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STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

March 16, 2026

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S.B. No. 2145: RELATING TO RECORDINGS OF LAW ENFORCEMENT

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

The Office of the Public Defender **supports SB 2145**. This measure establishes the right of persons to record law enforcement activities. It also establishes a right of action for violations of said right while still protecting the ability of law enforcement officers to conduct law enforcement activity.

On November 20, 2012, a journalist driving along Haleakala Highway pulled over onto the shoulder of the roadway to investigate an ongoing law enforcement operation. The journalist began filming two Maui Police Department officers who were conducting a traffic stop. After the officers and the journalist engaged in a brief discussion as to where the journalist can stand, the journalist was arrested for interfering with government operations. The journalist was subsequently charged with the offense of failure to comply with a lawful order or direction of a police officer, in violation of HRS § 291C-23, and the offense of disorderly conduct, in violation of HRS § 711-1101(1)(d). Prior to trial, the journalist moved to dismiss the charges because his conduct was protected by the first amendment. After the district dismissed the charges, the prosecuting attorney appealed the dismissal order.

On appeal, the Hawai'i Supreme Court, in State v. Russo, 141 Hawai'i 181, 407 P.3d 137 (2017), held that the journalist's filming of government officials engaged in their duties in a public place is protected by the first amendment rights to free speech and press. The Court noted that numerous jurisdictions have held that the first amendment affords individuals the right to photograph and film police officers in public places. See Glik v. Cunniffe, 655 F.3d (1st Cir. 2011) (promotion of the free discussion of government operations is particularly desirable in the context of law enforcement officials because it may aid in the uncovering of abuses and have a

salutary effect on the functioning of government more generally); Gentile v. State Bar of Nevada, 501 U.S. 1030, 111 S.Ct 2720 (1991) (dissemination of information relating to alleged governmental misconduct” lies “at the core of the First Amendment); Turner v. Lieutenant Driver, 848 F.3d 678 (5th Cir. 2017) (“We agree with every circuit that has ruled on this question: Each has concluded that the First Amendment protects the right to record the police”); Fields v. City of Philadelphia, 862 F.3d 353 (3rd Cir. 2017) (bystanders have a right to record public police activity).

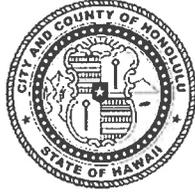
Even though the Hawai‘i and the United States Constitutions and Hawai‘i case law already establish the right of an individual to record law enforcement officers, this measure is necessary to ensure that the individual has the right to maintain custody and control of any recording and of any property or instrument used to record the law enforcement activities. And more importantly, this measure is necessary to secure the individual’s right to bring a cause of action against the offending law enforcement officer and the law enforcement agency. Otherwise, there is nothing to prevent law enforcement from infringing upon the individual’s first amendment rights. Without consequences, law enforcement will continue to unconstitutionally prevent individuals from recording their activities or possibly seize such recordings.

This measure also strikes the appropriate balance between preserving the individual’s constitutional rights without unduly interfering with law enforcement activity. The measure does not allow a person to “engage in actions that physically interfere with law enforcement activity or otherwise constitute a crime under chapter 710” and it is an affirmative defense to a civil action under this section “that the law enforcement officer had probable cause to arrest the person recording the law enforcement activity for a crime under chapter 710 at the time of the law enforcement officer’s conduct.”

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HONOLULU POLICE DEPARTMENT
KA 'OIHANA MĀKA'I O HONOLULU
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

RADE K. VANIC
INTERIM CHIEF
KAHU MĀKA'I KOIKAWA

AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG
BRANDON NAKASATO
INTERIM DEPUTY CHIEFS
NĀ HOPE LUNA NUI MĀKA'I KOIKAWA

OUR REFERENCE **AS-DNK**

March 17, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary
and Hawaiian Affairs
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street, Room 325
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2145, Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities

I am Arnold Sagucio, Acting Major of the Records and Identification Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD opposes Senate Bill No. 2145, Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities.

The HPD understands that government transparency is important to building community trust. However, this bill may cause confusion as it seeks to address activity that is already allowed by existing constitutional law.

In addition, this bill does not protect private property owners' rights to privacy. If this bill is passed, people would be allowed onto private property that is not open to the public, such as someone's home, for the purpose of filming law enforcement activity.

