legal experts. They may face high-pressure tactics, intimidation, or confusion when confronted by armed federal law enforcement agents demanding access to nonpublic areas. We are concerned that under the current language, a faculty member who mistakenly grants access under duress or confusion could be subject to workplace discipline, administrative retaliation, or personal civil liability. **We respectfully urge the Committee to ensure that the measure includes adequate "Safe Harbor" protections from discipline and liability for employees who are acting in good faith when attempting to comply with this chapter or when responding to perceived federal authority.**

University of Hawaii  
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928  
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160  
Website: [www.uhpa.org](http://www.uhpa.org)



**With these amendments, UHPA supports the passage of HB 2540 HD1.**

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fern'.

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

University of Hawaii  
Professional Assembly

1017 Palm Drive ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-1928  
Telephone: (808) 593-2157 ♦ Facsimile: (808) 593-2160  
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**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 11:05:34 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>
Kristen Young	Faith Action for Community Equity	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I submit this testimony in support of HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

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

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo,

Kristen Young  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:32:15 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. PhD	Na Kama Kai	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony In SUPPORT of HB2540 HD1

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

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,

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.



FEBRUARY 25, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 2540 HD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

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kris@imuaalliance.org  
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@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,  
*President*

David Negaard,  
*Director*

Mireille Ellsworth,  
*Director*

Justin Salisbury,  
*Director*

Eileen Roco,  
*Director*

Beatrice DeRego,  
*Director*

Corey Rosenlee,  
*Director*

Amy Zhao,  
*Policy and Partnerships  
Strategist*

### POSITION: SUPPORT

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Imua Alliance supports HB 2540 HD1, relating to law enforcement, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations; requires law enforcement agencies operating in the State to establish and publicly post written policies regarding civil immigration enforcement, including procedures governing law enforcement officer's authority to make any inquiry into a person's civil immigration status; prohibits law enforcement officers from initiating or prolonging a stop, detention, or arrest of a person for the purpose of determining the person's civil immigration status; establishes as a policy of the Department of Law Enforcement that civil immigration activity involving state or county participation or facilities shall only proceed under certain conditions; prohibits state and county involvement in civil immigration enforcement activity in certain locations; and requires the Department of Law Enforcement to assist state and county agencies in maintaining compliance with civil immigration enforcement policy.

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**

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**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

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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.

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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

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:25:25 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:

**HB2129/HB2540 Law Enforcement; Mask; Disguise; Prohibition**

**Aloha,** I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

If you have any hesitation about the legal lines ICE and CBP have crossed and the environment of fear and intimidation they have created, LISTEN TO THESE Police recordings: <https://www.thisamericanlife.org/880/what-is-your-emergency>

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Lisa Gollin



## 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 2540, HD1, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

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 HB2540, HD1**, which prohibits, with certain exceptions, facial coverings by law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement; prohibits officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status; and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

Roots Reborn is a grassroots, multicultural immigrant-justice and disaster-response organization serving migrant and immigrant communities on Maui and beyond. Born out of the August 2023 wildfires, we immediately stepped in to move aid, navigate systems alongside families, and build the trusted relationships that still anchor our work today. What began as wildfire response has grown into essential infrastructure for immigrant communities facing overlapping crises—from recovery and housing instability to shifting federal policies, increased enforcement, and rising fear.

The trust we have built has given us proximity to hear stories that rarely reach these chambers. Families who survived the fires, who lost homes, who are still piecing their lives together, now live with the additional terror of being separated from their children, their spouses, their neighbors. Many are afraid to go to work or school, or even to seek necessary medical care. For fire survivors already navigating grief, displacement, and rebuilding, this new crisis lands on top of everything else. Recovery becomes impossible when fear is constant.

Since December 2024, we have been meeting this new man-made disaster head-on. Roots Reborn is a founding coalition member of EPA Maui, a rapid response network and tipline made up of allied organizations and concerned community members. We exist because we believe an informed, calm community is a safer community.

Through this coalition, we have:

- Distributed over 3,500 flyers on constitutional rights
- Trained more than 700 community members through Know Your Rights workshops
- Delivered over 50 trainings to healthcare providers, social service organizations, business owners, faith communities, educators, and labor union leaders
- Processed more than 450 calls and texts through our tipline from community members concerned about federal enforcement activity
- Trained over 60 volunteer observers in verification, de-escalation, and peaceful documentation

For months we have seen video evidence of aggressive, heavily armed, masked federal agents subjecting people to excessive force, with no identifying tag or badge, refusing to identify themselves while violating people's constitutional rights to peaceably observe and document their behavior. These tactics heighten fear in the public and interfere with accountability for misconduct by the officers.



