

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
GOVERNOR  
KE KIA'ĀINA



**MIKE LAMBERT**  
Director

**ERNEST J. ROBELLO**  
Deputy Director  
Administration

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
LT GOVERNOR  
KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*

715 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

**JARED K. REDULLA**  
Deputy Director  
Law Enforcement

**TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2540**  
**RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**  
Before the House Committee on  
**ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY**  
Friday, February 6, 2026, 8:30 am  
State Capitol Conference Room 423 & Videoconference  
Testifier: Jared Redulla

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) offers comments on House Bill 2540. This bill prohibits, with certain exceptions, the use of facial coverings by law enforcement officers in the performance of their duties, requires visible identification for officers and their vehicles, mandates state and county law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement, prohibits officers from prolonging stops to inquire about a person's civil immigration status, and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

The Department recognizes and respects the Legislature's intent to promote transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement. DLE shares these values and supports thoughtful, balanced approaches that enhance community confidence while preserving officer safety, operational effectiveness, and constitutional compliance. However, as drafted, this measure raises significant legal, operational, and constitutional concerns that warrant careful consideration.

### **Operational and Officer Safety Concerns**

While the bill attempts to provide exemptions under certain situations, the narrow construction of those exemptions—combined with criminal liability creates uncertainty. DLE has a very limited number of personnel available for high-risk situations such as narcotics search warrants, surveillance, fugitive operations, and raids. Consequently, the DLE regularly uses staff on other assignments who are not “undercover” to support these types of operations. Consequently, there is a real need to cover those officers’ faces and identities. Those officers who support certain operations must wear a mask to preserve their identities and potentially work “undercover” in the future, and/or continue to support high-risk assignments. In addition to preserving the identities of the very limited pool of officers within its ranks, the DLE is concerned about the continuing risks of law enforcement work, which can bring threats and retaliation to officers and their families at home and even expose officers to “doxxing.” This is why the issue of wearing a mask raises significant agency interest to ensure safety.

Also, the bill would also require that every vehicle used in law enforcement operations bear conspicuous markings identifying the agency to which the vehicle belongs. The DLE has a significant number of unmarked vehicles in its inventory, and those vehicles are used daily to support surveillance, perform “stakeouts”, and investigate fugitives and narcotics cases. Vehicles are extremely costly, and the bill raises significant concern that if these unmarked vehicles could not be used for law enforcement work, then there would be high costs to either replace or apply police and agency markings to them.

### **Criminalization of Policy and Training Issues**

The Department is particularly concerned with the bill’s approach of converting policy compliance issues into criminal offenses. Matters involving identification display, tactical equipment configuration, or the scope of questioning during lawful stops are traditionally governed through training standards, internal policy, supervision, and existing accountability mechanisms.

Creating new criminal offenses for these matters exposes officers and supervisors to potential prosecution for conduct that may be later subject to differing interpretations.

### **Federal Preemption and Supremacy Clause Implications**

DLE has substantial concerns regarding provisions that regulate, restrict, or criminalize conduct associated with civil immigration enforcement.

Immigration enforcement is, by constitutional design, a federal function. Under the Supremacy Clause of the United States Constitution, federal law preempts conflicting state action. To the extent that this bill places state or county officers in a position where compliance with state law may conflict with federal directives, lawful federal operations, or federally authorized cooperation, it exposes officers and agencies to untenable legal risk.

DLE emphasizes that the Department does not have the authority—or the institutional capacity—to adjudicate conflicts between state statutes and federal immigration law in the field. Any statutory framework that places state officers in opposition to federal authorities risks legal invalidation, operational disruption, and reputational harm to the State and its law enforcement agencies.

As a practical matter, the Department must be able to work alongside federal partners without fear that routine cooperation, information-sharing, or presence during federal operations. The State of Hawai'i would not prevail in a direct legal or operational conflict with the federal government, and placing frontline officers in that position is neither fair nor sustainable.

### **Implementation, Liability, and Unintended Consequences**

The bill also imposes substantial administrative burdens, reporting requirements, and compliance timelines that will require significant resources to implement. More importantly, the bill exposes the State, counties, supervisors, and individual officers to potential criminal risk and complicates multi-agency coordination.

### **Conclusion**

To find balance in this situation, the DLE offers that one potential solution might be that the bill instead mandates that during situations where law enforcement officers are necessarily wearing a mask, that a certain percentage of officers also be on scene unmasked and in fully identifiable law enforcement uniforms. Additionally, any officer who wears a mask also have their badge and police markings prominently displayed on their clothing. To that end, the public would instantly know that genuine law enforcement officers are present and those uniformed officers at the scene can be approached if concern arises.

Finally, DLE respectfully urges the Legislature to carefully consider the operational realities of the constitutional limits imposed by federal supremacy, and the potential impacts the bill may have within state and local law enforcement agencies

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

JON N. IKENAGA  
PUBLIC DEFENDER

**DEFENDER COUNCIL**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
SUITE A-254  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

**HONOLULU OFFICE**  
1130 NORTH NIMITZ HIGHWAY  
SUITE A-254  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817

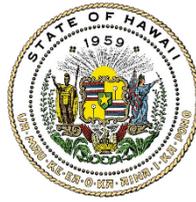
**APPELLATE DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2080

**DISTRICT COURT DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2100

**FAMILY COURT DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2300

**FELONY DIVISION**  
TEL. NO. (808) 586-2200

**FACSIMILE**  
(808) 586-2222



STATE OF HAWAII  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

HAYLEY Y. C. CHENG  
ASSISTANT PUBLIC DEFENDER

**HILO OFFICE**  
275 PONAHAHAWAI STREET  
SUITE 201  
HILO, HAWAII 96720  
TEL. NO. (808) 974-4571  
FAX NO. (808) 974-4574

**KONA OFFICE**  
75-1000 HENRY STREET  
SUITE #209  
KAILUA-KONA HI 96740  
TEL. NO. (808) 327-4650  
FAX NO. (808) 327-4651

**KAUAI OFFICE**  
3060 EIWA STREET  
SUITE 206  
LIHUE, HAWAII 96766  
TEL. NO. (808) 241-7128  
FAX NO. (808) 274-3422

**MAUI OFFICE**  
81 N. MARKET STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
TEL. NO. (808) 984-5018  
FAX NO. (808) 984-5022

February 4, 2026

**HB 2540: RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT**

**Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey and Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

The Office of the Public Defender (OPD) supports **HB 2540** which prohibits, with certain exceptions, the use of facial coverings and requires visible identification by law enforcement officers and their vehicles in the performance of their duties; requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding state and county cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement; prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status; and, establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

The adoption of standards to prohibit, with certain exceptions, of the use of facial coverings and to require visible identification of law enforcement officers and their vehicles in the performance of their duties under HB 2540, strongly reinforces the standards that each county police departments in the State of Hawaii established in their respective general orders.<sup>1</sup> These standards only serve to promote transparency that allows law enforcement officers, while in the performance of their official duties where they come into contact with the public, to avoid potential misidentification that could create safety, liability, or professionalism concerns.

Adopting the standards set forth by HB 2540, will further promote public safety which is of paramount concern in our communities. By prohibiting facial

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<sup>1</sup> See Honolulu Police Department Policy No. 2.38 and 2.70; Hawaii Police Department General Order, Chapter 800, Maui Police Department General Order, Chapter 304; and, Kauai Police Department, Standards of Conduct of the Kauai Police Department, Article IV, D(2).

coverings, with certain exceptions, and requiring law enforcement officers to clearly identify themselves and their vehicles while they are in the performance of their duties, promotes trust in their authority by the people in our communities. More importantly, these standards will minimize any danger for law abiding people in our communities by being victimized by individuals or groups who may impersonate officers who are sworn to uphold and enforce the laws of our counties and our State.

The adoption of civil immigration enforcement policies under HB2540 gives due regard to HRS § 5-7.5(b) which mandates that government officials including law enforcement officers, in exercising their “power on behalf of the people and in fulfillment of their responsibilities, obligations and service to the people...may contemplate and reside with the life force and give consideration to the ‘Aloha Spirit’.” Adopting civil immigration enforcement policies that provide for the humane treatment of people, whether they are legally here or not, is consistent with Hawai‘i’s unique culture and Kānāwai Māmalahoe (the law of the splintered paddle) that was enacted by King Kamehameha I in 1797.

The OPD supports HB 2540

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



The House Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
February 6, 2026  
Room 423  
8:30 AM

RE: **HB 2540, Relating to Law Enforcement**

Attention: Chair Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey and members of the Committee

The University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), the exclusive bargaining representative for all University of Hawai'i faculty members across Hawai'i's statewide 10-campus system, **supports HB 2540, with amendments.**

We believe that public trust is essential for a safe and functioning community, and this measure promotes that trust by requiring visible identification for officers and limiting the use of facial coverings that obscure identity during official duties. These transparency measures help ensure accountability and reduce fear and intimidation, fostering a better relationship between law enforcement and the diverse communities they serve.

Furthermore, UHPA strongly supports the bill's provisions regarding civil immigration enforcement, particularly the restrictions on enforcement activities at sensitive locations such as schools. Our faculty members are dedicated to providing a safe and accessible learning environment for all students, regardless of their immigration status. By establishing clear policies that uphold due process and prevent the chilling effect of unrestricted immigration enforcement on campuses, this bill protects the right to education. However, to ensure there is no ambiguity that these protections extend to the university level, UHPA requests that the committee **amend Sections 2 and 3** to explicitly define "**schools**" to include "**public institutions of higher education, including University of Hawai'i campuses,**" similar to the definition found in HB 1870.