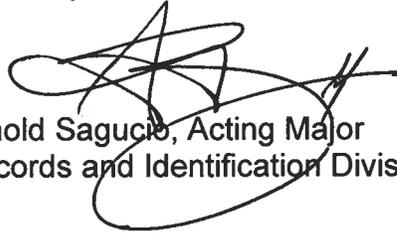
Finally, the HPD would be strongly opposed to the recording of its tactics and law enforcement sensitive training.

The HPD has concerns with the broad and vague language of this bill, which would lead to confusion for the public and result in issues with enforcement.

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
and Members
March 17, 2026
Page 2

The HPD urges you to oppose Senate Bill No. 2145, Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities, and thanks you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,



Arnold Sagocio, Acting Major
Records and Identification Division

APPROVED:



Rade K. Vanic
Interim Chief of Police



House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Tuesday, March 17, 2026, 2 PM Hearing in Conference Room 325 on
SB 2145 Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities

TESTIMONY

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

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

The League of Women Voters of Hawaii supports the intent of SB 2145. 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 wording.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.



MARCH 17, 2026

SENATE BILL 2145

CURRENT REFERRAL: JHA

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

Imua Alliance supports SB 2145, relating to recordings of law enforcement activities, which establishes the right to record law enforcement activities; and establishes a private right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities.

Imua Alliance is a Hawai'i-based organization dedicated to ending sexual exploitation and gender violence, which requires the advancement of civil rights, public safety, and accountability in systems that affect marginalized communities. We strongly support SB 2145, which establishes a clear right to record law enforcement activities and a private right of action when that right is violated.

Recent events underscore why this bill is urgently needed. On January 24, 2026, a 37-year-old man was fatally shot by federal immigration agents in Minneapolis, while bystanders filmed the incident, which has sparked national outrage and protests. Reports indicate he was recording and attempting to assist others during an enforcement operation, and video footage is now central to public understanding and ongoing investigations into the use of force.

This is not an isolated incident. Across the country, videos recorded by community members have revealed excessive force, misconduct, and civil-rights violations that would otherwise have remained hidden. The U.S. Department of Justice and courts have repeatedly recognized that the public has a First Amendment right to record law enforcement officers performing their duties in public. However, individuals who exercise this right still face harassment, intimidation, arrest, and even violence.

This measure is a necessary and proactive step to codify this right in Hawai'i law and provide meaningful remedies when it is violated. Establishing a clear statutory right to record law enforcement activities affirms

transparency, strengthens public trust, and protects journalists and community members who document government actions. Creating a private right of action ensures this right is enforceable, not merely symbolic.

Moreover, this bill is also essential for survivors of violence and marginalized communities, for whom racialized policing is a matter of existential concern woven into the fabric of daily life. Documentation can be critical for accountability in cases involving police misconduct, immigration enforcement, gender-based violence, and protests. When people are afraid to record, abuses can go unchecked and survivors can be silenced.

Public recording is not anti-police. It is pro-democracy. We have a responsibility to protect constitutional rights, strengthen accountability, and ensure that our state remains a leader in civil liberties and democratic governance. In moments of crisis and conflict, the ability to record is often the only way truth reaches the public. Hawai'i should make it clear that documenting government action is not a crime, but an unassailable right afforded to all who call our islands home.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in strong support of this measure.

With aloha,

Kris Coffield

President, Imua Alliance



Cade Watanabe, Financial Secretary-Treasurer

Gemma G. Weinstein, President

Eric W. Gill, Senior Vice-President

March 15, 2026

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

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2145

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Committee Members:

UNITE HERE Local 5 represents 10,000 working people in the hotel, food service and health care industries across Hawaii. The experiences of our sister locals elsewhere in the U.S., including Minneapolis, Los Angeles, and Washington DC, make clear to us that it is necessary to take action to rein in ICE and DHS across the country. There is a great need to hold these agencies accountable.

Filming law enforcement activities in public is a First Amendment right which must be upheld, and which this Legislature is right to reaffirm. The private right of action for violations of this right is a major step toward ensuring that the federal administration takes it seriously.