On Maui, we are witnessing an erosion of trust and an increase in fear. Community members are afraid to go to work and children are unable to go to school. We have heard stories from healthcare providers of patients forgoing critical care, and from faith leaders that people feel unable to attend religious services due to fear of confrontation by masked and unidentified federal agents. Trust in law enforcement of all kinds, even our local police departments, has eroded as a result. Coalition member organizations have been called upon to address the potential harms to victims of violent crime, especially women and children subjected to domestic violence, who are now afraid to ask for help from the local law enforcement officers who have a duty to protect them.

House Bill 2540, HD1 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. It is a small step to returning law enforcement in Hawai'i to public scrutiny and legal accountability.

Our trained observers do this work daily. We know that transparency enables accountability, and accountability rebuilds trust. We **urge you to support HB2540, HD1** and to vote to pass it out of this committee.

Sinceramente,

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

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



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

February 25, 2026 @ 2:00 pm, 325 via Videoconference  
HB2540 HD1 — Law Enforcement; State Federal collaboration

#### TESTIMONY

Stephen Munkelt, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

#### **The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER HB2540 HD1**

As amended in HB2540 HD1 this bill would support the Fourth Amendment standards of law enforcement by prohibiting detentions without probable cause, prolonged detention or seizure based on race or other invidious classification. It also limits cooperation with federal agencies in immigration-related enforcement or actions which threaten civil rights of citizens and immigrants.

These protections are essential to ensuring that immigrant communities, communities of color, and religious minorities are not unfairly targeted. They also strengthen public safety by reinforcing trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, making people more likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, and cooperate with investigations.

When people fear that routine interactions with law enforcement may lead to questioning about their immigration status, they are less likely to seek help, report domestic violence, cooperate as witnesses, or call 911 in emergencies. HB2540 helps prevent this chilling effect by setting clear, narrow limits on immigration-related inquiries and ensuring that enforcement is based on lawful, objective standards rather than appearance or background. By protecting against discriminatory practices and pretextual enforcement, this section supports a policing model focused on real public safety priorities.

The League of Women Voters of the United States supports equal rights for all under state and federal law. We have called for reforms of policing practices following the George Floyd murder and interference with First Amendment rights of protestors. The current actions of the federal government challenge all of our liberties and call for strong state actions to protect our communities. HB2540 HD1 will address these issues, and we ask for your support.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



*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.



www.hicir.org | Instagram @hicir  
hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

**Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill  
In SUPPORT of HB2540 HD1 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Representative Tarnas, Chair  
Representative Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 25th, 2026, 2pm Room 325

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 HB2540 HD1**, which establishes **clear identification and facial-covering standards**, strengthens safeguards around **state and county collaboration with federal law enforcement**, and **prohibits law enforcement from initiating or prolonging a traffic stop to inquire about a person’s immigration status**.

**HB2540 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.

HB2540 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



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local officials to assess whether enforcement actions are lawful or necessary—heightening the 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.

HB2540 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.

### **Limits on Civil Immigration Authority**

Just as importantly, Hawai‘i must ensure that **state and county agencies are not 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. HB2540 affirms that any civil immigration enforcement activity involving state or county participation must be based on documented, legal authority that prioritizes due process and judicial oversight.



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HB2540 requires every law enforcement agency operating in Hawai'i to adopt written policies governing when officers may inquire about citizenship, immigration status, place of birth, or request documentation for civil immigration purposes.

### **Limiting immigration inquiries prevents pretextual stops and protects due process**

This legislation sets an important limitation by prohibiting officers from initiating or prolonging a stop, detention, or arrest for the purpose of determining civil immigration status unless there is reasonable suspicion, based on specific and articulable facts, that the person is unlawfully present, and the inquiry is otherwise authorized by state law and agency policy.

This helps ensure that immigration inquiries are not used as a pretext to extend stops or detentions, and that individuals are not subjected to prolonged encounters with law enforcement based on vague or improper grounds. By clearly stating that reasonable suspicion may not be based solely on race, color, ethnicity, national origin, ancestry, language, accent, religion, manner of dress, presence in a particular location, or the exercise of constitutional rights, this section sends a strong and necessary message: racial profiling and discriminatory policing have no place in Hawai'i.

These protections are essential to ensuring that immigrant communities, communities of color, and religious minorities are not unfairly targeted. They also strengthen public safety by reinforcing trust between law enforcement and the communities they serve, making people more likely to report crimes, serve as witnesses, and cooperate with investigations.

When people fear that routine interactions with law enforcement may lead to questioning about their immigration status, they are less likely to seek help, report domestic violence, cooperate as witnesses, or call 911 in emergencies. HB2540 helps prevent this chilling effect by setting clear, narrow limits on immigration-related inquiries and ensuring that enforcement is based on lawful, objective standards rather than appearance or background.