Additionally, UHPA is concerned with the proposed **§353C-(c) in Section 3** of the bill mandating that "**No employee or agent... shall provide voluntary consent**" for law enforcement entry. This provision places frontline faculty and staff in a precarious legal position. Faculty members are not legal experts and may face intimidation or confusion when confronted by federal law enforcement agents demanding access to nonpublic areas like laboratories or classrooms. We are concerned that under the current language, a faculty member who mistakenly grants access under duress or confusion could be subject to state penalties or workplace discipline. We respectfully urge the committee to ensure that the measure includes **adequate protections for employees who are acting in good faith** when attempting to comply with this chapter or when responding to perceived federal authority.

University of Hawaii  
Professional Assembly

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



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

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'C. Fern', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Christian L. Fern  
Executive Director  
University of Hawaii Professional Assembly

C. Kimo Alameda, Ph.D.  
Mayor



Reed K. Mahuna  
Interim Police Chief

William V. Brilhante Jr.  
Managing Director

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

February 4, 2026

Representative Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair  
And Members  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Representatives Ilagan and Hussey and Members:

RE: HOUSE BILL 2540 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT  
DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2026  
TIME: 08:30 A.M.  
PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE  
CONFERENCE ROOM 423

The Hawaii Police Department (HPD) respectfully **opposes** HB2540 Relating to Law Enforcement, which seeks to criminalize certain conduct by law enforcement officers related to facial coverings and identification display, but these issues are best addressed through professional standards and administrative oversight rather than through the criminal code.

Questions about whether an officer's concealment of identity is appropriate or inappropriate should be resolved through policy guidance and disciplinary processes, not by imposing criminal penalties. The Law Enforcement Standards Board is the appropriate body to establish standards of conduct, investigate violations, and impose discipline when warranted. This approach ensures accountability while preserving operational flexibility and officer safety. Criminalizing these matters risks punishing officers acting in good faith and undermines the ability of agencies to adapt policies to evolving operational needs.

Although the bill provides an exemption for undercover assignments, it does not account for related police activities where protecting the identity of officers on scene is critical. For example, support unit personnel often assist in narcotics, gambling, and other public health and morals enforcement operations. These officers may not be formally designated as undercover but still perform duties that require anonymity for their safety and the integrity of the operation. Criminalizing mask use in these contexts could compromise officer safety and jeopardize the success of sensitive investigations.

HOUSE BILL 2540 RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

DATE: FEBRUARY 6, 2026

TIME: 08:30 A.M.

PLACE: VIDEOCONFERENCE

CONFERENCE ROOM 423

Page 2

Additionally, the requirement for conspicuous vehicle markings conflicts with the Hawaii Police Department's personally-owned, county-subsidized vehicle program. Under this program, vehicles are personally owned by employees and do not display agency markings except for emergency lighting when on duty for patrol-related work. Mandating permanent markings would create privacy and security risks for officers when off duty and impose unnecessary financial and logistical burdens.

For these reasons, HPD respectfully urges the Committee to reject this measure. Instead, authority should be delegated to the Law Enforcement Standards Board to develop comprehensive policies on facial coverings, identification, and vehicle markings, and to enforce compliance through administrative discipline rather than criminal penalties. This approach promotes accountability while safeguarding officer safety and operational effectiveness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Reed K. Mahuna', written over the word 'Respectfully,'.

REED K. MAHUNA  
INTERIM POLICE CHIEF



**JOHN PELLETIER**  
CHIEF OF POLICE

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
TELEPHONE: (808) 244-6400  
FAX: (808) 244-6411



**WADE M. MAEDA**  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 5, 2026

Chair Gregor Ilagan  
Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey  
and Members  
Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
The Thirty-Third Legislature  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

**SUBJECT: Testimony in support of H.B. 2540, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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

I submit this testimony in opposition to HB 2540 due to serious concerns regarding officer safety, operational effectiveness, legal conflicts, and unintended public safety consequences.

While transparency and accountability are important goals, HB 2540 takes an overly rigid approach that does not reflect the realities of law enforcement work. The bill's restrictions on facial coverings raise significant officer safety concerns. Officers often require protective equipment during hazardous conditions, crowd control, tactical operations, or health-related situations. Limiting the use of facial coverings without sufficient flexibility exposes officers to unnecessary risk.

HB 2540's visible identification requirements risk compromising sensitive and tactical operations, can undermine undercover work, surveillance, and other specialized assignments that rely on discretion and anonymity.

This measure also raises legal and jurisdictional concerns by regulating conduct related to civil immigration enforcement, which is primarily governed by federal law. Imposing restrictions or criminal penalties in this context creates uncertainty, invites legal challenges, and may place state and county officers in conflict with federal authorities.

Finally, the threat of penalties for technical violations could discourage proactive policing as it may raise concerns about personal liability, and cause hesitation during law enforcement contacts, potentially resulting in slower responses, reduced enforcement, and diminished public safety.

In summary, HB 2540 prioritizes rigid procedural mandates over practical public safety needs. The bill risks harming officer safety, weakening effective law enforcement, and creates legal uncertainty without clear evidence that it will achieve its intended goals.

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

Sincerely,

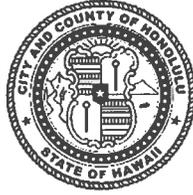
**JOHN PELLETIER**  
Chief of Police

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**

Feb 06, 2026, 10:24 am

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT  
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**  
101 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 • WEBSITE: [www.honoluluupd.org](http://www.honoluluupd.org)

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR  
MEIA



RADE K. VANIC  
INTERIM CHIEF  
KAHU MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA  
  
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG  
RYAN T. NISHIBUN  
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS  
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KŪIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE **WB-THS**

February 6, 2026

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Economic Development  
and Technology  
House of Representatives  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Ilagan and Members:

**SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2540, Relating to Law Enforcement**

I am William Beckley, Major of the Information Technology Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly opposes House Bill No. 2540, Relating to Law Enforcement, specifically the prohibition in Section 2(2) that restricts officers from using masks or disguises.

Covert tools are indispensable in undercover operations targeting narcotics trafficking, human trafficking, and organized gambling. The ability to protect an officer's identity through the use of masks or other disguises is often essential to officer safety and severely limits the HPD's ability to infiltrate criminal networks and dismantle organized criminal activity.

In certain circumstances, wearing a mask is not a matter of convenience but a necessary measure to protect the officer's identity and preserve the integrity of ongoing and future investigations. Without this operational flexibility, the HPD's ability to effectively enforce laws against high-risk offenders would be significantly reduced.

The Honorable Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
and Members  
February 6, 2026  
Page 2

In addition to the need to protect the anonymity of undercover personnel, this work is inherently dangerous. In 1987, Officer Troy Barboza was killed as a result of his connection to an undercover narcotics investigation, underscoring the very real and lasting risks associated with this type of law enforcement activity.

Furthermore, this bill provides no meaningful flexibility or exceptions for undercover or plainclothes operations. By contrast, Senate Bill No. 2290, Relating to Law Enforcement (Visible Identification, Facial Coverings, Policy, Prohibition) offers a more balanced approach by allowing limited exemptions for undercover or investigative work while still addressing the Legislature's broader policy concerns.

The HPD urges you to oppose House Bill No. 2540, Relating to Law Enforcement, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

*William Beckley* 

William Beckley, Major  
Information Technology Division

APPROVED:

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Rade K. Vanic  
Interim Chief of Police



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

## POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUA'I



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

**RECEIVED**  
**Date & Time**  
Feb 06, 2026, 10:25 am

February 5, 2026

The Honorable Representative Gregg Ilagan, Chair  
And Honorable Members of the Committee on Economic Development & Technology  
Hawai'i State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Chair Ilagan  
February 5, 2026  
Re: Opposition of HB 2540  
Page 2 of 2

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

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to **oppose HB 2540** in its current form.

Respectfully submitted,

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

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

Testimony: HB2540

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

Our names are Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino and we **strongly support [H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886]**, which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Megahn Chun and Alex Villarino  
Marchante LLC dba Mercado de La Raza

808.593.2226



## IN STRONG SUPPORT OF SB3322/HB2540

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in full support of HB2540/SB3322. This critical legislation demands basic transparency and accountability from those entrusted with the state's most coercive powers.

In a free society, government agents armed and authorized to detain, arrest, or use force must never operate in the shadows. This should be the bare minimum required for a government of the people, by the people, for the people. Anonymous policing erodes trust, invites abuse, and violates core principles of liberty and due process. When an officer hides their face or badge, they shield themselves from scrutiny, making it nearly impossible for citizens to report misconduct, seek redress, or hold individuals accountable in court. This breeds fear, not respect, and turns public servants into faceless enforcers.

Hawaii's people deserve to know exactly who is exercising authority over them. Visible identification enables oversight, protects against mistaken identity or impersonation, and deters misconduct. Sunlight is the best disinfectant. Prohibiting prolonged immigration inquiries during routine stops prevents pretextual detentions that harm communities and waste resources better spent on real public safety threats.

