



Committee: Judiciary  
Hearing Date/Time: Thursday, February, 26 2026 at 10:00am  
Place: Conference Room 016 & Videoconference  
Re: **Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 2145 Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities**

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

The American Civil Liberties Union of Hawai'i (ACLU-HI) **supports** SB2145 which establishes the right of a person to record law enforcement activities and a private right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities.

Courts have long recognized filming law enforcement activities in public as a right protected by the First Amendment. This bill reaffirms that right in the Hawai'i Revised Statutes and also provides for a right of private action when a law enforcement officer unlawfully interferes with this right.

Taking photographs and videos of things that are plainly visible in public spaces is a constitutional right. This includes police and other government officials carrying out their duties. The right to record law enforcement is a critical First Amendment right. According to the ACLU National: “every federal circuit to consider the right to record—seven out of 13 circuits—has held that this right clearly exists, and most have specified that it applies to law enforcement.”<sup>1</sup>

Recording and livestreaming interactions is a critical tool for communities that are over-policed and disproportionately targeted by law enforcement because it often serves as the only “proof” that police misconduct has occurred.<sup>2</sup> However, we continue to see the Trump administration violate this right.

Perhaps more than any other time in recent memory, the public’s right to record the activities of law enforcement is vitally important. While the federal administration

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<sup>1</sup> Tewari, Shreya. (2022, August 23). *Arizona’s New Law Banning People from Recording Police Violates our First Amendment Rights*. ACLU. <https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/arizonas-new-law-banning-people-from-recording-police-violates-our-first-amendment-rights>

<sup>2</sup> Tewari, Shreya. (2021, November 22). *Livestreaming Police is a Critical First Amendment Right*. ACLU. <https://www.aclu.org/news/free-speech/livestreaming-police-is-a-critical-first-amendment-right>

continues to challenge the rule of law, everyone must have the right to hold law enforcement officers accountable for actions that may be unlawful.

This bill not only reaffirms the necessity of this free speech protection but also reaffirms the legal protection and the right to bring an action against any law enforcement officer for violating this right.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

**Josh Frost**

Josh Frost

Policy Assistant

ACLU of Hawai'i

[jfrost@acluhawaii.org](mailto:jfrost@acluhawaii.org)

*The mission of the ACLU of Hawai'i is to protect the fundamental freedoms enshrined in the U.S. and State Constitutions. The ACLU of Hawai'i fulfills this through legislative, litigation, and public education programs statewide. 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 Hawai'i for over 50 years.*



Senate Committee on Judiciary

Thursday, February 26, 2026, 10 AM Hearing in Conference Room 016 on  
SB 2145, SD1 Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities

TESTIMONY

Douglas Meller, Legislative Committee, League of Women Voters of Hawaii

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Committee Members:

**The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of SB 2145, SD1.** Almost no one voluntarily admits that their behavior was inappropriately abusive or violent. Video recordings can be used to prove what was actually said and done. That is why the public should have a right to record law enforcement activities and file lawsuits to protect this right. However, we lack expertise to comment on appropriate statutory drafting.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair

Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

DECISION MAKING:

Thursday, February 26, 2026 at 10:00 am

Conference Room 016 & Videoconference

**TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2145 RELATING TO RECORDINGS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**

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

Roots Reborn **strongly supports** SB2145 which establishes the right of a person to record law enforcement activities and a private right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities.

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 El Pueblo en Acción Maui (EPA Maui)—“The People in Action 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 50 volunteer observers in verification, de-escalation, and peaceful documentation

Our experience has confirmed what research and common sense tell us: when federal agents know they are being observed, the rights of community members are more likely to be protected.

Taking photographs and videos in public spaces, including recording law enforcement officers carrying out their duties, is a constitutional right protected by the First Amendment. SB 2145 reaffirms that right at the state level by



codifying it in Hawai'i Revised Statutes and provides a meaningful remedy when law enforcement unlawfully interferes with it.

Our EPA Maui volunteer observers are trained to verify and document federal enforcement activity in public spaces, including through recording, as the First Amendment allows. They do this work because transparency protects everyone.

