

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 3082

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 06 2026

RE: S.B. No. 2145

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Judiciary, to which was referred S.B. No. 2145 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO RECORDINGS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the right of a person to record law enforcement activities; and
- (2) Establish a private right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from ACLU Hawai'i; League of Women Voters of Hawaii; Imua Alliance; Roots Reborn; UNITE HERE! Local 5; Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights; Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC; and fifty-six individuals.

Your Committee finds that for a democratic system to function, community members must be able to document the actions of public officials, especially law enforcement officers, and hold them accountable when those actions violate individual rights and liberties. Your Committee also finds that courts across the country have repeatedly recognized the right to film law enforcement activities in public as a right protected by the First Amendment to the United States Constitution. Your Committee



further finds that a recent increase in federal immigration enforcement has heightened the risks of violence and intimidation by federal law enforcement officers against not just immigrants, who may have limited English language proficiency and minimal familiarity with the full extent of their legal rights, but also U.S. citizens, through both detention and physical harm, including fatalities. In many of these incidents, bystander video recordings have provided the public with critical information and promoted accountability. This measure affirms constitutional protections, provides remedies for violations, reinforces transparency and accountability, and serves as a deterrent against future abuses of authority by law enforcement officers.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Judiciary that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 2145 and recommends that it pass Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Judiciary,



KARL RHOADS, Chair



The Senate
Thirty-Third Legislature
State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes
Committee on Judiciary
JDC

Bill / Resolution No.:* SB 2195	Committee Referral: PSM, JDC	Date: 2/26/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312 <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311 <input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310 <input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
RHOADS, Karl (C)	✓			
GABBARD, Mike (VC)	✓			
CHANG, Stanley	✓			
SAN BUENAVENTURA, Joy A.	✓			
AWA, Brenton	✓			
TOTAL	5	—	—	—
Recommendation: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature: 				
Distribution: Original Yellow Pink File with Committee Report Committee Drafting Agency				

*Only one measure per Record of Votes