Opponents may claim “officer safety concerns”, but exceptions already exist for legitimate tactical or undercover needs. Blanket anonymity is nothing but a license for impunity. True safety for both officers and the public comes from mutual respect, clear rules, and accountability.

HB2540 upholds constitutional values: the right to petition for redress, protection against unreasonable seizures, and equal protection under the law. It aligns with Hawaii's strong tradition of aloha, transparency, and respect for individual rights.

I urge this committee to **pass HB2540 without weakening amendments**. Delay or dilution would be a betrayal of public trust. No more hidden faces, no more unchecked power. Our officers serve us. They must not rule us in secret.

For Freedom & Transparency,  
Abbra Green

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii | [LibertarianHawaii.com](http://LibertarianHawaii.com) | (808)824-LPHI

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:57:23 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Matthew B. Johnson	Pacific Gateway Center	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

**My name is Matthew B. Johnson, Executive Director for Pacific Gateway Center, and I strongly support [H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886], which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.**

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

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

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

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

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

Matthew B. Johnson

Pacific Gateway Center



## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

### HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 2540, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Veronica Mendoza, Founding Executive Director of Roots Reborn and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — *The People in Action Maui*. I am writing in **strong support of HB2540**, which prohibits, with certain exceptions, facial coverings by law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement; prohibits officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status; and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

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

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

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

Through this coalition, we have:

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

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

On Maui, we are witnessing an erosion of trust and an increase in fear. Community members are afraid to go to work and children are unable to go to school. We have heard stories from healthcare providers of patients forgoing critical care, and from faith leaders that people feel unable to attend religious services due to fear of confrontation by masked and unidentified federal agents. Trust in law enforcement of all kinds, even our local police departments, has eroded as a result. Coalition member organizations have been called



upon to address the potential harms to victims of violent crime, especially women and children subjected to domestic violence, who are now afraid to ask for help from the local law enforcement officers who have a duty to protect them.

**Bill 2540** is a limited, focused means to achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawai'i by federal law enforcement. It is a small step to returning law enforcement in Hawai'i to public scrutiny and legal accountability.

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

Sinceramente,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Veronica', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Veronica Mendoza  
Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*  
EPA Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



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

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

Representative Ilagan, Chair  
Representative Hussey, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: Feb 6th, 2026, 2pm Room 423

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

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

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

**HB2540 strengthens public safety by preventing “secret policing” tactics and impersonation**

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

HB2540 addresses this directly by requiring visible identification—**name, agency, and unique badge number**—and by requiring agencies to maintain **publicly available written policies** and ensure **training** for officers on these requirements. These are basic, common-sense accountability measures that protect the public *and* protect officers by reducing dangerous confusion during fast-moving encounters.

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



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

local officials to assess whether enforcement actions are lawful or necessary—heightening the risk of unnecessary escalation, violence, and tragic outcomes. Hawai‘i has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to prevent similar harms here by ensuring that enforcement in our communities is transparent, accountable, and subject to clear standards.

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

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

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

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

HB2540 advances real safety. When people fear law enforcement—or cannot identify who is acting under color of authority—they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with investigations. Transparent identification standards are also an anti-impersonation measure: they help the public and local officials distinguish legitimate enforcement from opportunistic bad actors.

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

Just as importantly, Hawai‘i must ensure that **state and county agencies are not drawn into federal immigration enforcement actions** that tear families apart and destabilize communities. Clear limits on collaboration protect local priorities, preserve community trust, and keep public institutions focused on serving residents—especially in emergencies, schools, courts, and health settings. HB2540 affirms that any civil immigration enforcement activity involving state or county participation must be based on documented, legal authority that prioritizes due process and judicial oversight.



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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



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

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

## **Conclusion**

For these reasons, HCIR respectfully urges you to **PASS HB2540**. Hawai‘i has the opportunity—and the responsibility—to affirm that secrecy and anonymity have no place in public-facing enforcement. Our communities thrive when families can live with dignity and without fear, and when government power is exercised with transparency and accountability.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Liza Ryan Gill

Executive Director

Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540  
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Elsa West, and I submit testimony on behalf of the American Civil Liberties Union in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I believe immigrant and mixed-status families should feel safe in this place they've chosen to make their home. Hawai'i is a community, and what I find most important is the safety of everyone, no matter their origin and ethnicity. It pains me to see the state of this nation, and I hope that Hawai'i can be an exception to the inequality and injustice we are seeing.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Elsa West  
American Civil Liberties Union  
edubjr2010@icloud.com

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:51:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Representatives,

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

Pride at Work – Hawai‘i fully supports HB 2540.

We ask that you support this needed piece of legislation.

Mahalo,

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



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TO: House Committee on Economic Development & Technology (“ECD”)  
FR: Salmah Y. Rizvi, Executive Director, American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i  
ON: Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 AM HST  
AT: Conference Room 423 & Videoconference  
RE: **Testimony of the American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i Executive Director in SUPPORT of HB2540, Relating to Law Enforcement**

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai‘i (“ACLU-HI”) writes in **support of HB2540**, a bill that affirms the fundamental democratic principle that the public must know **who is exercising the power of the state when policing our streets**. Because police power can both protect and take life, it is of the utmost importance that law enforcement agents do not hide in the shadows for fear of accountability. Rather, it is our kuleana to the community to ensure police are unmasked and easily identifiable.

*I. Masked Enforcement, Deaths, and the Human Cost*

Across the continent and in Hawai‘i, we have seen federal immigration enforcement operations conducted by agents **masked, in plain clothes, in unmarked vehicles, and without visible identification**, resulting in real fear, confusion, and harm to the community.<sup>i</sup> Some agents have been filmed using lethal force against protestors, shocking the conscience of all who are witnessing this history unfold.<sup>ii</sup>

Over the past year, **federal immigration authorities – often, with their faces masked – have detained more than 3,800 children**, separating them from their parents and holding them in conditions widely criticized by child welfare advocates.<sup>iii</sup>

When law enforcement is conducted in a manner that obscures the identity of the officer, particularly in life-or-death or early childhood encounters, it creates fear that is indistinguishable from terror. Community members confronted by masked agents in unmarked vehicles have reported feeling **unable to distinguish federal officers from criminals or kidnappers**, contributing to mistrust and undermining public safety.<sup>iv</sup>

These harms have both individual and collective dimensions. Individuals are harmed through fatal force or disruption of family life; communities are harmed when trust in public institutions collapses and we witness state-sponsored violence in the streets.

## II. *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.<sup>v</sup> 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.<sup>vi</sup>

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.<sup>vii</sup>

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**.<sup>viii</sup>

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.

## III. *Due Process, Transparency, and What Federal Law Already Requires*

Importantly, federal law does not broadly authorize enforcement officers to mask their identities. To the contrary, stemming from principles of due process:

- **Pub. L. No. 116-283, § 1064 (2021)** generally requires visible identification for federal personnel engaged in civil disturbance operations, with limited exceptions for undercover or plain-clothes officers.<sup>ix</sup>
- **8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(iii)** specifically requires immigration officers effecting an arrest to identify themselves “as soon as it is practical and safe to do so.”<sup>x</sup>

These legal standards reinforce the principle that identification and accountability are critical to the rule of law. Even the U.S. Federal Bureau of Investigation (“FBI”) has issued warning alerts, urging law enforcement to clearly identify themselves during operations because criminals are now impersonating Immigration and Customs Enforcement (“ICE”) officers by exploiting their lack of identification to commit robbery, kidnapping, and sexual assault on vulnerable community members.<sup>xi</sup>

#### *IV. Hawaii's Unique Role and the Imperative to Act*

While the scale of ICE operations in Hawai'i differs from other major cities, the underlying principles are the same. We should not wait for tragedy, fear, or mistrust to escalate before acting. HB2540 affirms that in Hawai'i, we will not permit enforcement tactics that *hide identity, erode accountability, and put our communities at risk.*

This bill is not only about immigration; **it is about the rule of law, due process, accountability, and rebuilding trust between law enforcement and the community.** If law enforcement's purpose is to protect, then those who are charged with that duty must proudly showcase their identity and conduct themselves in a manner that is worthy of the public's trust.

Mahalo,

Salmah Y. Rizvi  
Executive Director  
ACLU of Hawai'i

*Representing the interests of more than 4,000 Hawaii-based members, the mission of the ACLU 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.*

*ACLU of Hawai'i*  
Post Office Box 3410  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96801  
[www.acluhi.org](http://www.acluhi.org)

T: (808) 522-5900  
F: (808) 522-5909  
C: (808) 723-9794  
E: [srizvi@acluhawaii.org](mailto:srizvi@acluhawaii.org)

**SALMAH Y. RIZVI, ESQ.**  
*EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR*

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<sup>i</sup> Human Rights Watch, *U.S.: Masked Federal Agents Undermine Rule of Law*, *Human Rights Watch* (Dec. 18, 2025), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2025/12/18/us-masked-federal-agents-undermine-rule-of-law>.

<sup>ii</sup> Human Rights Watch, *US: Second Unjustified Killing by Federal Agents in Minneapolis* (Jan. 27, 2026), <https://www.hrw.org/news/2026/01/27/us-second-unjustified-killing-by-federal-agents-in-minneapolis>.

