



OFFICE OF HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

‘Ōlelo Hō‘ike ‘Aha Kau Kānāwai

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL 1886 HD2 SD1

RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Ke Kōmike ‘Aha Kenekoa o ka Ho‘okolokolo

(Senate Committee on Judiciary)

Ke Kapitala ‘o Hawai‘i

(Hawai‘i State Capitol)

‘Apelila 7, 2026

10:15 AM

Lumi 016

Aloha e Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS HB1886 HD2 SD1** which establishes limitations on certain state and county collaboration with federal immigration enforcement activities, strengthens safeguards against unconstitutional joint operations, and requires visible identification and clear standards for facial coverings during law enforcement interactions with the public.

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

OHA also supports the measure’s effort to clarify the boundaries of state and county participation in federal immigration enforcement activity. Clear limits on discretionary collaboration help ensure that local resources remain focused on local responsibilities and that constitutional rights are not chilled in places where people seek education, health care, worship, legal process, and other essential services. The addition of a good faith safe harbor also helps address implementation concerns by protecting acts or omissions taken in reasonable efforts to comply with state and federal requirements or in response to perceived federal authority, while still preserving the bill’s overall accountability framework.

Public safety is strengthened when communities trust law enforcement, understand who is exercising authority, and know that constitutional protections will be upheld. This

bill reinforces transparency, protects civil rights, and provides needed clarity for state and county agencies navigating complex federal-state dynamics.

For these reasons, the Office of Hawaiian Affairs respectfully urges this Committee to **PASS HB1886 HD2 SD1**. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to provide testimony on this important measure.

JON N. IKENAGA
PUBLIC DEFENDER

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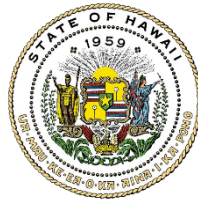
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April 6, 2026

HB 1886, HD2, SD1: RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and Members of the Committee on Judiciary:

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) **supports** HB 1886 HD2 SD1. This measure establishes statutory standards governing state and county collaboration with federal immigration enforcement operations, strengthens transparency requirements for law enforcement officers through visible identification and limitations on facial coverings, and creates clear statutory guardrails regarding unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

This version strengthens the original measure by providing additional clarity, enforcement mechanisms, and accountability provisions, including expanded limitations on state and federal collaboration, enhanced requirements governing law enforcement identification, and the establishment of criminal and civil consequences for violations. The OPD supports these efforts to provide clear statutory guidance and promote uniform application across jurisdictions.

Transparency and Public Confidence in Law Enforcement

This measure because codifying identification and facial covering standards reinforces existing departmental policies across the counties and promotes professionalism and transparency in public interactions by:

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

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

These principles are reinforced by attaching enforceable consequences to intentional violations of identification and facial covering requirements. These provisions underscore the importance of transparency in law enforcement interactions and promote consistent adherence to clearly defined standards.

Protecting Access to Courts and Due Process

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

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

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

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

Clarity Reduces Litigation and Protects Judicial Resources

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

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

By pairing clear statutory standards with defined enforcement mechanisms, it will further reduce ambiguity that often leads to suppression litigation and inconsistent application of constitutional protections. This additional clarity will help conserve judicial resources while promoting lawful and predictable enforcement practices.

Narrowly Tailored Safeguards Regarding Civil Immigration Detention

The measure creates a narrowly drawn offense addressing unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention and further clarifies that such conduct may result in significant criminal penalties, including felony liability, where a law enforcement officer intentionally or knowingly acts beyond the scope of lawful authority. It applies only when an officer acts intentionally or knowingly beyond lawful authority. It also requires the absence of reasonable suspicion based on specific and articulable facts thereby preserving lawful stops, arrests, and detentions supported by reasonable suspicion or probable cause under state law and provides an affirmative defense for compliance with valid judicial warrants or court orders.

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

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

For these reasons, the Office of the Public Defender **supports** HB 1886 HD2 SD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

RE: Letter in support of Hawai'i's Legislative Measures to Advance Immigrant Justice Across the State

March 25, 2026

Dear Member,

I am writing on behalf of the Vera Institute of Justice's Safety and Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Network—a national network of government partners, immigration legal service providers, and advocates working together to build and implement publicly funded immigrant legal defense programs at the local and state level.ⁱ In Hawaii, we work in close partnership with The Legal Clinic (TLC), a SAFE Network member since 2025. I am writing in strong support of the following bills focused on advancing immigrant justice, due process, and community stability across the state:

- **SB2919**ⁱⁱ is an appropriations bill to increase capacity at the public defender's office, ensuring that the office can advise noncitizen clients on the potential immigration consequences of criminal charges, guilty pleas, or convictions in accordance with their constitutional rights. This will have an immense impact on the lives of immigrant Hawai'i residents as it will help ensure that they have access to effective counsel, enable them to meaningfully participate in their defense by giving them the opportunity to make informed decisions, and ultimately guarantee a fair day in court. This is especially important as escalating federal immigration enforcement actions have vastly increased the number of Hawai'i residents who face family separation and detention. Evidence shows the life-changing impact of representation:
 - detained immigrants with legal representation are **up to 10.5 times more likely to win** their cases than those without counsel; and
 - nearly **two-thirds of non-detained people with lawyers win** their cases, compared to **17 percent** of those without representation.ⁱⁱⁱ
- **HB1839 (Filipino Caucus)**^{iv} **strengthens due process protections for immigrants across the state** by requiring state and county law enforcement agencies to notify individuals in custody of their rights before any interview with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) agents. The bill also introduces new protections, transparency requirements, and public accountability rules for how Hawai'i law enforcement may interact with ICE when a person is detained.
- **HB1870 (Filipino Caucus)**^v would help to **limit cooperation with ICE** by setting statewide standards that restrict state and county agencies and recipients of state funds from participating in civil immigration enforcement in or near protected community areas ("sensitive locations"). The bill also requires agencies that operate within these protected areas to adopt and publish written policies, conduct annual staff training, and uphold data privacy protections—setting clear limits and strengthening accountability around enforcement actions.

- **HB1886**^{vi} prohibits public employees from assisting in federal immigration enforcement and requires both state and federal law enforcement to display visible identification during public interactions, restricts the use of facial coverings,² and establishes criminal offenses for violations. It also prohibits public employees from cooperating with, assisting, or expending resources on federal immigration enforcement—helping to protect Hawai’i’s communities from attacks by faceless agents while strengthening transparency, trust, and accountability.

Especially as federal attacks against the state’s immigrant communities escalate, these legislative measures are critical to protecting the dignity, safety, and due process of all residents of Hawai’i—regardless of their immigration status. Hawai’i is **home to more than 258,800 immigrants (18 percent of the total population)**, who form an essential part of the state’s communities, culture, workforce, and overall economy. An estimated **82,000 children (92 percent)** were born in the United States. Immigrants are also foundational to Hawai’i’s workforce and overall economic strength: immigrants make up **22 percent of the state’s workforce** and contributed **\$91.3 million in combined state and local taxes** in 2023.^{vii} When immigrants thrive, Hawai’i thrives.

Yet immigrant Hawaiians’ right to due process and other fundamental constitutional protections is in significant danger. Federal enforcement actions have intensified, while cuts to federal funding have halted critical legal services for immigrant children, families, and communities.^{viii}

As of February 2026, more than 1,400 people in Hawai’i are facing deportation in immigration — people in 12 percent of those cases lack access to an attorney and are left with the near-impossible task of navigating our complex immigration system alone.^{ix} Even more people are facing fast-tracked deportations outside of the immigration court system. It is more important than ever for state and local governments to bridge these gaps through legislative measures that safeguard due process and the safety of immigrant Hawai’i residents by expanding access to immigration legal services and limiting cooperation with ICE.