By protecting against discriminatory practices and pretextual enforcement, this section supports a policing model focused on real public safety priorities—not civil immigration enforcement.

### **Valid Judicial Warrants Required to Conduct Immigration Enforcement**

This legislation is a critical protection against the misuse of public facilities to facilitate enforcement actions that infringe on constitutional rights. It prohibits state and local employees or agents from allowing federal immigration officers entry into nonpublic areas in state and local facilities for enforcement purposes absent a valid judicial warrant. This ensures that state and local facilities are not used to target individuals for engaging in activity protected by the First Amendment, or to facilitate federal immigration enforcement absent proper legal authority.



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This provision reinforces the principle that public institutions should not become tools for surveillance, retaliation, or enforcement based on protected speech, religious practice, political activity, or immigration status. It ensures that enforcement actions respect constitutional boundaries and are subject to appropriate legal processes.

## **Conclusion**

For these reasons, HCIR respectfully urges you to **PASS HB2540 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



Hawai'i

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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 2540, HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HB 2540, HD1** which limits state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations and prohibits the deputization of federal agents for general policing.

At its core **HB 2540 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 2540 HD1 reflects a decision to draw principled boundaries around such cooperation.

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

HB 2540 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.”<sup>1</sup> 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.<sup>ii</sup> 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.<sup>iii</sup> HB 2540 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*, 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.<sup>iv</sup> Numerous jurisdictions have paid significant settlements or judgments arising directly from cooperation with ICE requests later deemed unlawful.

**HB 2540 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 2540 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.<sup>v</sup>

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.<sup>vi</sup> 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 2540 HD1 ensures that Hawaii’s constitutional commitments are not undermined. **HB 2540 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:48:38 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Donna Blakemore     | Indivisible Hilo    | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State's preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:27:49 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>         |
|---------------------|-------------------------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| wilfredo tungol     | hawaii filipino lawyers association | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

The Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association support this bill. The bill ensures that the local law enforcement agencies are not required to assist ICE's efforts in detaining or arresting individuals suspected of being undocumented.

Our local law enforcement already have its hands full enforcing our local laws and there is no requirement that they assist federal immigration enforcement authorities to enforce federal immigration laws.

We ask you to act favorably on this bill.

Mahalo,

Wilfredo Tungol

Chair, HFLA Advocacy Committee

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:34:54 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 am writing on behalf of our Members in Strong Support of HB2540 HD1.

This bill will create consistent standards statewide through required written policies and public posting. We all want to feel safe in our communities and this measure helps create accountability.

Green Party of Hawai'i urges, this committee to please Pass HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo,

Susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauiilo



**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.

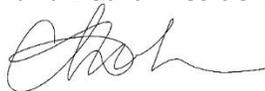
HB1886, HD1 establishes firm limits on state-federal cooperation – prohibiting assistance in civil immigration enforcement, restricting state deputization of federal officers and joint task force participation, and strengthening oversight of any criminal law enforcement cooperation by requiring written, 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:20:49 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 2:22:13 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 important bill. Mahalo.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:16:42 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kayla Marie         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:22:45 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| cheryl burghardt    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair and Committee Members

I support HB 2540 HD 1.

I ask that you support this bill as well.

Cheryl Burghardt

Nuuanu Oahu

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 3:49:23 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Diann Karin Lynn    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I give my strongest support to this bill.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:07:46 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:

Aloha,

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 a mask 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 Hawai'i.

Mahalo.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 5:37:08 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nandita Sharma      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly support HB2540 HD1 and encourage you to do the right thing and support it as well.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 6:46:09 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kanani Kai          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I strongly SUPPORT SB2540.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2540 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 submit this testimony in strong **support of HB2540 HD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status.

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB2540 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Jeremiah Brown  
Waialua, Oahu

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:19:43 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 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 HB2540 both as an individual and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). HB2540 requires law enforcement to establish and publish clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

Transparent, statewide standards prevent inconsistent practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, discriminatory profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring clear, written policies is a common-sense measure that improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

When trust in law enforcement is eroded, people are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

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

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:20:09 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Dina Shek           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I write in STRONG SUPPORT of HB 2540 HD 1. This important bill promotes transparency and public trust by requiring written policies and notice regarding civil immigration enforcement. It ensures due process and judicial oversight for civil immigration activities involving state/county participation. HB 2540 ensures that community spaces offering education, health care, place of worship, or access to justice remain safe for all residents. This is a critical public safety and public health measure because when some members of our community feel unsafe to access basic needs, it harms us all.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in strong support of HB 2540.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:17:16 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Younghee Overly     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Thank you for hearing HB2540.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:18:23 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marie Iding         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Dear Legislature,

This protects all of us by assuring that law enforcement is done reasonably and fairly.