The deaths of Renee Good and Alex Pretti at the hands of federal agents in Minneapolis have deeply shaken our volunteers. These two observers and community members were doing the same kind of constitutionally protected work our observers do. The video of their deaths is chilling. And the only reason their story is being told at all is because other volunteer observers were present to document what happened.

It is the violation of constitutional rights by federal agents — not the act of observing — that puts people like our volunteers at risk. Not only of having their rights infringed, but of bodily harm or death. Despite these dangers, EPA Maui volunteers remain committed to protecting our community members and ensuring that government activity in public spaces is documented. That is why we urge you to **support SB 2145**.

Please help us protect the protectors.

Mahalo nui, and in honor of Renee Good and Alex Pretti,

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

Veronica Mendoza  
Roots Reborn Founding Executive Director  
EPA Maui Coalition Member

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 7:26:18 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill. Recording law enforcement activities is an important safeguard for assuring proper conduct by our law enforcement. Recordation is a truth-telling device that should assist in determinations of whether law enforcement is acting legally or not.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:20:16 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for hearing SB2145.

a member of Indivisible Hawaii

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:55:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

As a retired police officer, I believe citizens have the right to record law enforcement activities in public from a safe distance. No professional police officer should object to their work being recorded.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 8:59:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 9:08:26 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

I strongly support SB2145. This bill affirms a simple but essential principle in a democratic society: when government officials exercise public power, the public has the right to observe and document that exercise, so long as they do not interfere with legitimate law enforcement duties. SB2145 carefully balances both interests.

The right to record law enforcement activity is grounded in transparency, accountability, and public trust. Across the country, courts have increasingly recognized that recording police in public spaces is protected activity. By clearly codifying this right in Hawai'i law, SB2145 provides clarity to residents and officers alike, reducing confusion and preventing unnecessary conflict in already tense situations.

Importantly, the bill does not create a right to interfere. It explicitly preserves existing criminal laws prohibiting obstruction and physical interference. It also provides an affirmative defense where an officer had probable cause under Chapter 710. This ensures officers can continue to perform their duties safely and effectively while protecting peaceful observers.

The private right of action is equally important. Rights without remedies are often hollow. Providing a clear enforcement mechanism, along with reasonable attorney's fees, ensures that constitutional protections are meaningful, not theoretical. At the same time, the three-year limitations period and existing judicial oversight guard against frivolous claims.

Transparency protects everyone. Recordings can exonerate officers against false allegations just as they can expose misconduct. They can de-escalate encounters, improve training, and

strengthen public confidence in law enforcement institutions. In communities where trust has eroded, sunlight is not a threat, it is a foundation for rebuilding legitimacy.

Hawai'i has long valued civil liberties, good governance, and community trust. SB2145 reinforces those values in a measured and responsible way.

For these reasons, I respectfully urge the Committee to pass SB2145. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:12:31 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Being able to document and record is our constitutional rights. Shockingly, this bill is even needed, but we need it passed so desperately. Our basic rights and civil liberties are eroding before our eyes.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/23/2026 10:56:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Darryl Nordstrom

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 2:41:32 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2145.

Mahalo,

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:04:18 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please accept this as testimony in overwhelming support of this bill. Thanks to Apple and other companies, we now have the ability to record events on our phones, small instruments which record earth shattering occurrences. These recordings prove that certain statements are lies.

While most law enforcement officers are honest persons, the Trump administration, from the top down, has proven again that they lie, ICE lies, boarder agents lie, and without the record of what really happened they can get away with their lies. At least two US citizens were murdered in Minneapolis. It is only the recordings made by real people that proved the President and his aides lied. This bill is greatly needed to protect the innocent.

Thanks you Senator Rhoads for introducing it and please move it forward.

Lynne Matusow

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 5:50:29 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

It has been previously determined in courts that recording law enforcement activities without interference is included in our first amendment rights. Please ensure the public's ability to enact our first amendment rights and to keep law enforcement accountable to their actions but passing this bill.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:35:54 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

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

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:55:46 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). SB2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

As recent events have made abundantly clear, one of the only ways that the public has received accurate information regarding the conduct of ICE/CBP is via cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have unabashedly and repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, flagrantly violating our First and Fourth Amendments, going so far as to murder U.S. citizens.