The legislative measures above would protect families from permanent separation from their loved ones and communities, support workforce stability, and uphold Hawai’i’s commitment to fairness and justice. As federal attacks on immigrant communities intensify, this is a defining moment for Hawai’i. States across the country are passing similar measures, and by doing so, Hawaii would help lead the country towards a safer, fairer future.^x

By supporting these legislative measures, Hawai’i has an opportunity to become a national leader in ensuring due process, dignity, and justice for all.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Arisel Garcia, Senior Program Associate
Advancing Universal Representation Initiative
Vera Institute of Justice
agarcia@vera.org

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- ⁱ For more information, see Vera Institute of Justice, “The Safety & Fairness for Everyone (SAFE) Network,” <https://www.vera.org/ending-mass-incarceration/reducing-incarceration/detention-of-immigrants/advancing-universal-representation-initiative/safe-network>.
- ⁱⁱ Hawaii State Legislature (2026), SB 2919 SD1: Relating to the Office of the Public Defender, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=SB&billnumber=2919&year=2026
- ⁱⁱⁱ Ingrid V. Eagly and Steven Shafer, “A National Study of Access to Counsel in Immigration Court,” *University of Pennsylvania Law Review* 164, no. 1 (2015), 9, <https://perma.cc/7J65-CZCM>.
- ^{iv} Hawaii State Legislature (2026), HB 1839 HD2: Relating to immigration, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1839&year=2026
- ^v Hawaii State Legislature (2026), HB 1870: Relating to protected community locations, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1870&year=2026
- ^{vi} Hawaii State Legislature (2026), HB 1886: Relating to government operations, https://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session/measure_indiv.aspx?billtype=HB&billnumber=1886&year=2026
- ^{vii} Vera, *Profile of immigrants in Hawaii* (New York: Vera, 2025), https://vera-institute.files.svdcdn.com/production/downloads/publications/HI_Immigrant_Population_Profile.pdf?dm=1748632954.
- ^{viii} Laura Romero, “DOJ Orders Federally Funded Legal Service Providers to Stop Providing Support at Immigration Courts,” ABC News, January 23, 2025, <https://abcnews.go.com/US/doj-orders-federally-funded-legal-service-providers-stop/story?id=118027656>.
- ^{ix} Vera, “Immigration Court Legal Representation Dashboard,” database (New York: Vera, accessed March 5, 2026), <https://www.vera.org/ending-mass-incarceration/reducing-incarceration/detention-of-immigrants/advancing-universal-representation-initiative/immigration-court-legal-representation-dashboard>.
- ^x For example, see David Chen, “As Minneapolis Rages, Legislators Move to Restrict ICE in Their States,” *New York Times*, January 28, 2026, <https://www.nytimes.com/2026/01/28/us/politics/minneapolis-ice-states.html>.



The Senate Committee on Judiciary
April 7, 2026
Room 016
10:15 AM

RE: **HB 1886 HD2 SD1, Relating to Government Operations**

Attention: Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, Members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports HB 1886 HD2 SD1.**

UHPA supports the intent of this measure to clearly define the boundaries between state public service and federal civil immigration enforcement. We appreciate that prior committees incorporated and preserved our requested amendments into the HD2 SD1 draft to address our previous concerns regarding the strict criminal penalties in Section -6. Specifically, we appreciate the committee incorporating our requested amendment establishing a "good faith" safe harbor.

Exposing public employees to a misdemeanor, a \$2,000 fine, and up to a year in prison for inadvertent procedural errors while facing federal agents was an unacceptable risk. Our faculty members are not legal experts trained to evaluate the validity of warrants under pressure. The addition of Section -7 rightfully ensures that public employees will not face criminal penalties or civil liability for honest mistakes made while attempting to comply with this chapter or when responding to perceived federal authority.

By protecting the workers tasked with implementing these protocols, this measure ensures that our university personnel can remain focused on their primary professional duties while maintaining our campuses as safe, trusted environments for all students.

UHPA supports the passage of HB 1886 HD2 SD1.

Respectfully submitted,

Christian L. Fern
Executive Director
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly



TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1886 HD2 SD1, RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

April 7, 2026

To the Honorable Chair and Members of the Committee:

The Democratic Party of Hawai'i **strongly supports HB1886 HD2 SD1**. This measure because it affirms a foundational principle of our democracy: there must be no secret police and no anonymous exercise of government power.

When law enforcement officers—state or federal—operate in public, the public has the right to know who is exercising authority over them and under what legal framework. Masked officers without visible identification undermine trust, chill lawful speech and assembly, and blur accountability. That is not compatible with Hawai'i's constitutional values or our commitment to open government.

This bill draws a clear and reasonable line. It does not prevent lawful law enforcement activity, nor does it end necessary cooperation with federal agencies. It simply ensures that cooperation is lawful, transparent, and accountable, and that officers acting in public do so openly and visibly, except in narrowly defined safety or undercover circumstances.

Requiring identification and prohibiting anonymous policing protects the public, protects civil liberties, and also protects officers by clarifying authority and responsibility. Communities are safer when law enforcement operates in the light, not behind masks or secrecy.

Hawai'i has a proud history of standing for civil rights and democratic norms. This bill continues that tradition by making clear that in our state, power is never exercised anonymously and enforcement is never hidden from the people.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify in strong support of HB1886 HD2 SD1. Should you have any questions or require further information, please contact the Democratic Party of Hawai'i at legislation@hawaiidemocrats.org.



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

April 3, 2026

Senate Committee on Judiciary
Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair
Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Testimony in Strong Support of HB 1886

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, 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. This measure takes important steps toward greater accountability and safeguarding the most vulnerable people in our community.

Thank you.



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING: Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15 am, Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY **IN SUPPORT** OF HB 1886, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of HB1886, HD2, SD1**, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations, establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers, establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

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

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

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

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

House Bill 1886, HD2, SD1 is a measured and necessary response. It restores clarity, accountability, and the public's trust by requiring identifiable officers and clarifying that warrantless arrests by federal officials are treated as actions in their individual capacity under state law, allowing appropriate accountability when rights are violated. These safeguards better protect both civil rights and public safety.

For the sake of our communities and the integrity of law enforcement, we **respectfully urge you to pass HB1886, HD2, SD2.**

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', written over a light blue horizontal line.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*
El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



APRIL 7, 2026

HOUSE BILL 1886 HD2 SD1

CURRENT REFERRAL: JDC

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Strategist*

POSITION: SUPPORT

Imua Alliance supports HB 1886 HD2 SD1, relating to government operations, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations; and establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers; establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Examples include statewide frameworks like the California Values Act, SB

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

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

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



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hicoalitionforimmigrantrights@gmail.com

Testimony of Liza Ryan-Gill

In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD2 SD1

Relating to Government Operations

Hearing Date: Tuesday, April 7th , 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Liza Ryan-Gill, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD2 SD1, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations, requires visible identification by law enforcement officers, limits the use of facial coverings with defined exceptions, and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

I am the Co-director and Refounder of the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR), and I am testifying on behalf of HCIR. HCIR is a coalition of more than 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.

Visibility and Accountability Are Core Public Safety Principles

HCIR strongly supports HB1886 HD2 SD1 because it is a comprehensive public safety, accountability, and transparency measure. The Senate PSM/EIG committee correctly found that when law enforcement officers are unidentifiable, residents can no longer distinguish legitimate officers from impersonators — leading to widespread fear and confusion and making already high-stress encounters significantly more dangerous for all participants.