Thank you

Marie

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:18:50 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:

in support. Thank you.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:25:17 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:26:24 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 HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:30:27 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 HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.**

**HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.**

**This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.**

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

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:55:46 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 Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:58:59 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Peggy Brandt        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.**

**House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.**

**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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.**

**House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.**

**Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.**

**Mahalo,**

**Peggy Brandt**

**Resident of Honolulu**

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 this testimony in Favor of HB2540 HD1, Relating to Law Enforcement**

We citizens need a law that protects us from intrusion by immigration agents into our schools, houses of worship, and hospitals. Houses of worship need to continue to be off-limits to immigration agents as people engage in religious practices, which is their right under the First Amendment of the Constitution. Children need to be safe at their schools. They must not be used as "bait" to draw their parents into a vulnerable position. Libraries need to be secure and free places of learning. People who are ill and receiving health care, including those who are hospitalized, need to be protected, too.

As the bill states, "it is necessary to establish clear policies and limits on federal immigration enforcement occurring within the State." 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.

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.

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,  
Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:33:03 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Cheryl Bellamy      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Mahalo!

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:57:37 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 HB2540 HD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB2540 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:02:13 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>            |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jennifer Kau'i Young | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB 2540 HD1 and its provisions for limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations. 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:03:02 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Gaye Chan           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

It is shocking that we even have to testify in support of this bill. No other law enforcement goes around masked and unidentified. However, we have repeatedly seen video evidence of horrific, aggressive, heavily armed federal agents snatching people off the street, subjecting them to excessive force, and even murder, which the federal government then lies about and tries to cover up. During nearly all of these events, the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States. The tactic heightens public fear and interferes with accountability. Please pass this bill, which merely seeks to protect our most basic safety.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:07:36 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jill Asmar          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

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.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:30:58 PM

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

| Submitted By     | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Francis Nakamoto | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

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

I support HB 2540 HD1, which among other things, prevents immigration detentions and arrests in sensitive locations like health care facilities, schools and churches, require *judicial* search and arrest warrants and prohibits certain State cooperation with federal agents while they engaging in immigration deportation activities that violate state law and the constitutional rights of our residents.

We should not forget the importance of immigrants to the State of Hawaii, including so-called undocumented immigrants, many of whom have earned their inclusion into Hawaiian society. According to the American Immigration Council, 258,000 Hawaii 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 Hawaii residents.

An estimated 28,000 undocumented or “unauthorized” immigrants reside in Hawaii (42,000 according to the Migration Policy Institute), many of whom have lived in Hawaii 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 respecting the sanctity of churches and the security health care facilities and schools. There should be no invasions of schools, churches, health care facilities and other sensitive locations to haul out students, teachers, worshipers, patients and health care workers in the midst of performing vital functions of our society. The unchecked invasion of the sanctity of these places without judicial approval will certainly result in frightened children and young adults from attending school, sick and injured persons from seeking critical medical care before its too late and deny worshipers from seeking spiritual comfort in times of severe stress and moral dislocation. The very purposes of the existence of these special places will be denied the targets of immigration enforcement if they are vulnerable to invasion.

In light of the horrendous history of unlawful, abusive, violent and unconstitutional behavior of ICE, CBP and other federal immigration enforcement agencies, the State of Hawaii can never be allowed to aid, abet or be accomplices with those agents in the violation of the persons, property and constitutional rights of Hawai'i residents.

Any appearance, if not actual commission, of State personnel assisting federal agent in depriving Hawai'i residents, whether citizen or not, of their constitutional and civil rights is morally wrong and will irreparably undermine the trust between State personnel and local law enforcement and the People they serve and protect

For the reasons stated above, I urge your support for HB2540, HD1.

Francis M. Nakamoto, Moanalua Valley

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:51:03 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Darryl Nordstrom    | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Darryl Nordstrom

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:04:48 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:

As we have seen with this current federal administration, we need to establish laws limited corporation in the relm of immigration enforcement. Please pass HB2540.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:08:15 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:41:08 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Bonk       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Please pass this bill, we should know who is policing us.

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 2540 HD1  
Measure Title: RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.  
Report Title: DLE; State and Federal Collaboration; Civil Immigration  
Enforcement; Law Enforcement Officers; Law Enforcement Agencies; Written  
Policies; Detention; Civil Immigration Status

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 2540 HD1. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:50:21 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 Aquino         | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony 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.

Core talking points:

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.

LegiScan description confirms this is HD1 and lists the main components (collaboration limits, ID/face coverings standards, criminal offenses).