We do not want our union members, their families, or anyone else in our community to be targeted, terrorized, assaulted, kidnapped, or killed by government agents or anyone else. We do not want their rights to be violated. All people should be treated with respect and dignity.

We urge your support of SB 2145.

Thank you.



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

Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)

Committee: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony in Support of SB2145 – Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities

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

The Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR) writes in strong support of **SB2145**, which establishes the right of individuals to record law enforcement activities and creates a private right of action when that right is violated. The bill's measure status page describes SB2145 as establishing the right to record law enforcement activities and creating a private cause of action for violations of that right.

In a democracy, community members must be able to document what public officials do in public spaces, especially when those interactions can result in detention, use of force, separation of families, or referrals into other enforcement systems. The ability to record law enforcement is a critical safeguard for transparency, accountability, and public trust. When people can document public encounters, they help preserve an accurate record of events and strengthen confidence that public authority is being exercised lawfully and fairly.

For immigrant and migrant communities, and the many local families in Hawai'i that include immigrants, this bill is especially important. People who are limited-English proficient, unfamiliar with their rights, or fearful because of past trauma, profiling, or discriminatory treatment often face heightened intimidation during encounters with law enforcement. In those moments, recording can mean the difference between an unchallengeable narrative and an accurate account. Video evidence has often been the only objective proof when misconduct occurs, and the act of recording itself can deter abuse before it happens.

When the right to record is chilled through threats, retaliation, confiscation of devices, or unlawful orders to stop filming, communities lose a crucial tool for safety and oversight. SB2145 helps ensure that no one is forced to choose between personal safety and the public's right to monitor government conduct. Just as importantly, it creates a practical avenue for remedy if that right is violated.

HCIR supports this measure because accountability depends not only on public oversight, but also on enforceable rights. SB2145 makes clear that people in Hawai'i have the right to document law enforcement activities and that there are consequences when officers unlawfully



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

interfere with that right. That clarity is especially important for communities that are often the least protected and the most heavily impacted by enforcement actions.

For these reasons, the Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights respectfully urges the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs to **PASS SB2145**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of SB2145.

Sincerely,
Liza Ryan Gill

Co-director and Refounder

Hawai‘i Coalition for Immigrant Rights (HCIR)



IN SUPPORT of SB2145/HB2539

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii is in strong support of SB2145/HB2539.
It is one of the most important civil-liberty bills of the 2026 session.

This measure establishes a clear statutory right for every person in Hawaii to record law enforcement activities in public and creates a meaningful private right of action to enforce that right. SB2145/HB2539 codifies the right of any person who is not under arrest or in custody to record law enforcement officers performing their duties in public spaces. It protects the recording device, the footage, and pre-arrest recordings. It provides private civil remedies like actual and punitive damages, attorney's fees, injunctive relief, and declaratory judgment for when officers unlawfully interfere with this right. These are not new rights; they simply uphold the First Amendment of the U.S. and Hawaii's Constitution. This bill removes ambiguity and gives citizens an enforceable tool against abuse.

The people must have the practical means to verify that power is exercised lawfully. Citizen recordings serve as an independent witness that body cameras cannot replace. Clear video evidence protects innocent officers from false accusations just as surely as it deters misconduct from the individual. When officers know they are being recorded, compliance and de-escalation improve dramatically. These limits ensure the measure respects public safety while protecting constitutional rights.

The Libertarian Party of Hawaii urges the committee to pass this bill without substantive weakening amendments. Hawaii deserves clear, enforceable protections to empower citizens, promote accountability, and enable trust between the people and their government. If law enforcement has nothing to hide, it has nothing to fear from this bill.

In liberty,

Abbra Green | LPHI Secretary | LibertarianHawaii.com | (808)824-LPHI

**Testimony of Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association
In SUPPORT of SB2145**

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Wilfredo Tungol, Advocacy Chair of Hawaii Filipino Lawyers Association (HFLA) and we submit this testimony in **support of SB2145**, which establishes the right of every person to record law enforcement activities and creates a private right of action for any violation of that right.

HFLA is concerned about protecting the civil rights of our immigrants in our community. This bill will ensure that those rights are protected and adequate sanctions are provided when there are violations of those rights.