The bill addresses this directly. Section 139- requires every law enforcement officer and federal law enforcement officer engaging in official duties in a public setting to display a visible form of identification on the outermost garment, including the officer's name, agency, and unique badge number. Section 710- reinforces this with enforceable criminal penalties: a petty misdemeanor for a first offense and a misdemeanor for subsequent offenses. Critically, officers who commit assault, battery, false imprisonment, false arrest, abuse of process, or malicious prosecution while masked or unidentified lose the ability to assert any privilege or immunity for that tortious



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conduct and face civil liability of at least \$10,000 in statutory damages. These are meaningful, enforceable standards — not aspirational guidelines.

The defined exceptions are appropriately narrow: active tactical operations requiring ballistic or respiratory protection, authorized undercover operations, hazardous environmental conditions, and exigent circumstances involving imminent danger. Officers who are in a public-facing capacity — conducting arrests, interacting with the public, or maintaining a perimeter — are exactly the officers who should be identifiable. That balance is correct and should be preserved.

Limiting State and County Collaboration With Federal Immigration Enforcement

Section -2 of the bill prohibits state and county departments and agencies — and any public employee acting in their official capacity — from assisting or cooperating with immigration enforcement operations, except as required by federal or state law. This includes prohibiting the use of any state time, money, facilities, property, equipment, personnel, or other resources to facilitate any operation that seeks to impose penalties on a person for purposes of federal immigration enforcement, including operations at or near schools, health facilities, courthouses, or places of worship.

Section -5 goes further, prohibiting public employees and law enforcement agencies from participating in or entering agreements with federal or out-of-state authorities for the purpose of collecting personal information or assisting with surveillance, investigations, or immigration enforcement operations — including joint operations such as DHS task forces, fusion centers, or joint terrorism task forces — if there is reason to believe the agreement would result in racial profiling, unlawful surveillance, excessive force, unlawful detention, or the targeting of individuals for engaging in constitutionally protected activities. Importantly, the bill also prohibits agreements from being used to obtain data or conduct investigations in furtherance of National Security Presidential Memorandum-7 objectives. This ensures Hawai'i's law enforcement infrastructure cannot be weaponized against communities exercising their First Amendment rights.

Any new or renewed agreement with federal authorities for criminal law enforcement purposes must be in writing, cannot exceed two years, must include training on state constitutional and statutory civil rights protections, and must receive prior written approval from the Attorney General under Section -4(b) and Section -5(b). That accountability mechanism is essential.

The §§ 1373 and 1644 Carve-Out

The PSM/EIG committee amended HD2 to add Section -8, clarifying that nothing in the chapter prohibits or restricts any public employee or state or county entity from acting in accordance



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with 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 and 1644 — the federal statutes addressing information-sharing about immigration status.

HCIR understands the committee's intent to address federal preemption concerns. We note, however, that the Ninth Circuit has recognized, in *United States v. California*, that §§ 1373 and 1644 do not affirmatively require state and local agencies to assist with immigration enforcement — they address only restrictions on voluntary information-sharing. HCIR urges this Committee to affirm in its committee report that the carve-out is narrow, that it does not open the door to broader cooperation beyond what those specific statutes require, and that the bill's core purpose — keeping Hawai'i's public safety institutions focused on local priorities rather than federal civil immigration enforcement — remains fully intact.

The "Personal Capacity" Provision and the New Criminal Offense

Section 710- creates the offense of unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention, making it a class C felony for a law enforcement officer, acting under color of law, to intentionally or knowingly interrogate, arrest, or detain a person for the purpose of determining or enforcing their civil immigration status without reasonable suspicion based on specific and articulable facts. The bill is explicit that reasonable suspicion cannot 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 provision directly addresses a documented harm: local officers being conscripted — formally or informally — into civil immigration enforcement in ways that erode community trust and expose the State to liability. By making such conduct a criminal offense, the bill provides a meaningful deterrent and a clear standard for officers, agencies, and the public alike.

Hawai'i Would Not Be Acting Alone

California enacted comparable accountability standards effective January 2026, creating statewide limits on masked law enforcement operations and requiring written agency policies restricting unnecessary facial coverings. Los Angeles County adopted its own ordinance in December 2025 after documenting that federal agents conducting arrests in plainclothes and tactical gear while concealing their identities had created widespread fear and confusion. Hawai'i has the opportunity — and the responsibility — to act before similar harms become normalized here.

Conclusion

HB1886 HD2 SD1 affirms that government power must be exercised transparently, that people have a right to know who is detaining or questioning them, and that state and county resources



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must not be used in ways that erode community trust or blur the line between local public safety and federal civil immigration enforcement. Together with HB1768 HD1 SD1 and HB2540, it forms an essential pillar of the Campaign for Immigrant Justice's comprehensive statewide framework.

Having passed the House and cleared the Senate PSM/EIG committee, HB1886 HD2 SD1 now comes before Senate Judiciary for the final policy committee vote before the floor. HCIR and our 30+ member organizations urge this Committee to advance it.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD2 SD1.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Respectfully,

Liza Ryan-Gill

Co-director and Refounder



HIPHI Board

May Okihiro, MD, MS
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John A. Burns School of Medicine,
Department of Pediatrics

Jennifer José Lo, MD
Vice Chair
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Tammy Ho
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For Children in Hawai'i

JoAnn Tsark, MPH
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Hawaiian Research Office

Danette Wong Tomiyasu, MBA
Retired, Hawai'i State Department of
Health

HIPHI Initiatives

Coalition for a
Tobacco-Free Hawai'i

Community-Based Research &
Evaluation

Community Health
Worker Initiatives

Environmental Health

Hawai'i Climate Change and Health
Working Group

Hawai'i Drug & Alcohol-Free Coalitions

Hawai'i Immunization Coalition

Hawai'i Oral Health Coalition

Hawai'i Public Health Training Hui

Healthy Eating + Active Living

Kūpuna Collective/Healthy Aging &
Community Living

Public Health Workforce Development

Date: April 6, 2026

To: Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair
Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Re: Support for HB 1886 HD2 SD1 , Relating to Government Operations

Hrg: April 7, 2026 at 10:15 AM in Conference Room 016

Hawai'i Public Health Institute¹ (HIPHI) **supports HB 1886 HD2 SD1**, which bans law enforcement from using a mask or face covering and limits local collaboration with federal immigration enforcement.

The methods and tactics used by immigration enforcement agents have led to serious injuries, deaths² and false imprisonment³ for many citizens and immigrants around the nation. It's necessary we take steps to provide a more safe environment for all who live within our borders.

Safety for All and Accountability

Banning masks for law enforcement will help provide a more safe environment for interacting with immigration agents by helping to be able to identify them. Being able to identify these agents will ensure they can be held accountable for their actions, increasing the chances that the interaction will be conducted lawfully.

Reducing Risk of Impersonation

As we saw recently here in Hawai'i, the opportunity to impersonate immigration agents exists if they are not clearly identifiable. A group of masked people could be anyone.

Local residents should not have to guess as to whether the person they're interacting with is actually a law enforcement officer. A law enforcement officer

¹ Hawai'i Public Health Institute's mission is to advance health and wellness for the people and islands of Hawai'i. We do this through expanding our understanding of what creates health of people and place, fostering partnerships, and cultivating programs to improve policies, systems, and the environments where people live, learn, work, age, and play.

² [Trump's DHS immigration enforcement officers have shot 14 people since September. Here's what to know.](#) NBC News. January 16, 2026.

³ [Court Orders ICE To Stop Unlawful Arrest And Detention Of Refugees.](#) International Refugee Assistance Project. January 28, 2026.



should not have to interact with residents who aren't sure if they're law enforcement officers.