I am a member of Indivisible. Thank you, Jane Aquino

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:02:40 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:

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

I am submitting this testimony in support of HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.  
Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:09:49 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 HB2540 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 HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

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

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes. *They also avoid seeking health care, which creates a public health crisis.* Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer and healthier communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS** HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Gerald Montano, DO

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:24:45 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:

It sickens me to see on the news how immigrants across the country have been treated. We in Hawaii should requires law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post written policies regarding civil immigration enforcement, including procedures governing inquiries into civil immigration status. We need to prevent profiling by prohibiting officers from initiating or prolonging a stop, detention, or arrest to determine a person's civil immigration status. Let us treat our immigrant neighbors with compassion, not oppression. Mahalo for the opportunity to express my views.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:56:31 AM

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

| Submitted By   | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|----------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Stephanie Chou | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

**RE:** HB2540 HD1

**Position:** In support

Aloha,

My name is Stephanie Chou, and I'm writing in support of HB2540 HD1, both as an individual and a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network.

Recently, I overheard my seven-year-old and her neighborhood friends negotiating the terms of a game. "You have to wear the mask," she insisted, "or we won't know you're the bad guy!" This struck me at two levels: first, even children understand that masks are inherently "scary" and "bad." When law enforcement officers conceal their identity for no specific reason, this heightens subjects' fear responses and can contribute to negative outcomes all around. Law enforcement has a responsibility to deescalate, for their own safety and the safety of those they come in contact with. A mask works counter to this goal.

Second, the neighborhood kids realized that for their game to work well, everyone's role had to be clearly defined. Each child needed to know the others' positions so that they could interact appropriately. In the same way, local LEOs, ordinary people, ICE officers, and everyone else involved needs to know who is playing what role. Failure of ICE officers to clearly identify themselves hampers an individual's ability to understand their rights and other LEOs' ability to collaborate, and it clouds accountability and oversight.

I strongly urge you to move this bill out of committee and support it through the process of becoming law.

Mahalo,

Stephanie

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:40:25 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 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:46:52 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Terri Yoshinaga     | Individual          | Oppose                    | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I oppose this bill.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 8:51:21 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 HPD and ICE collaborate on immigration enforcement no matter how much money the man promises the state.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:00:05 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nathan Leo Braulick | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Mahalo,

Nathan Leo Braulick

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:02:02 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michael Paul        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB2540 HD1.

This bill will keep our state's law enforcement priorities **local**. HPD has many times complained about a large amount of open positions and a lack of people power within the department. With such limited resources, local law enforcement should not be diverted. They are not paid to do federal law enforcement's job for them. This bill will help to keep their focus where it belongs, on local issues.

Mahalo for your time,

Michael Pau, Resident of House District 27

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:16:11 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 HB2540/HB2129 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 2540/HB2140 are 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 blurred 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-blurred-out-in-a-wa-hearing/>

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:33:17 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:34:53 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 Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

Please pass this important bill.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:44:20 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 HB2540 HD1

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:16:04 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Gail Morrison       | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Gail Morrision

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:20:21 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| David Cuthbert      | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540). This bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

The only widespread law enforcement officer facial masking to hide identity used prior to 2025 that I am aware of were SWAT teams in high risk situations. I don't see that wearing such masks when apprehending immigrants is warranted. The wearing of masks encourages disrespectful and harsh behavior. We would not stand for our county police officers wearing identity hiding masks and we should not tolerate the wearing of masks by federal law enforcement officers.

Thank you

Dave Cuthbert, Pahoehoa, Hawai'i

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 - HB 2540, HD1, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.**

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 HB2540, HD1**, which prohibits, with certain exceptions, facial coverings by law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement; prohibits officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status; and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

I currently 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.

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. That is why bills like this are so important.

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 administration is to frighten people into silence. 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 2540, 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:09:25 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| DeWaine Tollefsrud  | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2540

The use of masked and disguised agents of the federal government is a tactic specifically used to instill fear and compliance in the general public. The mask and lack of other identifiers also encourages the agent to act with impunity. Our own law enforcement officers do not feel the need to hide behind masks and tactical gear except in an extreme emergency.

All law enforcement agencies operating in Hawaii should be subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support of HB2540.

DeWaine Tollefsrud Kea'au, HI

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:10:05 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mary True           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for your attention to this matter. Aloha!, Mary True, 96783

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:20:24 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 your continued support for limiting state and federal collaboration with ICE. Please protect all people’s safety from law enforcement agents who stop, detain, or arrest someone for the purpose of determining the person’s civil immigration status. Please prohibit ICE agents from targeting “special” locations, such as schools, churches, and other public places. ALL law enforcement agents need to show IDs, have no masks, and need to maintain compliance with civil immigration enforcement policies.

Mahalo

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:36:38 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jessica Kuzmier     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2540 HD1.