The right to record law enforcement in public is already protected by the First Amendment and by Hawai'i's Constitution—but without a clear enforcement mechanism, violations continue. Officers have seized phones, threatened residents, and destroyed footage, leaving people with no practical remedy. SB2145 fixes this by explicitly codifying the right in state law and establishing meaningful civil remedies, including punitive damages, attorney fees, and injunctive relief, for anyone whose right to record is violated.

This bill also matters deeply for community trust and public safety. Community members—particularly those in immigrant, mixed-status, and other communities who are most vulnerable to enforcement overreach—rely on the ability to document encounters as a critical check on misconduct. When footage can be seized or suppressed, accountability disappears. Clear, enforceable rules protect residents, protect officers acting lawfully, and help ensure that the public can verify what actually happened. SB2145 passed the Senate 5–0, unamended—a strong signal that this is commonsense transparency legislation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2145**.
Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Wilfredo Tungol

HFLA Advocacy Chair

808-387-7412



COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, Rep. Cochran of Maui, 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', written in a cursive style.

Veronica Mendoza

Maui Roots Reborn, *Founding Executive Director*

El Pueblo en Accion Maui, *Founding Coalition Member*



Committee: Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing Date/Time: Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00pm
Place: Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
Re: **Testimony in Support of SB2145 Relating to Recordings of Law Enforcement Activities**

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, 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.”¹

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.² 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

¹ 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>

² 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

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.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 3:30:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

I am writing in **strong support of SB2145**, which would establish a clear statutory right for individuals to record law enforcement activities and create a private right of action for violations of that right. This bill is urgently needed to protect First Amendment activity, ensure accountability, and affirm that transparency is a cornerstone of public safety.

Recent events on the continent underscore why this bill is necessary now. In January, U.S. citizens Renee Good and Alex Pretti were shot and killed by ICE agents in Minneapolis—incidents that were captured on video by numerous bystanders, including Pretti himself before he was killed. In a separate Minnesota incident, criminal charges against two men accused of attacking ICE agents were dismissed after video evidence revealed that agents had lied in their initial complaint; one of the men was shot in the leg, and federal prosecutors acknowledged that newly discovered video evidence was "materially inconsistent" with the allegations. Without video documentation, these acts of violence and misconduct might have remained hidden, and those responsible might never have been held to account.

SB2145 ensures that what happened in Minnesota cannot happen here in the shadows. By establishing an explicit right to record law enforcement—including federal agents operating in our state—this bill puts officers on notice that the public has a right to document their actions. It affirms that recording is a First Amendment activity and creates a private right of action for individuals whose rights are violated, giving everyday people a tool to defend their own ability to serve as witnesses.

This bill strengthens public safety and public trust. When community members can safely and lawfully record law enforcement encounters, it deters misconduct, protects both officers and the public, and provides an objective record of what occurred. It reduces fear and confusion by making clear what is permitted. And it sends a message that in Hawai‘i, we value transparency and accountability over secrecy and impunity.

Opponents have argued that this right is already protected by existing constitutional law. But as the ACLU of Hawai‘i has testified, codifying this right in statute clears up confusion and ensures officers are on notice. A constitutional right that is not understood or respected by those in power is no right at all.

SB2145 is simple, timely, and necessary. I urge you to pass it.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 5:19:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Roger Hamada | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

This bill will help ensure the right of citizens to increase accountability and transparency of the behavior of law enforcement personnel. We have seen from recent events nationally how important such accountability can be.

Thank you for accepting my testimony.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:21:11 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Tim Huycke | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2145.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/12/2026 7:32:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Dwight T. Martin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident, a registered voter, and a member of IndivisibleHawaii. 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. We must protect the public’s right to know, and protect the physical safety of persons who are witnessing and video documenting cases of lawless conduct by federal officers.

Mahalo.

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: 3/12/2026 7:32:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|------------------|--------------|--------------------|------------------------|
| Dwight T. Martin | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a Hawaii resident, a registered voter, and a member of IndivisibleHawaii. 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. We must protect the public’s right to know, and protect the physical safety of persons who are witnessing and video documenting cases of lawless conduct by federal officers.

Mahalo.