This lack of identification instills fear in the local community, leading many to call local police to intervene as they believe a kidnapping by a private citizen might be occurring.⁴

Collaboration is an Ineffective Use of Hawai'i Taxpayer Funds

Given our state's limited budget, it's incredibly important that we use every dollar efficiently. While nearly half of our population is struggling to survive, our state is in need of significant investments to ensure our people can live healthy and prosperous lives.⁵

We must prioritize our spending on helping people here in Hawai'i, rather than on supporting federal immigration staff who have a budget nearly the same size as our entire state budget.⁶

Providing Trust

Situations that can lead to arrest, injury, or death require the utmost belief in a just system by our residents. Ensuring that law enforcement agents can be identified helps to build trust rather than confusion. This is one of the many reasons why 21 Attorneys General around the nation, including Hawai'i Attorney General Anne Lopez, have asked for a ban on masked and unidentifiable agents.⁷

We can provide a safer environment for all of our residents by passing these highly recommended reforms. Thank you for standing with our community during these ever-changing threats to our health and well-being.

Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads 'Nate Hix'.

Nate Hix
Director of Policy and Advocacy

⁴ [Masked and Unidentifiable: The Risks of Federal Law Enforcement Operating Without Identification](#). Center for American Progress. August 28, 2025.

⁵ [The State of ALICE in Hawai'i](#). United for ALICE. 2025 Report.

⁶ [How ICE grew to be the highest-funded U.S. law enforcement agency](#). National Public Radio. January 21, 2026

⁷ [Letter to Congress on ICE Mask Legislation](#). July 15, 2025.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB1886, HD2, SD1 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
HB2540, HD2, SD1 – RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

Senate Judiciary Committee

Sen. Karl Rhoads, Chair

Sen. Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: April 6, 2026 | Letter Date: April 7, 2026

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) strongly supports HB1886, HD2, SD1 and HB2540, HD2, SD1 two measures that draw clear, enforceable boundaries on state and county involvement in 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, HD2, SD1 establishes firm limits on state and county cooperation with federal immigration enforcement except where required by law. The bill prohibits the use of public resources to support immigration enforcement operations, restricts deputization and participation in joint task forces that risk constitutional violations, and strengthens 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, this measure reinforces protections for constitutionally protected activities and establishes criminal penalties for unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention, while establishing a safe harbor provision for good faith compliance.

HB2540, HD2, SD1 complements this framework by requiring law enforcement agencies to adopt and publicly post written policies on civil immigration enforcement, immigration status inquiries, and the use of facial coverings, visible identification, and vehicle markings; restricting state or county participation in 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. This measure also requires state and county law enforcement personnel to turn on their body cameras to monitor immigration enforcement activity. Like HB1886, HD2, SD1 this bill establishes criminal offenses for violations, 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 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 well-documented violations of constitutional rights. These 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

**Testimony of HAWAII FILIPINO LAWYERS ASSOCIATION (HFLA)
In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD2 SD1**

Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)

Chair: Sen. Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair: Sen. Mike Gabbard

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

HFLA submit this testimony in **support of HB1886 HD2 SD1**, which establishes provisions limiting state-federal collaboration for civil immigration enforcement, requires visible identification by law enforcement officers and their vehicles, limits the use of facial coverings with defined exceptions, and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

HFLA supports transparency and protection of the due process rights of our immigrants in our community, and this bill ensure that protection.

When law enforcement officers are masked and unidentifiable, accountability disappears — and immigrant and mixed-status communities cannot distinguish state officers from federal civil immigration agents. HB1886 HD2 SD1 addresses this with enforceable standards: the criminal offense provisions for facial covering violations, lack of visible ID, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation make this bill meaningful rather than aspirational. The defined exceptions for undercover operations, medical needs, and safety requirements show it was designed with real operational needs in mind.

California enacted a comparable law effective January 2026. Hawai'i joining this standard strengthens accountability, reduces community fear, and supports responsible officers who already operate transparently. Having passed the House and Senate PSM/EIG, this bill comes before Senate Judiciary for the final policy committee vote before the floor.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Wilfredo Tungol

HFLA Advocacy Chair

808-387-7412



Hawai'i

LATE

Committee: Senate Committee on Judiciary
 Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, April 07, 2026, at 10:15 AM
 Place: Conference Room 016 & Via Videoconference
 Re: **Testimony of the ACLU of Hawai'i in SUPPORT of
 HB1886 HD2 SD1 Relating to Government Operations**

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and committee members:

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i ("ACLU-HI") writes in **support of HB1886 HD2 SD1**, which would prohibit secret policing tactics by requiring law enforcement officers operating in the state to be clearly identifiable, limiting state and federal collaboration in immigration enforcement operations, and prohibiting the deputization of federal agents for general policing. **We believe this bill to be the most comprehensive among the non-cooperation and masking bills this session and respectfully request that the committee insert a clean effective date.**

At its core **this measure 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.** HB1886 HD2 SD1 reflects a decision to draw principled boundaries around such cooperation.

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

HB1886 HD2 SD1 rests squarely on **the anti-commandeering doctrine, a foundational principle of American federalism.** The United States Supreme Court has repeatedly held that while the **federal government may enforce federal law, it may not compel states to use their resources**, officers, or political subdivisions to do so. In *New York v. United States*, the Court made clear that Congress may not "commandeer the legislative processes of the States."¹ In *Printz v. United States*, the

Court extended that principle to state executive officials, holding that the federal government may not require state officers to administer or enforce a federal regulatory program.ⁱⁱ These cases do not describe an exception; they articulate a structural protection of liberty.

Immigration enforcement is federal, governed by shifting priorities that state governments neither control nor supervise. **When states entangle themselves in those efforts, they surrender authority over how their residents are policed while remaining legally liable.** HB1886 HD2 SD1 affirms that Hawai‘i will not be commandeered into service of federal programs that it does not direct and cannot meaningfully oversee.

Federal courts have consistently upheld this choice. In *United States v. California*, the Ninth Circuit reaffirmed that states are under no obligation to assist with federal immigration enforcement and may affirmatively restrict the use of state resources for that purpose without violating the Supremacy Clause.ⁱⁱⁱ HB1886 HD2 SD1 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.^{iv} Numerous jurisdictions have paid significant settlements or judgments arising directly from cooperation with ICE requests later deemed unlawful.

HB1886 HD2 SD1 is a prophylactic measure, reducing the likelihood that Hawai‘i agencies will need to defend unconstitutional conduct at the taxpayer’s expense.

III. The Authoritarian Playbook: Masked Agents and Democratic Erosion

Concealing one’s identity in law enforcement operations is not standard practice. Visible badges, name tags, and agency identifiers are regarded as basic mechanisms for democratic accountability in law enforcement.^v The National Defense Authorization

Act addressed this directly after the civil unrest of 2020 by requiring federal personnel involved in civil disturbance operations to clearly identify themselves.^{vi}

The normalization of anonymous enforcement mirrors tactics found in historical instances of **secret police and authoritarian control**. And we are currently in a moment of “**democratic backsliding**” – when government institutions retain formal democratic structures, but citizen rights are eroded. A recent report by a coalition of former United States (“U.S.”) intelligence and national security officials warns that the U.S. is showing troubling indicators of authoritarian trendlines such as overreach of executive power and politicization of federal institutions.^{vii}

Democracies that start down the path of erosion often struggle to recover unless civil society and public oversight mechanisms are robust. Case studies on democratic reversals show that once backsliding begins, there is a **significant probability of deeper authoritarian entrenchment if structures remain unchallenged**.^{viii}

When law enforcement operates without clear identification, it contributes to that erosion. Lack of identification creates a veil of impunity – a hallmark of authoritarian tactics – and sows doubt about whether law enforcement acts in service of the public.