I believe that codifying that is against state law for law enforcement to be masked is a good idea. I have wondered how people are supposed to tell the difference between unidentified, masked law enforcement personnel from a criminal who intends them harm. I also believe it is vitally important that we stipulate in state law that state and county law enforcement should not be recruited to assist with immigration concerns, as well as not protect immigration officers over citizen nonviolent protesters. I believe that our local law enforcement's job is to protect us here in Hawaii. On this note, I also believe I agree that immigration status should not come up in any dealings between the local law enforcement and the public.

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:41:40 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 strengthens transparency, accountability, and community trust by clearly defining the role of state and county agencies in civil immigration enforcement. By requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt and publicly post written policies, it ensures residents understand their rights and the limits of officer authority. Prohibiting officers from initiating or prolonging stops to determine immigration status protects against profiling and unlawful detention, reinforcing constitutional safeguards. Establishing clear conditions for any state or county participation in civil immigration activity, and restricting enforcement in sensitive locations, helps maintain access to schools, public services, and community spaces without fear. Overall, the bill promotes public safety by ensuring local law enforcement remains focused on community protection while upholding due process and civil rights.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:49:45 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:55:45 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 Strong Support of HB2540

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.

I 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

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 HB2540 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 submit this testimony in support of HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status.

In my work with impacted communities involving community safety and civil rights, I have seen firsthand how fear and uncertainty around immigration enforcement practices affect families and undermine trust in public institutions. HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. When policies vary widely, community members are left uncertain about their rights and law enforcement officers are left without consistent guidance. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting reasonable limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. Traffic stops and other routine encounters should not be extended beyond their original purpose without lawful cause. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they are less likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. Clear guardrails protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and foster cooperation between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

By promoting transparency, consistency, and respect for civil rights, HB2540 HD1 helps ensure that Hawai'i's public safety resources remain focused on state and local priorities while upholding fairness and due process for all residents.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Joey Badua

PO Box 29724

Honolulu, HI 96820

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:06:21 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<br>Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2540. Law enforcement officers must be identifiable at all times. It's usually criminals that are heavily armed and masked.

Mahalo for your public service,

Kate Jacobson

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:13:14 PM

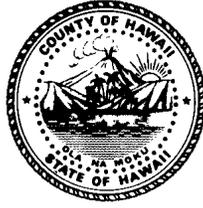
Testimony for JHA on 2/25/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I oppose law enforcement use of masks in arresting or detaining people. This dehumanizes both law enforcement and the public. Masking other than medical need is associated throughout time with criminal behavior and fear mongering. There is no justification for it. If ICE is proud of their actions, and have the power of the law they should be proud to show their faces.

**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: HB 2540

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

I am writing in **strong support of HB2540**. This measure strengthens trust within our communities by establishing clear boundaries between federal and local law enforcement. It is essential to maintaining public trust and ensuring that local agencies remain focused on protecting the safety and constitutional rights of our residents.

Hawai'i County Resolution No. 399-25, which recently passed County Council, affirmed that both the United States Constitution and the Constitution of the State of Hawai'i guarantee fundamental and due process rights to every individual and recognized our collective responsibility to uphold those protections. HB2540 reflects that same commitment in practice. It reinforces the principle that due process and equal protection apply to everyone and helps ensure that residents, regardless of where they come from, do not have to live in fear of local law enforcement.

Our community must feel confident calling on local police for help without hesitation or fear. Strengthening that trust ultimately strengthens our entire state. Please pass HB2540.

Mahalo,

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

Jenn Kagiwada

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:49:09 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Ron Heller          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Due process of law is a fundamental constitutional right.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:54:34 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Bo Breda            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Bo Breda

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:00:17 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:

I urge the passage of this bill out of committee and to rapidly pass and get to the governor's desk. It is anti-masking- what separates police from criminals and the KKK of old from the south. Clearly identifiable uniforms? Yes. In marked vehicles ? Yes. This keeps everybody accountable, as it should, and as the Hawai'i constitution demands.

Pass this bill, hopefully with a wide margin

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:04:06 PM

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

| Submitted By  | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Erin Rhatigan | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am in favor of this bill and urge you to vote for it for the reasons stated below:

Prohibition

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement

in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

sincerely

Erin Rhatigan

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:05:30 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Kathy Hammes | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Testimony of Kathy Hammes**

**In SUPPORT of HB2540 HD1**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair

Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Wednesday, Feb 25, 2026

Dear Honorable 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 HB2540 HD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.