<sup>iii</sup> Alysia Santo, *Children in Immigration Detention: The Revival of Family Detention in 2025*, *The Marshall Project* (Dec. 17, 2025), <https://www.themarshallproject.org/2025/12/17/children-immigration-detention-dilley-ice>.

<sup>iv</sup> Allie Preston, *Masked Federal Agents, No IDs, and Vanishing Body Cams*, *Brewminate* (Sept. 2, 2025), <https://brewminate.com/body-cams-no-more-federal-law-enforcement-operating-in-masks-without-identification/>.

<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> Pub. L. No. 116-283, § 1064 (2021) (<https://www.congress.gov/116/plaws/publ283/PLAW-116publ283.pdf>).

<sup>x</sup> 8 C.F.R. § 287.8(c)(2)(iii) (<https://www.ecfr.gov/current/title-8/section-287.8>).

<sup>xi</sup> FBI Warns of Criminals Posing as ICE, Urges Agents to Identify Themselves, *WIRED* (Nov. 4, 2025), <https://www.wired.com/story/fbi-warns-of-criminals-posing-as-ice-urges-agents-to-id-themselves>.



**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB2540 – RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT  
HB1886 – RELATING TO GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS  
HB1839 – RELATING TO IMMIGRATION**

**House Committee on Economic Development and Technology**

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair  
Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

February 5, 2026

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee:

The Legal Clinic (TLC) supports HB2540, HB1886, and HB1839, three measures that strengthen public safety, transparency, and due process in law enforcement and civil immigration interactions. TLC is a nonprofit organization dedicated to immigrant justice in Hawai'i through immigration legal services, education, and advocacy. We serve on the steering committee of the Campaign for Immigrant Justice alongside Hawai'i Coalition of Immigrant Rights and ACLU of Hawai'i, and these measures are among the campaign's legislative priorities this session.

The bills establish consistent standards and due process protections at key stages of law enforcement interaction, and ensures that local policing remains focused on community safety priorities.

HB2540 promotes transparency and accountability requiring state and county law enforcement agencies to adopt written, publicly accessible policies on visible identification, facial coverings, and cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. With narrow exceptions, the bill limits civil immigration interrogation, arrest, or detention by state or county law enforcement, restores protections for sensitive locations, establishes enforcement mechanisms, and restricts the collection and sharing of immigration-related personal data absent judicial warrants.

HB1886 creates broad guardrails around state-federal collaboration, requiring oversight of intergovernmental agreements, training standards, and visible identification standards for state and federal officers in public-facing operations in Hawai'i. The bill also clarifies that federal arrests without valid warrants are conducted in an officer's personal capacity.

HB1839 strengthens due process protections for individuals in state or county custody when immigration enforcement officials seek access for interviews or request custody transfers. The bill requires individuals to be notified of their rights, in a language they understand, and to provide written, voluntary consent prior to any interview with an immigration enforcement officer. HB1839 also improves accountability by requiring agencies to log immigration enforcement requests for interviews, provide notice of detainer or transfer requests, and maintain public records of such interactions, subject to reasonable privacy protections.

HB2540, HB1886, and HB1839 create a balanced framework that enhances public safety and safeguards constitutional rights. Clear standards, transparency, and due process help ensure that local law enforcement resources remain focused on local safety priorities and reduce the risk of harmful or unlawful enforcement practices. We urge the Committee to pass these bills, to promote accountability, fairness, and safety for all in Hawai`i.

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



Christina Sablan  
Community & Policy Advocate



FEBRUARY 6, 2026

## HOUSE BILL 2540

CURRENT REFERRAL: ECD

808-679-7454  
kris@imuaalliance.org  
www.imuaalliance.org  
@imuaalliance

Kris Coffield,  
*President*

David Negaard,  
*Director*

Mireille Ellsworth,  
*Director*

Justin Salisbury,  
*Director*

Eileen Roco,  
*Director*

Beatrice DeRego,  
*Director*

Corey Rosenlee,  
*Director*

Amy Zhao,  
*Policy and Partnerships  
Strategist*

### POSITION: SUPPORT

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Imua Alliance supports HB 2540, relating to law enforcement, which prohibits with certain exceptions, the use of facial coverings and requires visible identification by law enforcement officers and their vehicles in the performance of their duties; requires state and county law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding state and county cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement; prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status; and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

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

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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

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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

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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



**House Committee on Economic Development & Technology**

**Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action (HAPA) Strongly Supports HB2540**

**Friday, February 6th, 8:30 AM in Conference Room 423 & Videoconference**

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

Hawai'i Alliance for Progressive Action supports HB2540. This bill would require police officers to wear visible name tags, limit when they can cover their faces, and set clear policy guidelines for state and county agencies to work with federal agencies.

Officers who wear masks or are not easily identified can cause fear. Requiring clear identification helps prevent abuse, stops people from pretending to be officers, and makes officers more responsible for their actions.

HB2540 helps keep communities safe by making police actions more transparent, protecting people's rights, and ensuring local officers serve Hawai'i's people rather than following practices that break trust or separate families.

For these reasons, we urge you to pass HB2540.

Thank you for your support and consideration,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Anne Frederick', is positioned below the text 'Thank you for your support and consideration,'.

Anne Frederick, Executive Director



**Rep Greggor Ilagan, Chair**  
**Rep Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**  
Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 6, 2026  
8:30AM - Conference Room 423  
HB2540 - Relating to Law Enforcement- Support

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

HULI PAC strongly supports HB 2540, which establishes clear standards to ensure law enforcement officers and vehicles are visibly identifiable, sets limits on civil immigration enforcement by state and county agencies, and provides guardrails around civil immigration status inquiries.

HB 2540 recognizes that the use of facial coverings and the obscuring of officer identity can create fear, intimidation, and public distrust. This bill addresses those concerns by requiring visible identification for law enforcement officers and conspicuous markings on law enforcement vehicles, while allowing narrowly tailored exceptions for specific operational needs. It also requires agencies to adopt and publicly post written policies that affirm commitments to transparency, accountability, and public trust.

The bill further establishes statewide policies governing civil immigration enforcement, including requirements that such activity proceed only with documented legal authority that prioritizes due process and judicial oversight, and restrictions on enforcement activity at sensitive locations such as schools, places of worship, health care facilities, and shelters. HB 2540 also sets clear limitations on civil immigration status inquiries, prohibiting officers from initiating or prolonging stops solely to determine immigration status and clarifying that reasonable suspicion may not be based on race, ethnicity, language, or other protected characteristics.

By setting consistent standards for identification, accountability, and lawful enforcement practices, HB 2540 strengthens clarity for agencies and helps reinforce public confidence in law enforcement while respecting civil rights and due process protections.

We respectfully urge the Committee to support passage of HB 2540.

Mahalo.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:00:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Co Chair Hussey, and honorable members of Committee ,

My name is Susan RobertsEmery, as Co chair of the Green Party of Hawai'i we Stand Strong on asking this committee to pass HB2540 ! We are in crazy times and at times like these we need sane policy in our state. Masked humans with sunglasses and weapons terrifying our constituents is not how we do things in Hawai'i.

ICE agents have been killing innocent people and grabbing citizens off the streets, at schools etc in other states and that will not be tolerated here in Hawai'i.

Requiring visible identification and policies that promote accountability and community trust are what HB2540 will deliver. It will also prohibit prolonging stops to inquire into civil immigration status—reducing risks of profiling and unnecessary detention. These are illegal and will not be tolerated.

Thank you for supporting HB2540

susan RobertsEmery

Green Party of Hawai'i

Paauilo



## Hawaii Legislative Council Members

Joell Edwards  
Wainiha Country Market  
Hanalei

Russell Ruderman  
Island Naturals  
Hilo/Kona

Dr. Andrew Johnson  
Niko Niko Family Dentistry  
Honolulu

Robert H. Pahia  
Hawaii Taro Farm  
Wailuku

Maile Meyer  
Honolulu

Tina Wildberger  
Kihei Ice  
Kihei

L. Malu Shizue Miki  
Abundant Life Natural Foods  
Hilo

**Rep. Gregor Ilagan, Chair**  
**Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair**

Committee on Economic Development & Technology

Friday, February 6, 2026  
8:30AM Conference Room 423

RE: HB2540 - Officer Identification - Support

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committees,

On behalf of the Chamber of Sustainable Commerce (CSC), we write in support of HB2540 as a practical public safety measure that strengthens trust, economic stability, and workforce resilience in Hawai'i. The Chamber of Sustainable Commerce represents more than 570 small businesses, sole proprietors and entrepreneurs across Hawai'i committed to a triple bottom line: people, planet and prosperity.

From a small business and workforce perspective, public safety and economic vitality depend on trust in law enforcement. When officers are clearly identified and accountable, people are more likely to report crimes, seek help, and cooperate—supporting safe neighborhoods and stable local economies.

Masked or unidentified officers create fear and confusion, eroding that trust. When fear and uncertainty increase, families and customers disengage, which affects workforce stability, consumer confidence, and the ability of small businesses to operate consistently.

This legislation helps keep state and county law enforcement focused on local public safety, not federal actions that undermine community trust. It is a practical step toward transparency, safety, and economic resilience.