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: 3/12/2026 7:39:09 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Lily Troy MD | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB2145

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 10:09:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| James E Raymond | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you. I am a member of Indivisible Windward.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/13/2026 2:00:51 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Kehaulani Coleman | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

HEARING:

Tuesday, March 17, 2026 at 2:00 pm

Conference Room 325 and Via Videoconference

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

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe for Maui Nui, Rep. Cochran of Maui, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Christine Andrews, and I live in Wailuku, Maui. I write to you today in **strong support of SB 2145**, which codifies at the state level the right of a person under the First Amendment of the U.S. Constitution to record law enforcement activities. The bill also establishes a private right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities.

As an attorney licensed for over 25 years, it is difficult for me to express to you my feelings witnessing the violations of the Constitution and rule of law that federal agents and agencies are engaged in nationwide. The violations of the First Amendment, which began in early 2025 with federal agents detaining and attempting to deport students for their protected speech, have escalated recently to the murder by federal agents of two citizens engaged in protected and lawful constitutional observation activity, including recording law enforcement activities. That it is necessary for us to codify at the state level such fundamental rights as the right to record law enforcement activities is a glaring indication of how far the federal government has gone to erode them. How far has American democracy fallen that ensuring a state-level civil right of action for any violation of the right to record law enforcement activities feels like the last recourse we have to protect ourselves from violent federal agents willing to subject peaceable observers to chemical, non-lethal, and now lethal, deterrents?

On a personal note, I engage in constitutional education and observer activity here on Maui as part of a coalition of protectors. I am a volunteer Know Your Rights educator, and have trained social services and health care professionals, business owners and faith leadership, teachers and union leaders on what their constitutional rights are, and how to protect them from being violated by federal agents. I am a volunteer observer, trained to verify and document activity by federal agents, including recording them. The murders of Renee Good and Alex Pretti in Minneapolis hit me very hard. To watch the video of someone being murdered doing the kind of constitutionally-protected education and documenting work I do was terrifying. I think it is safe to say that it impacted everyone within our volunteer network. It did not, however, have the intended effect. While it was a shock to our mental health and overall wellbeing, all of the volunteers I know reconfirmed their commitment to the work that we do to serve and protect our community, even at the risk of our own lives if that is what protecting democracy requires.

On behalf of myself, and of other volunteers I know, **I request that you support SB 2145** to protect the rule of law, defend the constitution, and stand with people like me fighting to ensure the rights of all people are not violated.

In honor of Renee Good and Alex Pretti,

Christine L. Andrews, J.D.

Wailuku, Maui

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 1:16:22 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kanani Kai | 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Kanani Kai

Member Indivisible Hawaii

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 7:46:50 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kathleen Dickson | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong 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.

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

Kathleen "kate" Dickson

Waikiki

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:18:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Michelle Bonk | 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.

Thank you.

Eileen Cain
720 Mahi'ai St., Apt. E
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96826-5635
eileencaïn808@gmail.com
March 14, 2026

Aloha, Representative David Tarnas, Chair, House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Vice-Chair Representative Mahina Poepoe,
Members of the House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

Aloha, Representatives,

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 and Aloha,

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

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/14/2026 9:34:05 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Robert Justice, M.D. | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a resident of Kapolei and a member of the Indivisible Hawaii State Network (IHSN). I am writing to testify in strong 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.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Respectfully,

Robert L. Justice, M.D.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 8:51:34 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Jennifer Lum | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I respectfully request that the Committee PASS SB2145. The right to record law enforcement in public is already protected by the First Amendment and by Hawai‘i’s Constitution—but without a clear enforcement mechanism, violations continue. Officers have seized phones, threatened residents, and destroyed footage, leaving people with no practical remedy. SB2145 fixes this by explicitly codifying the right in state law and establishing meaningful civil remedies, including punitive damages, attorney fees, and injunctive relief, for anyone whose right to record is violated.

This bill also matters deeply for community trust and public safety. Community members—particularly those in immigrant, mixed-status, and other communities who are most vulnerable to enforcement overreach—rely on the ability to document encounters as a critical check on misconduct. When footage can be seized or suppressed, accountability disappears. Clear, enforceable rules protect residents, protect officers acting lawfully, and help ensure that the public can verify what actually happened. SB2145 passed the Senate 5–0, unamended—a strong signal that this is commonsense transparency legislation.