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

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking

help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB2540 HD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Kathy Hammes

Concerned Citizen

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

1-808-756-6697

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:06:55 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Hugh Jones          | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Provisions prohibiting the masking of law enforcement officers should be restored to this bill along with provision that require law enforcement to wear identification,badges and uniforms that identify their agency should be added. Allowing law enforcement officers to remain anonymous allows the use of excessive force and prevents them from being held accountable for violating the constitutional rights of Americans.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:13:13 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Calvin Black        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Hawaii's immigrant communities are vital to our economy, culture, and social fabric. This legislation protects them while upholding due process and judicial oversight. As an individual and as a member of Indivisible, I urge its passage to ensure justice, safety, and dignity for all.

**Testimony of Wendy Naomi Sodetani**  
**In SUPPORT of HB2540 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 HB2540 HD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status.

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. Many struggle to understand or speak English.

Already among our state's most vulnerable residents, they now live in terror of being targeted, hunted by federal agents coming into their homes, schools, workplace, and even our health clinic, wearing masks, military clothes, but no IDs, so residents don't know who they are. Many hide in fear, don't come for needed medical appointments, they miss work, children miss school.

HB2540 HD1 is critically important because it provides safeguards to protect all community members from unrestrained federal immigration enforcement. It establishes provisions limiting state/federal collaboration tied to immigration enforcement objectives. Clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB2540 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:42:17 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Alicia Hedlesky     | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

My name is Alicia Hedlesky, a resident of Moloa'a, Kauai and a member of Indivisible Hawaii. I am writing to strongly support HB2540 as one step to help protect the residents of Hawaii from federal overreach. What is happening on the mainland is horrifying, and we need to exercise as much state power as we can to prevent the same happening here. No masked agents rounding up people at schools, hospitals, courthouses; interrogations and detentions based solely on suspicions of race or immigration status; and no accountability whatsoever for egregious abuse and violations. The federal government will not protect the people and our rights, so we must do it as a state. Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to testify on this important issue, Alicia Hedlesky

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:52:16 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>         |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Amy Wake            | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Testimony of Rev. Amy Chieko Wake

In SUPPORT of HB2540 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 Amy Wake, Lead Pastor of Wesley United Methodist Church in Kahala, and I submit this testimony in support of HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status.

HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Amy Wake

Lead Pastor, Wesley United Methodist Church

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

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:01:22 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 writing in strong support of HB2540 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS and requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:29:46 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 writing in strong support of HB2540. This bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable while on duty, limits facial coverings except in narrow circumstances, mandates clearly marked uniforms and vehicles, and makes willful violations a misdemeanor.

It also limits civil immigration enforcement actions at sensitive locations like courts and schools, restricts the sharing of personal data for civil immigration purposes, and requires oversight of ICE interactions with the public.

We have seen troubling incidents nationwide involving masked, unidentified agents using aggressive tactics, which heighten fear and undermine accountability. HB2540 is a measured step to protect immigrants, strengthen transparency, and ensure law enforcement in Hawai'i remains subject to public scrutiny and the rule of law. I urge you to advance and pass this important bill.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:26:32 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 HB2540**, which would require law enforcement agencies to establish clear, publicly available policies regarding civil immigration enforcement and prohibit officers from detaining individuals solely to inquire about their immigration status. This bill is a crucial step toward ensuring consistent, accountable, and community-centered policing across Hawai‘i.

**HB2540 prevents ad hoc practices that can lead to profiling, unnecessary detention, and loss of community trust.** When enforcement decisions are made without clear rules, the door opens to racial profiling, arbitrary detention, and unequal treatment. This bill replaces ambiguity with clarity, ensuring that every resident—regardless of background—is treated fairly and consistently under the law.

**The bill creates consistent statewide standards through required written policies and public posting.** By mandating that each law enforcement agency adopt and publish its procedures, HB2540 ensures transparency and accountability. The public deserves to know what rules govern interactions between local police and federal immigration authorities—and this bill guarantees that access.

**It reduces fear among immigrant and mixed-status families so people report crime and seek help.** When community members are afraid that a routine interaction with police could lead to immigration enforcement, they stop calling 911, stop reporting crimes, and stop cooperating with investigations. That makes everyone less safe. HB2540 draws a clear line between local public safety and civil immigration enforcement, helping to rebuild the trust that keeps communities secure.

**Finally, the bill protects due process and improves accountability for state and county involvement in civil immigration activity.** By establishing clear conditions and location limits on when and how local resources can be used for civil immigration enforcement, HB2540 ensures that our officers are focused on their core mission: protecting Hawai‘i's families. It also protects individuals' due process rights by prohibiting detention based solely on immigration status.

HB2540 is a measured, thoughtful approach that puts public safety first. It affirms that everyone in our community deserves to be treated with dignity and fairness—and that local law enforcement should remain focused on local priorities.