Chamber of  
Sustainable Commerce  
808.445.7606  
P.O. Box 22394  
Honolulu, HI 96823

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 4:34:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this measure

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:07:59 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

OPPOSE this bill. To the knuckle head politicians who support this bill. You are the reason why public support for law enforcement has dropped since the leftist BLM movement. You supported the anti police sentiment. Your attitude toward law enforcement officers are the reason why it has become harder to find good candidates for the jurisdictions statewide. STOP politicizing law enforcement safety protocols and tactics.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:02:35 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dawn Wakukawa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Let me be clear by first stating that not all law enforcement officers are corrupt, immoral or prejudiced. There are many that I've interacted with that were kind, compassionate and helpful. however, those that do act unjustly should be held accountable.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 9:08:04 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:35:14 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Katy Hintzen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I urge you to support HB2540 to prevent Hawai'i from becoming an environment of fear, lack of trust in law enforcement official, and chaos. We have seen this happen in other states where utter lack of transparency and accountability of immigration enforcement agents creates environments of unnecessary fear, violence, and trauma for communtiy members. Please take action now to stop this from being the same in our home.

Thank you,

Katy Hintzen

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 1:25:45 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 2:18:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
David Ball	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dear Chair Ilagan and Vice-Chair Hussey,

I am writing in strong support of HB2540. We have seen alarming national coverage of the dangers that anonymity can have for our law enforcement officials, many of whom serve our communities bravely and responsibly. The reckless actions of this federal administration, however, demand that we strive for absolute transparency and accountability from those pledged to enforce our laws. This bill has my strong support, and will only strengthen our community's faith and trust in our local law enforcement officers as well. Mahalo nui loa for your and the committee's strong support of good government, ethics, and accountability legislation throughout this session.

Sincerely yours,

David Ball

Waialae-Kahala

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 3:44:47 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia J. Goto	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 5:20:02 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:30:17 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jana U	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We cannot allow secret police to threaten neighbors and enter into communities with face masks, no badges or any way to identify who they are. There needs to be transparency and accountability and oversight over any law enforcement operation for public safety.

There also needs to be quick and severe enforcement to the fullest extent of the law.

Testimony in SUPPORT of HB2540/HB1886- Identification Standards + Clarity on Authority and Collaboration

Rep. Ilagan, Chair  
Rep. Hussey, Vice Chair

Committee on Economic Development and Technology  
Hearing Date: Feb. 6th

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jeremiah Brown

Waialua, Oahu

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 8:48:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB1839.

HB1839 is a commonsense due process and transparency measure that ensures people in state or county custody receive “Know Your Rights” information before any civil immigration interview, and that any interview proceeds only with clear, voluntary, informed consent.

In Hawai‘i’s immigrant and mixed-status communities, fear and confusion can stop people from seeking help or understanding their rights. No one should be questioned about civil immigration matters while in custody without knowing the interview is voluntary and that they can ask for counsel.

**I respectfully urge you to PASS HB1839. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 11:39:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

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

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

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

We also must prevent our local law enforcement from being co-opted into federal law enforcement operations that are ripping our neighbors away from their families and hurting our communities. Their involvement in the federal actions will undermine their effectiveness and the trust built with our communities.

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Lynn Otaguro

Oahu, Hawaii



**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:16:07 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lisa Seikai Darcy	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Full support of [HB2540](#)

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey and respected committee members,

Having recently been arrested by law enforcement who did not display any identification or a name badge, I can tell you it is quite disconcerting. I believe we are all on the same team, team justice. Team justice does not hide or maneuver, it is open honest and stands by its actions.

When being questioned or confronted by police, it is quite uncomfortable. Not only have my charges been dismissed with prejudice but essentially ignored by those who forced me through a process which leaves me feeling frustrated and discouraged.

I also work with people living in subhuman conditions and interact with police frequently under very strenuous circumstances. I witness how many in law enforcement take advantage of those who do not know their rights. The majority are even afraid to ask the name of the officer when the uniforms changed and no names were evident.

Our law enforcement must be the highest standard. Their job is extraordinarily difficult, this is understood, but it is not to create hardship for others. Support HB and also protect those whom are the victims of police overreach by establishing simple standards of interaction and validating transparency. In doing so, I believe more trust will be achieved and then possibilities for positive change will grow.

With appreciation,

Lisa Darcy Kula, Maui, HI

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:42:40 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Angelia Kirkhart	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Federal Immigration enforcement agents should be uniform, without face coverings, and they should have easily identifiable badging.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:13:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mia Larsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Mia Larsen and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

We respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Mia Larsen

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:13:41 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB2540. We have all seen shocking reports of abuses by ICE. While Hawaii has not had problems as severe as other places - so far - we should take pro-active steps to protect everyone here.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:24:03 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Deborah Ann Harada	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill because it is our kuleana to ensure safety and due process for everyone in Hawai'i.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:32:37 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shay Chan Hodges	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

I am in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540.

Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony..

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:09:48 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kayo Malik	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Kayo Malik, Maui

kayoda7@hotmail.com



**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:52:26 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

In support of informed consent and due process. Thank you for allowing me to submit this testimony.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:23:08 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Amy Wake	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

My name is Rev. Amy Wake from Wesley United Methodist Church in Kahala and I strongly support [H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886], which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Rev. Amy Wake



**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:34:14 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Mele Kaneali'i	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

I testify in strong support of HB2540. It is unacceptable that there are no clear laws governing the use of masks and facial coverings by law or immigration enforcement in ways that eliminate accountability.

Accountability is the foundation of a healthy democracy. Without it, those entrusted with public safety face little incentive to act transparently or in the best interests of the people they serve. HB1886 is a necessary step toward restoring public trust and ensuring that enforcement practices align with democratic values, and I urge you to pass this measure through your committee.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:47:56 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ezgi Green	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing in support of HB1839.

This bill ensures that individuals in state or county custody receive clear information about their rights before any civil immigration interview and that interviews proceed only with voluntary, informed consent.

In our communities, fear and uncertainty can prevent people from understanding their options. This measure provides basic protections: a clear notice in an understandable language that interviews are voluntary, written consent that explains the purpose and the person’s right to decline or request counsel, and transparency through logging and public oversight.

These protections help ensure fairness and build trust. The approach follows models already used in other jurisdictions and can be implemented through standardized forms and training.

I respectfully ask you to support HB1839. Mahalo for considering this testimony.

Respectfully,

Ezgi Green

Waiialua, O'ahu

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:06:11 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy Convard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony Re: HB2540/HB1886**

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Nancy Convard**

**[nconvard@gmail.com](mailto:nconvard@gmail.com); 202-288-8822**

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 12:23:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB2540/HB1886 both as a Lahaina resident and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN), to ban extreme masking by law enforcement, require officers visibly identify themselves, and limit state and county law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

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

works in it. “We can not escape history,” Lincoln rightly said. “[It] will light us down in honor or dishonor, to the latest generation.” Abraham Lincoln, Second Annual Message to Congress (Dec. 1, 1862).

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

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

Here's why:

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

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

HB 2540/HB 1886 are limited, focused means to achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawai'i by federal law enforcement. They are a critical piece of our State's preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. This is a small step to returning law enforcement in Hawaii to public scrutiny and legal accountability. Masking “isn't about any typical policing concerns, such as safety. It's about a symbol – a way to wear utter contempt for democratic institutions and the rule of law right there on your face.”[\[3\]](#) We are all less safe when masked agents terrorize

our streets. When the people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. The lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community members. Moreover, not only does this lack of identification make it difficult to identify the perpetrators of constitutional violations, community terror, and aggressive, illegal tactics.

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

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

Respectfully,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina

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

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

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

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:14:59 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Glen Kagamida	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

STRONG OPPOSE!!!!

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 1:56:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Brian Huffman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB2540, which advances transparency, accountability, and public trust in law enforcement while protecting the civil rights of all people in Hawai‘i.

HB2540 addresses two deeply connected issues that affect community safety and confidence in public institutions: clear officer identification and limits on civil immigration interrogation during routine encounters.

First, requiring visible identification for law enforcement officers is a basic but essential accountability measure. When officers clearly display identifying information, it promotes professionalism, deters misconduct, and allows for appropriate follow-up when questions or concerns arise. Identification requirements protect both the public and officers by ensuring clarity during interactions and reinforcing standards of conduct. In an era when trust between communities and law enforcement is fragile, transparency is not optional—it is foundational.

Second, HB2540 wisely prohibits law enforcement officers from prolonging stops or detentions solely to inquire into a person’s civil immigration status. This safeguard reduces the risk of racial or ethnic profiling and prevents unnecessary and harmful detentions. Civil immigration enforcement is not the responsibility of state or county law enforcement, and diverting limited resources toward it undermines public safety rather than enhancing it.

When individuals fear that any interaction with law enforcement could lead to immigration questioning or prolonged detention, they are less likely to report crimes, cooperate as witnesses, or seek help in emergencies. This fear harms entire communities and makes everyone less safe. By setting clear limits, HB2540 ensures that law enforcement encounters remain focused on their legitimate purpose and that constitutional protections are respected.

Taken together, these provisions promote accountability, uphold civil liberties, and strengthen community trust—outcomes that benefit law enforcement, residents, and the State as a whole.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge you to pass HB2540.

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Brian Huffman



**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:35:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am testifying in support of HB 2540, which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Noelle Lindenmann, Kailua-Kona

Sincerely,

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:40:44 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Georgia L Hoopes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support HB 2540!

Mahalo!

