

Submitter: Julia Yoshimoto  
On Behalf Of:  
Committee: House Committee On Rules  
Measure, Appointment or Topic: SB238

I urge you to OPPOSE SB 238A.

I am a member of Oregon Tsuru for Solidarity. Tsuru for Solidarity is a nonviolent, direct action project of Japanese American social justice advocates and allies working to end detention sites and support directly impacted immigrant and refugee communities that are being targeted by racist, inhumane immigration policies. We stand on the moral authority of Japanese Americans who suffered the atrocities and legacy of U.S. concentration camps during WWII and we say, "Stop Repeating History!"

The Japanese American community knows all too well how unfettered government surveillance can devastate communities; how authorization, as provided in SB 238A, is sold to the public as necessary for public safety and security; and how such authorization targets communities of color, dissenters, and activists.

SB 238A is a legislative blank check for law enforcement to use drones without a warrant. At a time of unprecedented federal aggression, fascist executive orders, and militarized law enforcement, it is wrong and dangerous for this Legislature to authorize the widespread, unregulated warrantless use of drones by law enforcement. Current law already allows law enforcement to use drones without a warrant in several situations. Law enforcement can do what they say they need to without SB 238A. Furthermore, SB 238A will likely have a disproportionate impact on Oregonians most frequently targeted or harassed by the government and law enforcement, including Black, Indigenous, and Oregonians of color. Communities of color are the most over-policed areas and involve the most calls for law enforcement. With no limits in the bill on how many drones can be operated, or for how long, dozens if not hundreds of law enforcement drones can provide unprecedented amounts of data and surveillance footage.

I urge you to "Stop Repeating History" and vote "No" on SB 238A.