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

HB1886 HD2 SD1 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.^{ix}

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.

V. 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.^x 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, HB1886 HD2 SD1 ensures that Hawaii’s constitutional commitments are not undermined. **This measure 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.

Mahalo,



Mandy Fernandes,
Policy Director

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*With more than 4,000 Hawai‘i-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/>.

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- <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> Int’l Ass’n of Chiefs of Police, *Resolution on Immigration Enforcement and Visible Identification* (2025) ([https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/Face%20Coverings%20\(1\).docx](https://www.theiacp.org/sites/default/files/Face%20Coverings%20(1).docx)).
- <sup>vi</sup> National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021, Pub. L. No. 116-283, § 1064 (2021) (requiring visible identification for federal personnel engaged in civil disturbances) (<https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ283/PLAW-116publ283.pdf>).
- <sup>vii</sup> Lauren Gambino, *US ‘on a trajectory’ Toward Authoritarian Rule, Ex-Officials Warn*, *The Guardian* (Oct. 16, 2025), <https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2025/oct/16/trump-authoritarianism-warning>.
- <sup>viii</sup> Lydialyle Gibson, *The Harvard Professor Who Quantified Democracy*, *Harvard Magazine* (July–Aug. 2025), <https://www.harvardmagazine.com/2025/07/erica-chenoweth-democracy-data-harvard> (“In one study of 96 backsliding episodes between 1900 and 2019, political scientists at the Sweden-based V-Dem Institute found that nearly 70 percent of the countries broke down completely into authoritarian rule.”).
- <sup>ix</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>x</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>.

**LATE**



Committee on Judiciary  
Chair Karl Rhodes, Vice Chair Sharon Moriwaki

4/7/2026 @ 10:15, CR 016 & Videoconference  
HB1886 HD2 SD1— Inmates, Immigration Rights, Due Process

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Rhodes, Vice Chair Moriwaki, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports BILL NUMBER  
HB1886 HD2 SD1**

HB 1886 HD2 SD1 is about preserving Hawaii’s constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself—legally, financially, or morally—in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.

Across the country, states and local governments have learned—often through costly litigation—that cooperation with federal law enforcement is not neutral. When state or county agencies lend personnel, data, facilities, or credibility to federal operations, they also absorb the downstream consequences: exposure to civil liability, erosion of community trust, and complicity in actions that violate constitutional norms. HB 1886 HD2 reflects a decision to draw principled boundaries around such cooperation.

HB 1886 HD2 SD1 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.” 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.

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 1886 HD2 SD1 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.

HB1886 HD2 SD1 also promotes public safety by preventing secret policing tactics and impersonation of law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 SD1 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.

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). A federal court invalidated part of California's law, but only because the restrictions did not apply equally to state and local law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 SD1 does not have this problem, and should survive court review.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Stephen Munkelt  
League of Women Voters of Hawaii



## *Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC*

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

**LATE**

### **Senate Committee on Judiciary**

**Date: Tuesday, April 7, 2026, 10:15 AM, Conf. Rm. 016**

**Re: Testimony of Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC, in SUPPORT of H.B. 1886, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

### **Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:**

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLLC submits this testimony in support of H.B. 1886, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. Our firm has represented workers and individuals in civil rights litigation, which includes police brutality, in Hawai'i for nearly forty years.

The issues at the heart of this bill are not abstract to our practice. We have represented workers who were afraid to report workplace violations because they feared immigration consequences, not from their employers, but from government actors using public resources to target vulnerable communities. This bill responds to those realities with concrete, enforceable protections.

### **I. The Bill's Purpose and Key Provisions**

H.B. 1886, H.D. 2, S.D. 1 accomplishes three distinct but related objectives:

**First**, it establishes a new chapter of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes limiting state and county collaboration with federal immigration enforcement operations. It prohibits state and county departments and agencies from assisting or cooperating with immigration enforcement operations except as required by federal or state law. It further prohibits public employees from using any public time, money, facilities, property, equipment, personnel, or other resources to assist federal or out-of-state operations that seek to impose penalties on persons for exercising rights protected by the United States Constitution or the Hawai'i State Constitution, or for purposes of federal immigration enforcement, "including an immigration enforcement operation occurring at or near a school, health facility, courthouse, or place of worship."

**Second**, the bill establishes identification and facial covering standards for law enforcement officers. Every officer engaged in official duties in a public setting must "display a visible form of identification on the outermost garment of the officer's uniform," including "the officer's name, agency, and unique badge number." Officers are prohibited from wearing masks, face coverings, or other articles that conceal their identity during official duties or public interactions.

**Third**, the bill creates meaningful enforcement mechanisms: criminal penalties for violations of the identification and facial covering requirements and a new criminal offense of unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention, classified as a Class C felony.

### **III. Why This Bill Is Necessary**

#### **A. Protecting Sensitive Community Spaces**

The bill's specific enumeration of schools, health facilities, courthouses, and places of worship as locations where immigration enforcement operations must not occur using state resources reflects

a recognition that these are the spaces where people are most vulnerable, and where fear of enforcement activity causes the most harm. When workers are afraid to go to court, they cannot enforce their rights. When families are afraid to go to school or the hospital, children go uneducated and people go untreated. Hawai'i should not allow its public resources to contribute to that fear.

### **B. Accountability Requires Identifiability**

As the Committees on Public Safety and Military Affairs and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs correctly found, "when law enforcement officers are unidentifiable, residents can no longer distinguish legitimate officers from impersonators, leading to widespread fear and confusion and making interactions between law enforcement officers and members of the public that are already high-stress environments significantly more dangerous for all participants."

In our police brutality practice, this problem is not theoretical. It is among the most significant barriers to civil rights accountability. The legal system cannot function when a person who has suffered excessive force, false arrest, or malicious prosecution cannot identify the officer responsible. Identification is not a burden on good officers; it is a basic condition of lawful governance.

The bill addresses this with precision, prohibiting opaque masks, balaclavas, tactical masks, gaiters, and similar coverings while exempting translucent face shields, medical masks, respiratory protection equipment, motorcycle helmets, and protective eyewear. It also provides appropriate operational exceptions for SWAT operations, authorized undercover work, hazardous conditions, and exigent circumstances.

### **C. The Anti-Profiling Protections Close a Gap in Current Law**

- The bill's definition of "reasonable suspicion" in the new unauthorized civil immigration interrogation offense is especially significant. It provides that reasonable suspicion "shall 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 rights protected by the United States Constitution or the Hawaii State Constitution."
- The Fourteenth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution prohibits denial of equal protection but does not specify nor enumerate the protected classes. Whereas Hawai'i's own **Art.I, §5 prohibits discrimination** "because of **race, religion, sex, or ancestry** and
- **Art.IX §10<sup>1</sup>, the Law of the Splintered Paddle, *māmalahoe kānāwai* (Kamehameha I's decree in 1797) mandates public safety and the protection of vulnerable persons.**

This codifies in criminal law what the Fourteenth Amendment requires in theory but what too often fails in practice. In a state as diverse as Hawai'i, where accents, languages, and appearances span every corner of the Pacific and beyond, the risk of pretextual immigration enforcement based on ethnicity or national origin is real and documented. This provision gives that prohibition teeth by attaching felony consequences to violations specifically prohibited by the Hawai'i State Constitution.

## **IV. Real-World Impact: Lessons from Nearly Forty Years of Civil Rights Practice**

In our decades of practice, we have seen how the absence of the protections this bill provides causes direct, measurable harm:

**Workers who refuse to report discrimination.** Employees enduring racial discrimination, sexual harassment, or unsafe working conditions will not file complaints when they fear that contact with government systems will expose them or their family members to immigration consequences. This bill draws a firm line between state resources and federal immigration enforcement, which will make it possible for more workers to exercise rights they already have under Hawai'i law.