Georgia Hoopes, Kalaheo

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 2:47:53 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Fulton	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair and Members of the Committee,

I strongly support **HB2540**, which would require immigration enforcement officers to remain **visibly identifiable and prohibit face coverings that conceal their identity** while performing official duties in Hawai‘i. This commonsense standard enhances **transparency, accountability, and public safety** for everyone in our community.

**Even the military requires visible name tapes, and police officers are required to display badge numbers and agency identification.**

If those standards apply to armed forces and local law enforcement, there is no justification for immigration enforcement officers operating while concealing their identities in any way. **Transparency and accountability are baseline requirements of legitimate authority**, not optional features.

Allowing officers to wear masks, balaclavas, or other facial coverings that obscure their identity erodes **trust between law enforcement and the people they are sworn to protect**. In recent years, there have been documented incidents around the country where federal enforcement agents operated while concealing their identity, causing fear and confusion in communities — especially among immigrant families and vulnerable individuals who may already feel unsafe interacting with government authorities.

Visible, unobscured identification — including name, agency, and badge — is fundamental to democratic policing. It enables members of the public to **confirm the legitimacy of an officer, seek redress if rights are violated, and report misconduct without fear**. In Hawai‘i’s multicultural and multiracial communities, where people come from diverse backgrounds and histories, such transparency is especially crucial to ensuring that all residents feel protected rather than targeted.

This bill also strengthens the rule of law by making enforcement actions more consistent with constitutional protections, due process, and community expectations of openness and fairness. When officers are accountable and identifiable, respect for civil rights is reinforced, not undermined.

For these reasons, I urge your **strong support of HB2540** to ensure that immigration enforcement in our state is conducted in a manner that inspires trust, respects human dignity, and protects all residents.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:24:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
mary santa maria	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Committee on ECD,

I support HB 2540. Making it illegal for ICE raid officers to Mask up as they make arrest, make those officers responsible and add of layer of accountability.

Respectfully

M. Santa Maria

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 3:58:56 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in support of HB2540.

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

Mahalo for your consideration.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:05:16 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
DIANNE WINTER BROOKINS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Dianne Winter Brookins

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:08:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kristen Kelly	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

NO SECRET POLICE!!!

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:20:24 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:27:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Inge Detlefsen	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We need federal officers and specifically, ICE accountability and this cannot happen when agents are masked and have no identifying information. We cannot trust masked people that don't identify themselves. It's scary.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 4:39:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Julie Uyeno-Pidot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee,**

**I am submitting testimony in strong support of HB 2540: Relating to Law Enforcement. If state and county law enforcement agents are required (with few exceptions) to keep their faces uncovered, present valid identification, and use properly marked vehicles when interacting with the public, then so should federal law enforcement agents. This will increase the accountability of these agents, who have a duty to uphold the law, rather than transgress it. Currently, we have seen many examples of federal law enforcement transgressions, in which Immigration and Customs Enforcement and Customs and Border Protection agents have engaged in illegal and immoral activities, including racial profiling and using excessive force.**

**Psychological studies have shown that anonymity—such as the type created by face coverings and lack of proper credentials—often results in cruelty. This is due to the lack of accountability that people feel when they cannot be identified by others. When people feel like they can escape punishment, they are more likely to engage in harmful and disruptive behavior. This type of misconduct is not welcome anywhere, but especially not in the State of Hawai‘i, where we have a large immigrant population. Immigrants—regardless of status—work hard, pay taxes, and enrich our community in numerous ways. They deserve to be treated with respect, by law enforcement or anyone else they encounter.**

**Please vote in favor of this bill.**

**Mahalo,  
Julie Uyeno-Pidot**

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 5:08:07 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daphne Loren	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

**Daphne Loren**

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:46:15 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ken Stover	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**support**

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 6:46:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Nancy J. Budd	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To:** Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

**Re:** SUPPORT **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540**

**Hearing:** Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Nancy J. Budd and I submit this testimony in **strong support** of **HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540**. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process and transparency. It is critical that our state provide these protections so all of our citizens, including vulnerable immigrant and mixed-status families in particular, can access essential services without fear and survivors can seek help and safely cooperate with authorities.

State and county participation in civil immigration enforcement near sensitive locations such as schools, health care facilities, libraries, shelters, and courts must be prohibited. People must be able to safely access education, health care, emergency services and courts without fear. Every day we see masked and violent federal “agents” attacking and abducting people, including minors, on streets, at schools and as they enter court buildings to attend hearings. This must stop.

Secretive or masked enforcement undermines due process and public trust. Transparency is essential to constitutional accountability—especially for immigrant communities.

287(g) programs lead to racial profiling, unlawful detention, and fear of law enforcement. Ending deputization keeps local resources focused on community safety—not federal immigration enforcement.

No one should be questioned by immigration authorities without understanding their rights. The TRUTH Act ensures consent, language access, and transparency—core principles of due process.

A single extra day in a sentence can trigger mandatory detention or deportation under federal law. This reform promotes proportional sentencing and prevents unnecessary family separation.

Survivors should never be punished for seeking help. Standardized policies ensure survivors can report crimes safely, support law enforcement investigations and prosecutions, and access the protections guaranteed under federal law.

Together, these bills

- Protect families from separation
- Strengthen public safety
- Increase trust in public institutions
- Uphold essential constitutional rights and due process
- Affirm Hawaii's commitment to dignity and justice for all

I respectfully urge you to **PASS** these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
**Nancy J. Budd**

**Kaua'i Resident, attorney, and former Hawaii Board of Education member**

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:02:27 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Tacker	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB2540. ICE officers should not patrol with masks, and badge numbers hidden. It's dangerous to be confronted by someone that I can not identify as a legitimate officer of the government because as far as I'm concerned they could be bad actors that mean me harm.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:14:07 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

I am writing in strong support of HB2540/HB1886 both as a Lahaina resident and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN), to ban extreme masking by law enforcement, require officers visibly identify themselves, and limit state and county law enforcement cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

And there's the issue of masks. This Court has listened carefully to the reasons given by Öztürk's captors for masking- up and has heard the same reasons advanced by the defendant Todd Lyons, Acting Director of ICE. It rejects this testimony as disingenuous, squalid and dishonorable. **ICE goes masked for a**

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

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

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

Here's why:

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

military “fought and died for the men [they] marched among.” Frank Loesser, “The Ballad of Roger Young”, LIFE, 5 March 1945, at 117.

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

HB 2540/HB 1886 are limited, focused means to achieve greater transparency and provide a means of accountability for any injury or harm which may be inflicted on the people of Hawai'i by federal law enforcement. They are a critical piece of our State's preparations for dealing with a lawless federal government. This is a small step to returning law enforcement in Hawaii to public scrutiny and legal accountability. Masking “isn't about any typical policing concerns, such as safety. It's about a symbol – a way to wear utter contempt for democratic institutions and the rule of law right there on your face.”[\[3\]](#) We are all less safe when masked agents terrorize our streets. When the people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. The lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community members. Moreover, not only does this lack of identification make it difficult to identify the perpetrators of constitutional violations, community terror, and aggressive, illegal tactics.

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

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

Respectfully,

Jason Lewis, Lahaina, Hawai'i

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

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

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

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 7:55:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

I am writing to submit my personal testimony in *strong* support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures provide essential community safety tools and support due process, transparency AND ACCOUNTABILITY. We owe these guidelines and safeguards to our extensive immigrant community, as well as in support of ourselves and our own personal liberties. All residents, regardless of status, deserve to live in our communities and access essential services without fear.

The Maryland House and Senate gave overwhelming final approval this Tuesday to identical bills that will prohibit agreements between local police and federal immigration agencies, and are likewise working on other bills similar to ours. If they can do it, so can we! I strongly urge you to PASS these measures quickly out of committee and push for them to be also passed in the Senate where appropriate. From there please see they are expeditiously sent to the full legislature for emergency approval and forwarding to the Governor for signature. Time is of the essence.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

D. K. Lynn  
Honolulu

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:16:33 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruta Jordans	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:45:10 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gabrielle Clark	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD

Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540

Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Gabrielle Clark and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I firmly believe that everyone, no matter their country of origin, deserves an equal opportunity to live a safe, happy, healthy life. No one should fear for their safety in the pursuit of this. No one, no child, should go to school wondering if they won't make it back home. No one should avoid treating their health conditions out of fear of being detained. Having protected spaces, law enforcement transparency & accountability, accessible legal information, due process & fair opportunities for visas protects the mental health, physical health, and overall wellbeing of our community members. We would all be better for it.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Gabrielle Clark

O'ahu

[gabbynclark@gmail.com](mailto:gabbynclark@gmail.com) / [clarkgn@hawaii.edu](mailto:clarkgn@hawaii.edu)

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 8:57:31 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kencho Gurung	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Kencho Gurung, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency, so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

We respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Kencho Gurung, Hilo

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:30:58 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Monisha Das Gupta and I strongly support HB2540 / HB 1886 which bans masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. The Trump administration is deploying secret police tactics, including ordering masked law enforcement agencies and military troops into cities. Our law enforcement agencies should not be recruited to support this gross federal overreach. I support the bills because they prevent such abuse.

Honolulu

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:32:12 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this because:

- Requires visible identification and policies that promote accountability and community trust.
- Prohibits prolonging stops to inquire into civil immigration status—reducing risks of profiling and unnecessary detention.