National security policies and practices are most effective when they respect constitutional values and the rule of law and are subjected to stringent oversight as well as public accountability. Yet, the current administration’s militarization of federal agents against the people of our country is an active rejection of the rule of law, and as we have seen, they operate with absolutely no accountability. In fact, federal agents have repeatedly issued threats against people filming them, stealing or “confiscating” phones and cameras. Worse yet, these agents are so empowered to violate our constitutional rights that they have been assaulting those recording their abhorrent and plainly unconstitutional conduct.

Accordingly, SB2145 is vital, providing protection of the public’s right to know and the physical safety of persons against lawless conduct by federal officers. SB2145 is a necessity not only to protect against immigrant abuses but to combat the Trump administration’s authoritarian dogma. Specifically, you will recall that in September of 2025, as part of President Trump’s pattern of abusing his power to target critics through unconstitutional invocations of law enforcement, national security, and financial sanctions authorities, he issued a presidential memorandum authorizing government-wide investigations into non-profits, activists, and their donors and funders, using vague and overbroad labels of “terrorism” and “conspiracy against rights.” This National Security Presidential Memorandum, NSPM-7, called “Countering Domestic Terrorism and Organized Political Violence,” essentially allows the Trump administration to go after *anyone* who disagrees with him and is not devoutly MAGA.

Who are these citizens the Trump administration has categorized as domestic terrorist threats? Anyone with a view that is “anti-Americanism,” “anti-Christianity,” “extremism on migration,” “extremism on race,” “extremism on gender,” or opposition to the good old “traditional

American views on family, religion, and morality.” But as we all should know, having an opinion that differs from the Trump administration is not domestic terror; it is civic duty, and it is protected by the First Amendment. This NSPM-7 flies in the face of our First Amendment rights and the use of local law enforcement to affect this aggressive attack on liberty must be rejected.

Hima Shamsi, Director of the ACLU’s National Security Project, issued the following statement in response to Trump’s memorandum:

Working from a fever dream of conspiracies, President Trump has launched yet another effort to investigate and intimidate his critics.

After one of the most harrowing weeks for our First Amendment rights, the President is invoking political violence, which we all condemn, as an excuse to target non-profits and activists with the false and stigmatizing label of ‘domestic terrorism.’ This is a shameful and dangerous move. But the President cannot rewrite the Constitution by memo.

Intimidation tactics against those standing up for human rights and civil liberties are sadly not new in the history of this country. In an earlier era, civil rights movement leaders were also labeled security threats and investigated, monitored, threatened, and even arrested. True strength in this country comes not from political leaders engaged in fearmongering and political vendettas, but from our vibrant civil society, activists, and communities steadfastly pursuing the goals of equality, fairness, and democracy for all.<sup>[1]</sup>

It is up to us to ensure that our bastion principle of “liberty and justice for all” is more than just words that children mindlessly recite every morning. I thank you for your commitment to maintaining our constitutional rights and urge you to move forward with SB2145 in furtherance of your civic onus to protect our fragile democracy.

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

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<sup>[1]</sup> ACLU Statement on the Trump Administration’s Memorandum Targeting Political Opponents, Sep. 25, 2025, ret. <https://www.aclu.org/press-releases/aclu-statement-on-the-trump-administrations-memorandum-targeting-political-opponents>

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 9:59:24 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support SB2145 both personally and as a member of Indivisible Hawaii Statewide.

Mahalo.

Elizabeth Kamida

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:24:37 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

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

Gail Morrison

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 10:25:59 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill, reiterating the right to record federal agents, including ICE and CBP, and their activities and providing a private right of action for violations.

Recording public officials performing their duties in public spaces is protected by the First Amendment and is essential to transparency and accountability. Clear statutory protections will reduce confusion, and ought to prevent unnecessary conflict of federal agents escalating situations and using force against citizens for exercising these rights.

