Sample testimony: HB2540/HB1886

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

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

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

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

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

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

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,