Thank you!

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:36:15 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Lee-Won Fulbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The measures in this bill are extremely important to me as a local Hawaii resident born and raised on Oahu, and to my community. Mahalo for fighting for immigrant justice and the safety of all people here.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:49:00 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yoon-Hi Fulbright	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Immigrant issues are important to me. Please pass this bill.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 9:54:14 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
James Trujillo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

mahalo for hearing this bill  
please pass hb2540 to put guardrails in place to protect citizens' constitutional rights  
thank you for your attention to this matter  
with respect and aloha, . . . jt

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:35:56 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

My name is Joie Yonamine and I strongly support H.B. 2540, which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration enforcement. I am writing as an individual and as a member of Indivisible Hawai‘i.

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Joie Yonamine, Manoa

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 10:45:05 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of HB2540.

Tina Marie Even  
Waikoloa Village

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:29:03 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kelsey Mapa	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! As a community member on Maui, I support this bill because it:

- Requires visible identification and policies that promote accountability and community trust.
- Prohibits prolonging stops to inquire into civil immigration status—reducing risks of profiling and unnecessary detention.

Mahalo for your attention to this important matter!

Friday, February 6, 2026 8:30 a.m.  
Conference Room 423 & Videoconference  
State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

**Testimony of Joey Badua In SUPPORT of HB2445**

**Relating to Protected Community Locations**

**Rep. Ilagan**, Chair

**Rep. Hussey**, Vice Chair

**Committee on Economic Development and Technology**

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the Committee,

My name is **Joey Badua** and I submit testimony in **strong support of H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886**.

**I have seen posts online of a note on an electric pole**, and no one knows who put it there. The anonymity of whoever posted it resembles the problem behind extreme masking by law enforcement which breeds distrust and eventually violence. Officers should visibly be identified because their responsibility gives them the authority to deprive individuals of liberty. Also, **H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886** limits state and county law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement which allows us to protect the people of Hawai'i.

Additionally, if ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials cannot properly identify these masked individuals, there would be confusion. It is important for the community to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm *we the people*. It also makes it difficult to identify who is behind operations that may employ aggressive tactics, result in constitutional violations, or cause community harm. Our state and local policies should ensure our law enforcement agencies do the right thing and keep families together. It is everyone's responsibility to protect our neighbors' right to live without fear. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Respectfully,

*Joey Badua*

*PO Box 29724*

*Honolulu, HI 96820*

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/4/2026 11:48:41 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

If police and soldiers can show their faces, so can ICE.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:05:34 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dyson Chee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB2540.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 1:45:19 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daryl Takeno	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in support of HB2540/HB1886

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

My name is Daryl Takeno, and I am an attorney licensed to practice in the State of Hawaii and have a private practice that focuses on U.S. immigration law. I strongly support H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886, which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

As the public has witnessed in recent weeks in Minneapolis, Minnesota, the Trump administration has unleashed thousands of masked ICE agents to the city to racially profile and intimidate minority communities. Their invasion of that city has already led to the killing by ICE officers of two white U.S. citizens, Renee Good and Alex Pretti, neither of whom presented a danger to the ICE officers involved and whom were at the time, engaging in conduct protected by the First Amendment. It should now be clear to everyone that the purpose of the violent tactics employed by ICE is not to protect the public from “immigrant rapists and murderers,” but to provoke riots and chaos so that the Trump administration can arrogate even more power to itself under the guise of a self-created emergency. There is now ample evidence that the real people we should be fearing are not bogeyman immigrants, but these out-of-control federal agents who feel like they can operate outside of the law with impunity.

The signature look of these federal agents has been their face masks, which the Department of Homeland Security asserts is necessary to protect the safety of their agents, and lack of identification on their clothing. Considering the Federal government’s lack of cooperation with local law prosecutors investigating the deaths of Ms. Goode and Mr. Pretti, however, and the administration’s attempts to smear the victims after they were murdered, the real motive behind the masks appears to be to protect agents from accountability when they commit extra-constitutional acts. Their menacing cosplay together with their violent tactics are clearly meant to intimidate communities, not provide them with the safety the purport to provide.

As an attorney who regularly works with immigrants, I have heard of incidents of local police working with ICE at DUI checkpoints and driving around with ICE agents while on patrol. While such incidents may not be widespread, cooperation with ICE will unfortunately cause the public to lose trust in local police and distract the police from their core mission of protecting

their communities. I support this legislation because we should not be spending our tax dollars to have local police assist the Trump administration create a police state in which even U.S. citizens feel that they must carry their “papers” with them so that they can feel safe walking down the street.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Daryl Takeno

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 6:28:18 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Barbara Polk	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and members of the committee

I strongly support HB2540 to ban the use of face masks by law enforcement officers. Even the Gestapo in Germany did not feel the need to wear face masks. The only reason I can think of to wear one is when one is knowingly breaking a law and doesn't want to be held responsible. Bandits, bank robbers, brutal gangs extracting vengeance, the KKK--these are the people who have traditionally hidden their faces. I believe that if ICE agents and others law enforcement officers could be easily identified, they would behave more lawfully.

In addition, the current use of face masks by law enforcement officers makes it impossible to know, in any given situation, whether it IS an official behind the mask, or a common criminal gang. Eliminating the use of face masks, or any other means to obscure identity should not happen in a democratic society.

I urge you to pass HB2540.

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:02:41 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kevin J Block	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kevin Block and I submit testimony on behalf of myself and my law firm, Maui Immigration Law, LLC, in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540.

Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I have been deep in the trenches, helping the immigrant community through direct representation, advocacy and policy work for over a decade.

We have reached a dangerous point in our country because ICE is surging its membership and conducting illegal, extra judicial raids on our citizens with no oversight and no guardrails. We have seen legal immigrants and US citizens swept up in their rush to carry out thier quotas and this has resulted in a situation that puts our community in danger.

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kevin Block, Attorney at Law

Maui Immigration Law, LLC

Email: kevin@immigrationlawmaui.com

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:41:57 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alyce Dodge	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in **support** of HB2540/HB1886

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

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

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

We are all less safe when masked agents are in our streets. When people fear law enforcement, they are less likely to report crimes, seek help, or cooperate with law enforcement. Additionally, the lack of identification makes it difficult for ordinary people, local law enforcement, and public officials to differentiate genuine law enforcement actions from impersonators exploiting the situation to harm our community members. We remember Minnesota State Representative Melissa Hortman and her husband, who were killed by a the law enforcement imposter. Difficulties in identifying the few agents who employ aggressive tactics that result in constitutional violations and cause community harm, **make all law enforcement look bad.**

Law enforcement officers are public servants, who are paid with our tax dollars. We need to remember that their role is to serve the community and make things safer for everyone, not to terrorize and disrupt people who are going about their daily lives legally.

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Alyce Dodge

Oahu, Honolulu

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:57:52 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Gorman-Chang	Individual	Support	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

HB 1886/HB2540

February 5, 2026

Dear Chair Ilagan, Vice-Chair Hussey & Committee Members,

My name is Susan Gorman-Chang, and I strongly support HB 2540/HB 1886 which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

We have seen what masking of ICE agents does, for example, in Minnesota. There are many scientific studies that document the impact of agents being masked and its impact *not only* on the public but *on the masked agent themselves*.

A recent Psychology Today article states, “One of the strongest and most replicable findings in the field of social psychology is quite simple: When people's identities are downplayed, their likelihood of engaging in antisocial behavior—behavior that hurts others—increases. In a deep dive into this issue (in his book *The Lucifer Effect*), renowned late behavioral scientist Phil Zimbardo (2007) provided evidence of this fact from dozens of studies. The bottom line is pretty clear: If you want people to be nasty to one another and to treat one another inhumanely, hide their identities.”

**“When someone hides their face, they also hide their humanity. Psychologists have long known that anonymity leads to deindividuation. Masks mean the loss of self-awareness and personal responsibility.** In [Philip Zimbardo’s infamous 1972 Stanford Prison Experiment](#), participants who wore uniforms and mirrored sunglasses were far more likely to commit acts of cruelty.”

Jeremy Polluck, a social psychologist and conflict and de-escalation expert states, “This doesn’t mean masks automatically make officers violent, but anonymity can lower the mental brakes that normally slow people down,” he said. “When officers are clearly identifiable, they know their actions can be reviewed later.” Pollack says that **when masked officers operate in groups while carrying out orders, it reduces individual visibility, diffuses responsibility and strengthens an in-group “we versus them” mentality.**”

Masking of any law enforcement personnel, especially ICE agents, has no place in our state of Aloha. In Chapter 5 of the Hawai'i revised statute,

- "**Aloha**" is more than a word of greeting or farewell or a salutation.
- "**Aloha**" means mutual regard and affection and extends warmth in caring with no obligation in return.
- "**Aloha**" is the essence of relationships in which each person is important to every other person for collective existence.

Please help preserve our Aloha for every individual, regardless of status, by passing HB 1886/  
HB 2540

Susan Gorman-Chang

Ewa Beach, HI

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:58:39 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yvette Kay	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Yvette Kay and I am a resident of Kailua-Kona. My address is 77-356 Ainanani Street, Kailua-Kona, HI 96740.

I support HB2540. No law enforcement officer should be allowed to wear facial coverings or masks. Writen policies must be clear. IDs must be worn. The constitution must be upheld.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:07:19 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gail Larson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for introducing this bill.