**Police encounters without accountability.** There are victims in excessive force and false arrest cases where the inability to identify the officers involved made it functionally impossible to obtain relief. The bill's civil liability provision, stripping immunity from officers who commit tortious acts while wearing facial coverings or failing to display identification, with a statutory damages floor of \$10,000, is a practical, enforceable tool for accountability.

**The chilling of constitutionally protected activity.** The bill prohibits public employee participation in operations targeting people for "engaging in protected activities including assembly, petitioning, and speech." In our practice representing whistleblowers, we know that the fear of government retaliation for speaking out is one of the most powerful forces silencing people who have information the public needs to hear. This provision ensures Hawai'i's own resources are never turned against its residents' constitutional rights.

## **V. Legal and Policy Analysis**

### **A. The Bill Is Constitutionally Sound**

The bill is carefully drafted within established constitutional parameters. The Tenth Amendment reserves police power to the states, and in the past even the U.S. Supreme Court had long recognized that states are not required to assist in the enforcement of federal immigration law. The anti-commandeering doctrine protects Hawai'i's right to determine how its own employees and resources are used.

The SD1 amendment adds an explicit carve-out for 8 U.S.C. §§ 1373 and 1644, providing that "[n]othing in this chapter shall be construed as prohibiting or restricting any public employee or state or county entity from acting in accordance with" those federal statutes. This directly addresses any preemption concern and confirms the bill does not restrict the voluntary sharing of immigration status information with federal authorities to the extent required by federal law.

### **B. The Enforcement Mechanisms Are Appropriately Calibrated**

The bill establishes a tiered enforcement structure:

- Violations of the state-federal collaboration chapter carry misdemeanor penalties (fine up to \$2,000, imprisonment up to one year, or both).
- Identification and facial covering violations are petty misdemeanors for a first offense and misdemeanors for subsequent offenses.
- Unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention is a Class C felony, reflecting the gravity of depriving a person of liberty without lawful authority.

The safe harbor provision protects public employees and officers acting in good faith when attempting to comply with the chapter or when responding to perceived federal authority. This is a reasonable measure that protects officers who are doing their best to follow the law while ensuring that deliberate violations carry consequences.

### **C. The July 1, 2055 Effective Date Should Be Amended**

The committees inserted a July 1, 2055 effective date "to encourage further discussion." We respectfully urge this Committee to replace that date with an effective date that gives the protections in this bill meaning in the lives of the people who need them now. The civil rights concerns this bill addresses are present today, not thirty years from now. A delayed effective date, while understandable as a procedural mechanism, should not become the final word on a bill that enjoys broad public support.

The bill's drafting is sound. Its exceptions are reasonable. Its enforcement mechanisms are calibrated. It is ready.

### **D. The AG Oversight Provisions Strengthen the Bill**

The requirement that any written agreement between a law enforcement agency and federal authorities for criminal law enforcement purposes must be limited to two years, must include training on state constitutional and statutory civil rights protections, and must be subject to review and approval by the Attorney General is a model of responsible intergovernmental cooperation. This ensures that collaboration, where it occurs, happens with guardrails and state-level oversight, not as a blank check.

## **VI. Conclusion**

Fujiwara & Rosenbaum, LLC strongly supports H.B. 1886, H.D. 2, S.D. 1. This bill represents the kind of legislation Hawai'i should continue to be leading on as it had historically: clear protections for civil rights and civil liberties, enforceable standards for law enforcement accountability, and a firm boundary between state resources and federal operations that threaten our residents' safety and dignity.

We urge the Committee to pass this measure with an effective date that reflects the urgency of the protections it provides.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

---

<sup>i</sup> **Art.IX §10:** Enshrines the Law of the Splintered Paddle (*māmalahoe kānāwai*) as "a unique and living symbol of the State's concern for public safety," mandating that "every elderly person, woman and child lie by the roadside in safety." It is an affirmative constitutional mandate to **protect vulnerable persons** and has been recognized by the Hawai'i Supreme Court as requiring "equality before the law" and protection of all people's common humanity.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 2:40:29 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 4:07:41 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB1886, HD2, SD1.

Jessica Hatcher

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 7:45:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:27:49 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Support

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 8:30:40 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

in support

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 9:17:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in support of HB1886 HD2 in order to promote public safety by preventing secret policing tactics and impersonation of law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 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.

Thank you,

Aimee M

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:02:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Over the past year, I have been watching the erosion of due process across the US. I am very concerned that federal agents have arrested, detained and deported people under the scope of Trump’s immigration crackdown. They have done this with impunity, regardless of proof, legal status, including those who are citizens. I have seen the horrible conditions at detention camps. I have read about individuals who have been detained for nearly a year without being charged with anything at all. I have watched video after video of federal agents hurting, and even killing people. Including hurting and killing those who have done nothing except protecting their neighbors, and documenting immigration operations. What is even more concerning is how governmental officers, including the president, blatantly lie about the victims, contradicting the facts that we clearly see with our own eyes.

Because of all of this, many of us are living in a state of constant vigilance and fear. Some are afraid to leave their homes or go to the doctors to receive needed care. With the potential of unidentified, and masked agents who may appear at any moment and do whatever they want without any accountability, we must be able to count on local law enforcement more than ever before.

Because of all of this, HPD must not collaborate nor have any role in immigration operations or share any information about us with those Federal agencies. This Bill is one way to ensure this issue.

I live in Kahalu‘u, and my 97-year-old mom is at a foster care home on School Street in Kalihi. In both neighborhoods, there is drugs, gangs, and domestic violence. In Kahalu‘u, we also have illegal cock and even dog fighting, which comes with gambling and more drugs. Our safety requires that all our neighbors are willing to call on local law enforcement as we need to. We need a hard line drawn so that our neighbors are not afraid. None of us should think that by calling, we might make ourselves, our extended family, or our circle of friends vulnerable to being targeted or racially profiled. If there is collaboration, the growing climate of fear will undoubtedly result in an environment where criminality reigns and an erosion of trust for local law enforcement.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:06:27 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

member, Indivisible

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:07:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha committe members, I am writing to you today in support of HB1886. With atrocious civil rights violations and racial profilig being done by white supremacists in the form of federal agents, it is dire that the state steps in and creates laws that prevent unconstituional actions by federal and local law enforcement officers. Lets keep Hawaii residents safe under the rule of law.

Mahalo

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/1/2026 10:12:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a retired police officer, I very strongly support HB1886. State-certified police officers have no authority to enforce federal law and they don't have the time to do federal law enforcement's job.

Good police officers know they're accountable for their actions to the public they protect and serve, are proud of what they do, and are not so afraid of that public that they refuse to identify themselves.

Rogue police officers do not believe they're accountable for their actions and are afraid of the public trying to hold them accountable so they refuse to identify themselves. Rogue police officers should be removed from law enforcement. Only thugs wear masks.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 2:57:00 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in STRONG SUPPORT of HB1886 HD2 as an individual and a member of IHSN the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. This bill is about preserving Hawaii’s constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself—legally, financially, or morally—in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.

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

HB 1886 HD2 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.” 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.

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 1886 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.

HB1886 HD2 also promotes public safety by preventing secret policing tactics and impersonation of law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 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.

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). A federal court invalidated part of California’s law, but only because the restrictions did not apply equally to state and local law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 applies to all law enforcement, and should survive court review.