Providing a private right of action ensures this right is meaningful and enforceable. Accountability strengthens public confidence and protects community members.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:05:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

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

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:22:52 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha Legislators,

I am writing in strong support of SB2145, which would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

This is needed because for weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

Mahalo for receiving my testimony.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:31:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for protecting the rights of people to record law enforcement activities. Please establish protocol for any violations of those rights.

Mahalo

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:31:02 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

in support

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:38:40 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2145. I will make this short.

It is essential for the general citizenry to be able to express their right to record law enforcement activities. It protects both the public and officers involved. Win/win!

DeWaine Tollefsrud Kea'au, HI

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 11:55:12 AM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 12:50:23 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

In Support of SB2145

Dear Chair Fukunaga, Vice Chair Lee, and Members of the Senate Public Safety and Military Affairs Committee,

People have a clear First Amendment constitutional right to record law enforcement in the performance of their official duties. This right must be protected and is under attack.

I also support bill because it provides people with a private right of action if their right to record is unjustly infringed.

We have seen that it is only the public's ability to document governmental overreach and misconduct that brings any measure of transparency and accountability.

Thank You for your attention!

Addie Berliner

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:03:35 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 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 SB2145. I support codifying into law a policy which stipulates that people have the right to record and film law enforcement activity and that if that right is violated, that the aggrieved party has the civil right to sue. I believe recording law enforcement in a nonviolent manner is free speech and should be protected. Mahalo for your consideration.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:13:38 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

While clear in case law, the current regime has ignored all precedents, making this bill a requirement. Easy. Put it directly into law. And all are protected. Strongly support.

Terry McDonald

and

Indvisible East Hawai'i

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:22:24 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

This bill creates a private right of action for individuals whose recording rights are violated, allowing them to seek damages, injunctive relief, and attorney's fees, which deters abuse and empowers citizens to hold law enforcement accountable. By codifying this right into state law, SB2155 reinforces Hawaii's commitment to open government and civil liberties, ensuring that oversight is not left to chance - but protected by law. As an individual and as a member of Indivisible, I support and urge the passage of this bill.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 1:42:02 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Chair and Committee Members,

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal

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

Diane Ware Volcano HI

Eileen Cain  
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635  
eileencaïn808@gmail.com  
February 24, 2026

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

Aloha, Senators,

**I am submitting this testimony in Favor of SB2145, Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities**

We citizens need a law that safeguards our right to record people acting as officers of the law.

**This is far from being a trivial matter.** It is far too easy, as we have seen in the news, for officers, or people acting as officers, to lie about incidents, especially those that involve violence, and to blame the victims of their assaults. So the filming is necessary. **That is the only way that we can see with our own eyes what happened.**

The Hawai'i State Legislature needs enact a law that **protects citizens from retaliation** by such people acting as authorities when they do film such activities. In some areas, retaliation has included threats and even harm to the citizens who were filming.

Human rights must be respected, including the right to record and be free from retaliation.

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

Please protect our rights to know by voting in favor of **SB2145**.

Mahalo,

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

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:26:07 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support this bill standing behind our right to record and document law enforcement activities!

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 3:37:32 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in complete support of SB2145. Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:25:39 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public's right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

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

Aloha, Michael

**SB-2145**

Submitted on: 2/24/2026 4:41:05 PM

Testimony for JDC on 2/26/2026 10:00:00 AM

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

Comments:

**SB2145 RECORDING LAW ENFORCEMENT**

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally and as a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). Senate Bill 2145 would add a new Chapter to the Hawaii Revised Statutes clearly stating the right to record law enforcement in public spaces and establishing a civil right to sue if law enforcement interferes or attempts to interfere with exercise of the right.

For weeks now the public has received accurate information about the conduct of ICE and CBP primarily through cell phone videos taken by civilians present at the scene of events. Federal officials have repeatedly lied about what is happening on the ground, and immigration agents are using excessive force, violating the Fourth and First Amendments and even killing citizens. The violations by federal agents have included threats against people filming them, confiscation of phones and cameras and, shockingly, assaults on those recording the violations. SB2145 will provide as much protection of the public’s right to know and the physical safety of persons as the State can provide against lawless conduct by federal officers.

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

Mary Leigh Knittle