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

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:34:47 PM

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

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

Comments:

**HB2129/HB2540 Law Enforcement; Mask; Disguise; Prohibition**

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Sincerely,

Mary Leigh Knittle

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:43:11 PM

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

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| 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 HB2540 HD1, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person’s civil immigration status.**

**HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.**

**This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB2540 HD1.**

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

**Sincerely,**

**Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i**

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 6:25:52 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 this bill. Thank you.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 7:25:54 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<br>Only |

Comments:

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

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 3:39:29 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>         |
|---------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Carolyn Weygan-Hildebrand | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This is in support of upholding what is legal and just, and curbing excesses and abuse that can harm Hawaii residents. This bill, in a way, helps upright and law-abiding law enforcers within the federal, state, and local levels of government to do lawful work and not unlawful ones.

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 7:33:37 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 HB2540 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 **support of HB2540 HD1**, which requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish and publicly post clear policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement and prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status.

I am a clinical psychologist, and I am testifying as an individual. HB2540 HD1 is important because clear, statewide standards prevent inconsistent and ad hoc practices that can lead to unnecessary detention, profiling, and erosion of community trust. Requiring transparent, written policies improves accountability and ensures agencies follow due process-based procedures rather than informal or discretionary immigration enforcement involvement.

This bill also strengthens public safety by setting limits on prolonging stops for civil immigration questioning. When immigrant and mixed-status families fear that routine contact with law enforcement can turn into immigration interrogation, they avoid reporting crimes and seeking help. Clear rules protect constitutional values, reduce fear, and support safer communities for everyone.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB2540 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-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 8:47:01 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:

HB2129/HB2540 Law Enforcement; Mask; Disguise; Prohibition

I am writing in strong support of HB2129 (or HB2540) both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). This bill creates a new chapter in the HRS. The bill requires law enforcement officers to be visibly identifiable at all times while on duty. HB2129 would also prohibit facial coverings except in limited circumstances, to wear clothing and use vehicles conspicuously marked with law enforcement designation. Willful violation of these standards is a misdemeanor.

House Bill 2129 would also add a new chapter to the HRS limiting access to courts schools and other sensitive locations for civil immigration actions. the sharing of personal data for the purpose of civil immigration, and requiring state and county law enforcement to monitor ICE contacts with the general public.

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. During nearly all of these events the presumed agents are masked, with no identifying badge or tag. There is really no precedent for this kind of “secret” force in the United States, except the Ku Klux Klan. The tactic heightens fear in the public and interferes with accountability for misconduct by the officers.

House Bill 2129 is a limited means to protect immigrants, achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawaii by federal immigration enforcement. It will be a critical piece of our State’s preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. It is a small step toward ensuring law enforcement in Hawaii is subject to public scrutiny and legal accountability. I urge you to pass this out of committee, and to work for passage through the legislature.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important bill.

Jason Lewis

Lahaina Resident

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 12:08:59 PM

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 HB2540 HD1.

We are currently witnessing a dangerous overreach by federal agencies like ICE. The use of masked, unidentified individuals to conduct enforcement actions shows a complete lack of respect for the rule of law. When law enforcement operates without transparency, it doesn't create safety—it creates terror.

This bill is a necessary check on power for several reasons:

**Criminal Accountability for Interrogations:** It is crucial that this bill establishes criminal offenses for those conducting unauthorized civil immigration interrogations. If an officer steps outside their legal authority to harass or interrogate residents without cause, they must be held personally and criminally accountable. The law must have "teeth" to deter this kind of abuse.

**Establishment of SOPs:** Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) are the backbone of any professional organization. Requiring agencies to have written, public policies ensures that there is a clear "playbook" for conduct and that cooperation with federal authorities is professional and consistent.

**Protection of Sensitive Locations:** I am personally scared, and I know our public is scared. The idea of ICE agents at hospitals, shelters, and especially **schools** is appalling. We should not live in fear when accessing basic needs or going to places of worship.

**Visible Identification:** Prohibiting masks ensures that those with the power to arrest are identifiable to the public. If everyday citizens must identify themselves, the same must apply to those in uniform.

Hawaii must stand up and ensure that due process, written standards, and transparency are non-negotiable. We cannot allow federal overreach to turn our neighborhoods into places of fear.

I strongly urge the committee to pass **HB2540 HD1**



**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 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>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tina Even           | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB2540  
Tina Marie Even

**HB-2540-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2026 4:13:21 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,

I strongly support this bill that protects due process and racial profiling in the context of civil immigration enforcement. The bill proposes to create consistent statewide standards for civil immigration enforcement, including procedures governing inquiries into civil immigration status. The development of written policies and public posting by local law enforcement when they are drawn into civil immigration enforcement is a crucial safeguard against abusive enforcement practices across the United States. Please vote in favor of the bill.