I urge you to Pass HB1886 HD2.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:07:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lily Troy MD        | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

I support HB1886 HD2 SD1

HB1886 HD2 addresses this directly by requiring visible identification—name, agency, and unique badge number

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:23:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Monty Clark  | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1886 HD2 as an individual and a member of IHSN the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. This bill is about preserving Hawaii’s constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself—legally, financially, or morally—in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.**

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

**HB 1886 HD2 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.” 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.**

**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 1886 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.**

**HB1886 HD2 also promotes public safety by preventing secret policing tactics and impersonation of law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 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.**

**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). A federal court invalidated part of California’s law, but only because the restrictions did not apply equally to state and local law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 applies to all law enforcement, and should survive court review.**

**I urge you to Pass HB1886 HD2. Enough of this authoritarian state practice.**

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

**Monty Clark**

**Hawaii KAI**

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 8:37:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 9:19:16 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Limiting collaboration with federal enforcement and prohibiting masked officers during operations is a critical step toward protecting civil rights, transparency, and public trust. Requiring officers to be clearly identifiable helps prevent impersonation, reduces fear in communities, and ensures accountability whenever government authority is exercised. This measure keeps local resources focused on community safety while promoting openness, lawful oversight, and trust between law enforcement and the public.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/2/2026 11:35:56 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill for 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.

I urge you to Pass HB1886 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

Gail Morrison, Honolulu

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 10:35:15 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good standards= safe policing. Please pass.

Judith White, Kapaa

Member, Kauai Indivisible

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 11:02:26 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| <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 HB1886 and ask you to move it forward.

lynne matusow

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 12:34:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I'm writing in strong support. Thank you!

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 2:13:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/3/2026 5:03:46 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT HB1886 - limit collaboration with feds, visible id and no mask

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 9:35:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>              | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|----------------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kaleiheana-a-Pohaku<br>Stormcrow | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard and committee members,

I am writing to you today in **support** of HB1886. With atrocious civil rights violations and racial profilig being done by white supremacists in the form of federal agents, it is dire that the state steps in and creates laws that prevent unconstitutional actions by federal and local law enforcement officers. Lets keep Hawaii residents safe under the rule of law.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Kaleiheana Stormcrow

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 10:09:55 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Jane Aquino  | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**I am writing in strong support of HB1886 HD2 as an individual and a member of IHSN the Indivisible Hawaii Statewide Network. This bill is about preserving Hawaii’s constitutional autonomy, protecting residents from civil rights violations, and ensuring that the State does not entangle itself—legally, financially, or morally—in federal enforcement schemes that are opaque, discriminatory, and increasingly unaccountable.**

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

**HB 1886 HD2 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.” 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.**

**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 1886 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.**

**HB1886 HD2 also promotes public safety by preventing secret policing tactics and impersonation of law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 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.**

**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). A federal court invalidated part of California’s law, but only because the restrictions did not apply equally to state and local law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 applies to all law enforcement, and should survive court review.**

**I urge you to Pass HB1886 HD2.**

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

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/4/2026 1:40:52 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB1886 which will create guardrails to insure the independence and protection of state law enforcement and to create transparency and accountability for the public at large. Mahalo for your consideration

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
April 4, 2026

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair, Senate Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
and Members of the Senate Committee on Judiciary

Aloha, Senators,

**I am submitting testimony in Favor of HB1886 HD2 SD1, Relating to Government Operations.**

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

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

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

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

**Please vote for HB1886 HD2 SD1.**

Mahalo,

Eileen Cain,

Mō'ili'ili, Honolulu, Hawai'i

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 6:13:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a member of Indivisible Hawai'i I continue to support this bill.

HB 1886 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.

HB1886 HD2 also promotes public safety by preventing secret policing tactics and impersonation of law enforcement. HB1886 HD2 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.

I strongly urge you to please pass this bill

Thank you

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, April 7, 2026 at 10:15 am  
Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1886, HD2, SD1 - RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS.

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB 1886, HD2, SD1**, Relating to Government Operations, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of civil immigration enforcement operations, establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers, establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

I am a volunteer 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 have seen on the news and in 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 fear law enforcement may detain them for federal immigration violations. I have heard from health care providers that fear of lawless, violent, unmasked and unidentified persons is making people afraid to leave their homes to seek necessary medical care. In my work as a know your rights educator, I have to try to convince people that our local law enforcement are not engaged in immigration enforcement. It is important for us to have legislative protections to ensure that our local law enforcement focus their time and resources on public safety and do not collaborate with federal immigration enforcement operations. Doing so would **break public trust and interfere with the relationship between local law enforcement and the community it serves. That is why I so strongly support HB 1886, HD2, SD1.** My understanding is that the comprehensive nature of this bill, and the accountability it provides for, make it the preferred mechanism of the Campaign for Immigrant Justice to address these concerns.

As a lawyer with an understanding of the Constitution and who has taken an oath to uphold it and the rule of law, what I am witnessing nationwide is chilling. Seeing images of the murder of people engaged in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity has impacted my mental health. As a woman and mother, I am afraid of being targeted by unmasked, unbadged government agents or imposters. I am afraid that they will take my picture and find out who I am, where I live, and come to my house and harm not just myself but my loved ones. Just yesterday during a training I was conducting, an audience member asked what constitutional observers like me can do to protect themselves from being targeted by federal agents. I said that there really is not much we can do other than rely on our community, document the truth, and hope that the courts and the law will protect us as we peaceably engage in constitutionally-protected activity. Our fear is justified based on the

unlawful and violent behavior we are witnessing from federal agents. Behavior that is so egregious that federal agents wear masks and refuse to wear identification because of their shame of their behavior and of their desire to terrorize our communities. **It is important to public safety and trust that law enforcement not mask their identities and refuse to identify themselves to hide from accountability to the public they serve. That is why I so strongly support HB 1886, HD2, SD1.**

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 share license-plate identifying or tracking technology with federal immigration enforcement agencies. It would be one protective step that could help protect not just me, I have chosen to assume the risk, but my family members who live with me. I should not have to fear hostile and lawless agents tracking my activities and endangering the community members I serve. **The goal of the federal executive administration is to frighten people into silence. That is why federal agents wear masks and refuse to identify themselves.** I almost hesitated to submit testimony in support of this bill for fear of retaliation. This is how far we have fallen in the direction of authoritarianism, that people like me fear speaking up for basic, civil protections such as unmasked and properly-identified federal agents. Fortunately, I am not alone.

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

**I request that you support HB 1886, HD2, SD1** and help restore rule of law, instill respect on the part of law enforcement, and rebuild trust in government.

In honor of Alex Pretti and Rene Goode.

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.  
Wailuku, Maui  
Volunteer Know Your Rights Educator and Constitutional Observer

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 10:53:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| <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 this opportunity to support HB1886.

Younghee Overly, a member of Indivisible Hawaii

## **Testimony in Strong Support of HB1886 HD2 SD1**

Aloha Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committees on JDC,

My name is Vivienne Hill - I am a student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, and I am testifying in **strong support of HB1886 HD2 SD1**.

People should know who they are dealing with when law enforcement approaches them. The identification requirements in this bill make that possible. The bill includes exceptions for tactical and hazardous situations, so officer safety is not being set aside - transparency and safety are not sacrificed.

Local resources belong to local communities. When agencies are pulled into federal enforcement actions that separate families or make people afraid to go to a hospital or a school, that erodes the trust that public safety depends on. This bill sets a clear line: Hawai'i agencies will not be instruments of harm, while still allowing cooperation where the law requires it.

As a kama'āina and a student, I want to live in a place where constitutional protections mean something in practice.

Please support HB1886.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify,

Vivienne  
Student, University of Hawai'i at Mānoa  
Aiea, HI 96701

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:48:34 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and JDC Committee Members,

As a citizen concerned with public safety, I write in **strong support of HB1886 HD2 SD1**.