Mahalo,

Jen Lum, ‘Ewa Beach

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 10:05:09 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Beth McDermott | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I write in STRONG support of SB 2145.

At no time could it be more important that we underscore and strengthen our first ammendment right to record police and iCE operations.

As we have learned, ICE and other agents working in conjunction on deportations, often wear no body cameras and typically have grossly inadequate or non existant training. People have had their cameras confiscated or destroyed, while ICE agents tactics become increasignly aggressive and violent. Pro Publica recently published research on the number of illegal choke holds ICE had put people in for instance. And we all saw the clear murder of Renee Good and Alex Pretti

While we have a governement blatantly lying to us about their operations, quick and eager to label and accuse anyone they want to get rid of of being a "domestic terrorist" etc citizens video recordings have tima and again been essential to disproving such accustations,

I do not want to live in a country where my friends and neighbors are suddenly "dissappeared". Video recordings mean accountability and a record that keeps all of us safer. It may be the only thing that does

Please pass this.

Thank you,

Beth McDermott

member Indivisible East O`ahu.

Hawaii resident since 1969

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:29:26 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Nandita Sharma | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

If there is to be any "rule of law" in Hawaii (or the US), it is obvious that all persons have the constitutional right to record law enforcement activities performing their duties in public spaces, provided we do not interfere with their activities.

Only authoritarian regimes wth much to hide would object to this Bill.

In fact, any effort to curtail our right to record law enforcement would be a violation of our First Amendment constitutional rights. Multiple U.S. Courts of Appeals have affirmed this right, allowing filming of police, ICE agents, and other officials on public streets or in parks, as long as we maintain a safe distance.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 11:47:24 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Brodie Lockard | 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 repeated 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.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 1:48:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| amy agbayani | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I respectfully request you pass this bill that supports individual rights and accountability.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 2:58:18 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Calvin Black | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am a member of Indivisible. Thank you for supporting this bill.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 3:07:23 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Cynthia J. Goto | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Support

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 5:10:32 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| 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, Honolulu

Testimony of In SUPPORT of SB2145

Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair

Hearing Date: March 17, 2026

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name is Jeremiah Brown, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2145**, which establishes the right of every person to record law enforcement activities and creates a private right of action for any violation of that right.

The right to record law enforcement in public is already protected by the First Amendment and by Hawai'i's Constitution, but without a clear enforcement mechanism, violations continue. Officers have seized phones, threatened residents, and destroyed footage, leaving people with no practical remedy. SB2145 fixes this by explicitly codifying the right in state law and establishing meaningful civil remedies, including punitive damages, attorney fees, and injunctive relief, for anyone whose right to record is violated.

This bill also matters deeply for community trust and public safety. Community members, particularly those in immigrant, mixed-status, and other communities who are most vulnerable to enforcement overreach—rely on the ability to document encounters as a critical check on misconduct. When footage can be seized or suppressed, accountability disappears. Clear, enforceable rules protect residents, protect officers acting lawfully, and help ensure that the public can verify what actually happened. SB2145 passed the Senate 5-0, unamended, a strong signal that this is commonsense transparency legislation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2145**.
Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,
Jeremiah Brown
Waialua, Oahu

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/15/2026 9:29:27 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Jesse Hutchison | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support this bill.

Thank you!

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:45:36 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Kiana Lee | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha,

I am in strong support of SB2145. The right to record law enforcement activity is an important right that creates transparency and maintains trust that our law enforcement officers are acting with integrity. In addition, as seen in Minnesota and other states--this right has been vital in creating evidence to protect victims of ICE and CBP brutality, countering lies told by the federal government who seek to shirk accountability.

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.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 9:29:15 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Aaron Ruddick | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I strongly support SB2145

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 11:20:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Janet Teare | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Thank you for supporting this bill. No one is above the law. Preserve our first amendment rights to record law enforcement. Thank you. I'm a member of East Hawaii Indivisible.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 1:30:48 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| 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: 3/16/2026 2:21:36 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Mariana Monasi | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Aloha, I am writing today in strong support for SB2145. With rabid federal fascism and overreach, we have seen folks across the United States be assaulted, arrested and even murdered by so called agents behind a mask, with no accountability. We have seen again and again that bystander filming has brought forth the truth about events that DHS has lied about when it comes to their agents assaulting people. This bill would help reinforce our civil rights as residents to fight fascism, and keep detailed accounts of what is happening in Hawai'i. It is our right to film law enforcement, and it is unfortunately one of the very few ways that can allow the truth of abuse to come to light. Please support this bill. Mahalo

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 3:39:46 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Doris Segal Matsunaga | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I am writing in strong support of SB2145 both personally as a grandmother living in Waimea on Hawaii Island, 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.

