

Tuesday, June 10, 2025

House Committee on Rules
Oregon State Capitol Building
900 Court Street NE,
Hearing Room D
Salem, OR 97301

Aloha Chair Bowman, Vice Chair Drazen and members of the Committee,

My name is Kaliko Castille, and I'm submitting this testimony in opposition to SB 238A on behalf of APANO Communities United Fund and APANO Action Fund, and in solidarity with impacted communities across Oregon. I'm here to strongly oppose SB 238A, a bill that seeks to expand law enforcement surveillance powers at a time when many in our communities are already feeling over-policed, over-surveilled, and underprotected.

SB 238A would expand the use of unmanned aerial systems, commonly known as drones, by law enforcement in Oregon. It would allow police to use drones in a wide range of situations without a warrant, including broadly defined "calls for service" or any "lawful police activity." These terms are vague and open-ended. Without clear limits, this bill could justify the surveillance of peaceful protests, immigrant communities, and neighborhoods already impacted by over-policing.

For Asian American communities, this is not just a matter of privacy. It is about justice. Our communities have experienced decades of racial profiling and state surveillance. From the Chinese Exclusion era to the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II, law enforcement has too often played a role in enabling racial injustice. That history isn't ancient. It is deeply personal and shapes the way our communities view law enforcement powers today.

We also cannot ignore what we have witnessed during both Trump administrations. The rapid expansion of federal surveillance and policing tools is often used against immigrants, refugees, and protestors. Throughout the ongoing war on terror, federal agencies have monitored Muslim, South Asian, and immigrant communities under the guise of security. The risks of expanding law enforcement tools without strict oversight are not theoretical. They have already harmed our communities.

SB 238A would remove critical guardrails like judicial oversight. It would allow law enforcement to conduct surveillance from the sky, often without people even knowing they're being watched. The bill also blocks local governments from creating stronger protections, preventing communities from setting their own privacy standards.



Oregon needs a vision of public safety that is rooted in transparency, accountability and data driven community investments —not unchecked surveillance. Community safety comes from investments in housing, mental health, culturally specific services, and education, not from increasing the power of law enforcement to monitor our lives.

For these reasons, APANO Communities United Fund and APANO Action Fund urges all members of the committee and the full House to oppose SB 238A.

Kaliko Castille
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APANO Communities United Fund + APANO Action Fund