Not only should we have laws about officers and facial coverage. They need to have consequences.

They need to be held accountable for breaking laws like the rest of us.

Please pass this bill!

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:27:02 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
janet Matlock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Law enforcement officers, in most cases, should not be acting in secret. Masking creates fear and uncertainty, not support and compliance. Please prohibit the use of facial coverings and require visible identification by law enforcement officers and their vehicles in the performance of their duties.

Please require state and county law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding state and county cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement.

Prohibit our law enforcement officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status, which is irrelevant to the reason for the stop.

Provide for consequence for the use of improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

Keep our residents safe.

Mahalo,

janet Matlock

Kailua Kona

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:29:40 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kiara Womack	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 8:34:08 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Peter Matlock	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: 2540

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

My name is Peter Matlock (Hawai'i Island resident) and I strongly support H.B. 2540, which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement's cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

Federal agents are acting unlawfully and denying people their due process rights, which any reasonable person recognizes as the reason DHS fights so hard to retain their ability to hide identities.

We are all safer and we are a better community when law enforcement follows the law, there is accountability, and there is trust between law enforcement and the community.

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

Please approve 2540.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Peter Matlock

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:18:30 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Corinne Solomon	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose HB2540. Our law enforcement officers deserve to be able to protect themselves from being doxxed, their privacy should be a priority.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:19:24 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jenna Khan-Gates	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
 Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540  
 Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jenna Khan-Gates, and I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

I support HB2540 because it:

- Requires visible identification and policies that promote accountability and community trust.
- Prohibits prolonging stops to inquire into civil immigration status—reducing risks of profiling and unnecessary detention.

We respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jenna Khan-Gates

O'ahu resident

jennakhan7@gmail.com

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:27:13 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Laurie Anne Bell	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The safety of ICE is threatened by people doxing and threatening their families. They must be protected.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:36:21 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jonathan Simonds	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support HB2540 for transparency in law-enforcement.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:32:23 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Christian Kaakua	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**My name is Christian Kaakua, and I am a student in high school from Oahu, testifying in support of HB2540, advocating that federal law enforcement officers ought to be prohibited from wearing face coverings in public as a means for concealing their identity.**

**Not only as a kid, but as a citizen, I am horrified every single day when I watch the news. I see innocent people, mothers, children, and American citizens being unjustly taken off the streets. There is no basis for the actions of ICE. I am disturbed, disgusted, and terrified at the thought of what it means to live in America. As an Asian-American and Native Hawaiian, I realize I don't look like the majority of Americans, and I'm scared of what that could mean for me, given the current actions of ICE. I hope to move to the continent when I graduate from high school, yet I'm seriously reconsidering those plans because I do not feel safe here with the illicit actions of ICE.**

**For these reasons, this bill, HB2540, ought to be passed.**

**Thank you for your consideration.**

Feb. 5, 2026

To: Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of ECD  
Re: SUPPORT HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, HB2540  
Hearing: Friday, Feb 6, 2026 — 8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

Apologies for somewhat belated testimony – household emergencies yesterday.

My name is John M. Knox, a retired socio-economic consultant and longtime Waimānalo resident. I submit testimony on behalf of myself in strong support of HB1838, HB1870, HB2445, HB1886, HB1839, and HB2540. Together, these measures strengthen community safety, due process, and transparency—so immigrant and mixed-status families can access essential services without fear, and survivors can seek help and cooperate with authorities safely.

When I was a boy, there was a TV show that took us back to the “thrilling days of yesteryear” when the Lone Ranger was a roving masked knight fighting for the good. The show often ended with grateful townsfolk asking, “Who was that masked man?” Today, that question is still being asked, but no longer gratefully. Transparency and humanity must be restored to law enforcement – ironically, by better laws!

I respectfully urge you to PASS these measures. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

John M. Knox  
Waimānalo  
Johnmknox808@gmail.com

## COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TECHNOLOGY

Rep. Greggor Ilagan, Chair

Rep. Ikaika Hussey, Vice Chair

### HEARING:

Friday, February 6, 2026 at 8:30 am | VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE | Conference Room 423

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

### TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT - HB 2540, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT.

Chair Ilagan, Vice Chair Hussey, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews and I am a long-term resident of Wailuku, Maui. I am also an attorney licensed in the state of Hawaii for over 25 years and a founding coalition member of El Pueblo en Acción (EPA) Maui — The People in Action Maui. I am writing in **strong support of HB2540**, which prohibits, with certain exceptions, facial coverings by law enforcement agencies to establish policies regarding cooperation with federal civil immigration enforcement; prohibits officers from prolonging a stop to inquire about a person's civil immigration status; and establishes criminal offenses for improper facial coverings, lack of visible identification, and unauthorized civil immigration interrogation.

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

The images we see on the news and social media of aggressive, untrained, and violent unmasked, unbadged persons attacking citizens and noncitizens alike is eroding trust in law enforcement and our government. In my capacity as a volunteer educator, I have heard concerns that victims of sexual and domestic violence, some of our most vulnerable community members, are afraid to call local law enforcement for assistance because they now do not trust law enforcement. I have heard from health care providers that fear of lawless, violent, unmasked and unidentified persons is making people afraid to leave their homes to seek necessary medical care.

As a lawyer with an understanding of the Constitution and who has taken an oath to uphold it and the rule of law, what I am witnessing nationwide is chilling. Seeing images of the murder of people engaged in lawful, constitutionally-protected activity has impacted my mental health. As a woman and mother, I am afraid of being targeted by unmasked, unbadged government

agents or imposters. I am afraid that they will take my picture and find out who I am, where I live, and come to my house and harm not just myself but my loved ones. Just yesterday during a training I was conducting, an audience member asked what constitutional observers like me can do to protect themselves from being targeted by federal agents. I said that there really is not much we can do other than rely on our community, document the truth, and hope that the courts and the law will protect us as we peaceably engage in constitutionally-protected activity. Our fear is justified based on the unlawful and violent behavior we are witnessing from federal agents. That is why bills like this are so important.

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

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

**I request that you support HB 2540** and help restore rule of law, instill respect on the part of law enforcement, and rebuild trust in government.

Thank you for siding with your community on this issue.

Mahalo,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

Volunteer Know Your Rights Educator and Constitutional Observer

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 12:41:42 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cynthia Groves	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:05:38 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kyle Phillips Ramsvig	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Kyle Phillips and I live in Kailua. I am writing today to support this bill. With the exception of N-95 masks that protect from the spread of infectious diseases, there is no reasonable argument for the covering of a law enforcement officer's face. Law enforcement works for the people and for the government and as such, needs to be identified and identifiable. For women and children in particular, it is incredibly unsafe to allow masked men to roam the streets stopping people without proper identification in the name of "law enforcement".

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 2:12:37 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Leyna Lochard	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

House Bill 2540 Relating to Law Enforcement. Testimony by Leyna Lochard.

Good day Chairperson Greggor Ilagan, Vice Chair Ikaika Hussey, and committee members Daniel Holt, Adrian K. Tam, Shirley Ann Templo, Kyle T. Yamashita, and Joe Gedeon. I strongly support this bill as it will lessen the fear many citizens have around law enforcement officers. As a teen whose mother is a legal immigrant, it is difficult thinking that she might not come home from work one day because a law enforcement officer profiles her as an illegal immigrant. I am also fearful of being profiled or harassed by law enforcement officers if they start prolonging a stop to ask questions of my citizenship status. If this bill passes, it will not only make my family feel safer, but it will also make countless other individuals feel safer as well. Once again, I am in full support of this bill and urge you all to pass this bill as it will make many people feel safer when interacting with law enforcement officers.

I would like to thank you all again for the opportunity to testify in favor of this bill.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 5:28:06 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
ANDREW ISODA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

**Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.**

**Sincerely,**

Andrew Isoda  
Lahaina, Mau'i

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 7:12:39 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ann Dorsey	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

I urge you to **support [H.B. 2540 / H.B. 1886]**, which bans extreme masking by law enforcement, requires that officers visibly identify themselves, and limits state and county law enforcement’s cooperation with federal immigration enforcement.

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

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

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

This legislation is a step towards real community safety and trust. It is our advantage to protect our neighbors’ right to live without fear.

Thank you

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:07:19 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Meadow Dawn Stassens	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Meadow Dawn Stassens

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:24:26 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support HB 2540 because we do not want to see the intimidation, fear, lack of due process caused by ICE agents wearing masks and not displaying any ID. HB 2540 establishes necessary restrictions on Immigration enforcement activity occurring in sensitive places such as schools, place of worship, and health care facilities. Yes, these should be safe places for all.

It is vital to support HB 2540.

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:31:28 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Maria Welvaert	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB2540

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 9:40:29 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jahnavi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Jahnvi Richter Stassens

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/5/2026 10:51:08 PM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nancy Manglallan-Yang	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

We cannot allow ICE officers to parade as a secret police. They must be forced to identify themselves and held to the same standards as all other law officers. Or else anyone can just pretend to be an officer and not be held accountable

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 5:23:34 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
maile nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

No secret police!

Show aloha

**HB-2540**

Submitted on: 2/6/2026 7:36:01 AM

Testimony for ECD on 2/6/2026 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jason Nakano	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,  
Jason Nakano