As a state, we should have law enforcement measures that engender trust and accountability. Otherwise, our systems diminish, rather than bolster, public safety. When law enforcement officers are unidentifiable, accountability disappears — and communities cannot tell state officers from federal civil immigration agents. The visible identification and facial covering standards protect everyone: residents who have the right to know who is exercising authority over them, and responsible officers who benefit from clear rules and public trust.

Please **PASS HB1886 HD2 SD1**, so we can ensure safety for our local communities.

Mahalo,

Thaddeus Pham

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/5/2026 11:58:12 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:00:25 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

**HB1886 HD2 SD1** — “No Secret Police” / Visible ID + Facial Coverings + Criminal Offenses

I am a supporter of the Legal Clinic in their campaign for immigrant justice and defense of due process for all.

The first and most important responsibility of government is to protect its people – citizen and immigrant, legal or no – against all enemies, foreign and domestic. Protection of constitutional rights – Federal and State – is paramount.

In this case of this bill, I am writing in SUPPORT because it

- Limits state-federal civil immigration enforcement collaboration.
- Requires visible ID.
- Limits facial coverings.
- Provides for criminal offenses for violations. Criminal offenses make standards enforceable — not just aspirational policy.
- Provides defined exceptions (undercover, medical) to ensure that the real operational needs are addressed.

**PLEASE VOTE AYE AND FAST TRACK THIS BILL TO THE GOVERNOR’S DESK.**

Mahalo  
Diann K Lynn  
Mō'ili'ili

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 8:56:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:15:35 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I write in strong support of this bill. Our citizens have a right to basic civil protections against illegal government actions.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:42:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 9:52:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| <b>Submitted By</b>   | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Testify</b>            |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Doris Segal Matsunaga | Individual          | Support                   | Written Testimony<br>Only |

Comments:

As a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, I strongly support this measure

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:07:50 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB1886 HD2 SD1 which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations, and establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers. This measure further establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

Essentially, HB1886 HD2 SD1 prioritizes the community. It mandates transparency in law enforcement, ensures people know who is questioning them, and keeps local resources focused on local safety, rather than federal immigration efforts that diminish community trust.

By limiting state participation in federal enforcement schemes that threaten due process, equal protection, and expressive freedom, HB 1886 HD2 SD1 ensures that Hawaii’s constitutional commitments are not undermined. Our communities deserve real safety measures and transparency, not secret policing tactics.

Please pass this measure.

**LATE**

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 10:16:08 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

| Submitted By      | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify                |
|-------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Christian Marquez | Individual   | Support            | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

**Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,**

**My name is Christian Marquez, and I submit this testimony in support of HB1886 HD2 SD1, which establishes provisions limiting state-federal collaboration for civil immigration enforcement, requires visible identification by law enforcement officers and their vehicles, limits the use of facial coverings with defined exceptions, and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.**

**When law enforcement officers are masked and unidentifiable, accountability disappears — and immigrant and mixed-status communities cannot distinguish state officers from federal civil immigration agents. HB1886 HD2 SD1 addresses this with enforceable standards: the criminal offense provisions for facial covering violations, lack of visible ID, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation make this bill meaningful rather than aspirational. The defined exceptions for undercover operations, medical needs, and safety requirements show it was designed with real operational needs in mind.**

**California enacted a comparable law effective January 2026. Hawai'i joining this standard strengthens accountability, reduces community fear, and supports responsible officers who already operate transparently. Having passed the House and Senate PSM/EIG, this bill comes before Senate Judiciary for the final policy committee vote before the floor.**

**For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee PASS HB1886 HD2 SD1.**

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

**Sincerely,**

**Christian Marquez**

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB1886 HD2 SD1

**LATE**

Senate Committee on Judiciary (JDC)

Chair: Sen. Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair: Sen. Mike Gabbard

Hearing Date: April 7, 2026

Dear Chair Karl Rhoads, Vice Chair Mike Gabbard, and members of the Committee on Judiciary,

My name is Jeremiah Brown and I strongly support HB1886 HD2 SD1, which which establishes provisions limiting state and county collaboration with federal authorities for immigration enforcement operations, requires visible identification by state and federal law enforcement officers and their vehicles, limits the use of facial coverings by law enforcement (with defined exceptions), and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

In Minnesota and elsewhere, we have witnessed how the ICE and Border Patrol have been employing secret police tactics, including ordering masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities. Federal agents are terrorizing our immigrant neighbors.

HB1886 HD2 SD1 is important because public safety depends on trust and transparency. When people cannot identify who is exercising authority in a public space, fear and confusion increase, and the risk of abuse or impersonation grows. Clear identification standards help protect residents' rights and also protect responsible officers by ensuring accountability and reducing misunderstandings.

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

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Brown

Waialua, Oahu

**LATE**

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 1:44:08 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Testimony of Amanda Christie

In SUPPORT of HB1886 HD2, SD1

The Senate Judiciary Committee

Chair, Karl Rhoads

Vice Chair, Mike Gabbard

Dear Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, Senator Chang, Senator San Buenaventura, and Senator Awa,

My name is Dr. Amanda Christie. Today, I am writing to submit testimony in support of HB1886 HD 2 SD1, which establishes provisions limiting state and federal collaboration for purposes of immigration enforcement operations, establishes identification and facial coverings standards for state and federal law enforcement officers, and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings and lack of visible identification and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention.

I am a current resident of Makiki. I am also a long-time ELA and social studies educator. My classrooms are often full of students who are either immigrants themselves or children of immigrants. In my work as an educator, I also frequently partner with community organizations like the Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights.

As a concerned individual, I have watched in horror as individuals across the United States have been accosted by armed and unidentified individuals in the streets. Just a couple of months ago a series of fake ICE posters threatening random searches were posted around my neighborhood, leading many residents in my community to respond with panic and concern. Although the threat turned out to be a hoax, the fear (and its underlying concerns over ICE's lack of transparency and the possibility of masked searches and seizures) are very real.

As a high school teacher, teaching a population made up of many first and second generation immigrants, I have also spent the past year facing a growing sense of fear. I wake up with the fear that at any point in my day, armed agents may descend upon my classroom and detain any

number of my students – innocent children, excited to learn and live in safety and care. I watch in concern as violent ICE encounters increasingly unfold on streets, in stores, in churches, and in schools across the United States, and recently, close to home across coffee farms on the Big Island.

I support HB1886 HD 2 SD1 because Hawai‘i agencies should be limited in their partnerships with ICE – partnerships that can lead to frightening over-reach and movement into safe spaces like schools, churches, hospitals, and peaceful gatherings in order to violently approach and detain innocent community members. When local actors conduct secret immigration enforcement work, it increases the risk of coercion and misunderstanding—especially for people with limited English proficiency—and it undermines public trust in local government. The provisions of this bill reinforce core constitutional values: lawful authority, equal protection, and the right to free speech and peaceful assembly. Furthermore, this bill outlines clear identification standards that ensure accountability and secure public trust. When identification rules are unclear—or when anonymous enforcement is tolerated—public fear grows and legitimate operations become harder. This bill sets clear expectations: individuals should be able to identify clearly the officer and the agency responsible for immigrant enforcement actions.

For all of these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS HB1886 HD 2 SD1**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Amanda Christie

**LATE**

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/6/2026 4:57:22 PM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

Good Morning/Afternoon Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Michaela, and I live in Hanamā‘ulu, Kaua‘i.

I am in support of, and respectfully urge you to also support, HB 1886.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration.

**LATE**

**HB-1886-SD-1**

Submitted on: 4/7/2026 7:40:19 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/7/2026 10:15:00 AM

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

Comments:

I STRONGLY SUPPORT HB1886 HD2 SD1