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/16/2026 7:00:38 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Richard S Velasquez | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

it should be our right to record and document the acts of our law enforcement

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 3:11:30 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|--------------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Marcella Alohalani Boido | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I have read the testimony in support and am in full agreement with it.

For the sake of preserving the truth, and for public safety, this bill is essential.

Please pass this bill.

Thank you.

Marcella Alohalani Boido, M.A.

Moili'ili, Honolulu, Hawaii 96826

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 7:43:12 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| David Cuthbert | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

I support SB2145 because it delineates our right to record law enforcement activities in one statute. This removes the ambiguity that may arise from relying on court cases and legal precedents alone to support that right. Additionally, the private right of action in SB2145 gives us a means to enforce our right.

David Cuthbert

Pahoa, Hawai'i

telegrapher9@gmail.com

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 8:46:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Testify |
|-----------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|------------------------|
| Greg and Pat Farstrup | Individual | Support | Written Testimony Only |

Comments:

Kū I Ka Pono!

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 11:04:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2145 – DANIELLE GOREN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name Danielle Goren, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2145**, which establishes the right of every person to record law enforcement activities and creates a private right of action for any violation of that right.

I am a resident of Lahaina, and I am testifying as an individual and as a member of Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights/Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

The right to record law enforcement in public is already protected by the First Amendment and by Hawai'i's Constitution—but without a clear enforcement mechanism, violations continue. Officers have seized phones, threatened residents, and destroyed footage, leaving people with no practical remedy. SB2145 fixes this by explicitly codifying the right in state law and establishing meaningful civil remedies, including punitive damages, attorney fees, and injunctive relief, for anyone whose right to record is violated.

This bill also matters deeply for community trust and public safety. Community members—particularly those in immigrant, mixed-status, and other communities who are most vulnerable to enforcement overreach—rely on the ability to document encounters as a critical check on misconduct. When footage can be seized or suppressed, accountability disappears. Clear, enforceable rules protect residents, protect officers acting lawfully, and help ensure that the public can verify what actually happened. SB2145 passed the Senate 5–0, unamended—a strong signal that this is commonsense transparency legislation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2145**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Danielle Goren

Lahaina, HI

SB-2145

Submitted on: 3/17/2026 12:03:10 PM

Testimony for JHA on 3/17/2026 2:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

SB2145 – TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Dear Chair David A. Tarnas, Vice Chair Mahina Poepoe, and members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

My name Jason Lewis, and I submit this testimony in **support of SB2145**, which establishes the right of every person to record law enforcement activities and creates a private right of action for any violation of that right.

I am a resident of Lahaina, and I am testifying as an individual and as a member of Hawai'i Coalition for Immigrant Rights/Campaign for Immigrant Justice.

The right to record law enforcement in public is already protected by the First Amendment and by Hawai'i's Constitution—but without a clear enforcement mechanism, violations continue. Officers have seized phones, threatened residents, and destroyed footage, leaving people with no practical remedy. SB2145 fixes this by explicitly codifying the right in state law and establishing meaningful civil remedies, including punitive damages, attorney fees, and injunctive relief, for anyone whose right to record is violated.

This bill also matters deeply for community trust and public safety. Community members—particularly those in immigrant, mixed-status, and other communities who are most vulnerable to enforcement overreach—rely on the ability to document encounters as a critical check on misconduct. When footage can be seized or suppressed, accountability disappears. Clear, enforceable rules protect residents, protect officers acting lawfully, and help ensure that the

public can verify what actually happened. SB2145 passed the Senate 5–0, unamended—a strong signal that this is commonsense transparency legislation.

For these reasons, I respectfully request that the Committee **PASS SB2145**.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Sincerely,

Jason Lewis

Lahaina, HI