



October 12, 2026

HONORABLE CHAIR AND MEMBERS OF THE HAWAI'I COUNTY POLICE COMMISSION:

This testimony concerns new business item A, the budget.

Many of our members are concerned about plans to install automated license plate reader (ALPR) cameras on Hawai'i Island. Public reporting shows that the U.S. Department of Homeland Security continues to collect and combine private data with little regard for accuracy, privacy or legality. This year, DHS signed a department-wide agreement with Palantir to mine these databases, and last year Palantir opened an office in Honolulu. On O'ahu, license plate reader data was shared with the FBI more than 2,000 times. In this environment, we want to keep our County from becoming part of that surveillance apparatus.

Before any cameras are installed, we ask for enforceable rules and procedures governing how the data is managed. Except for specific evidence in active, legally authorized investigations, those rules must require:

1. No data retention past 30 days.
2. Access limited to authorized personnel, with every search logged and auditable.
3. No data sharing with other parties, including federal agencies.
4. Verifiable security safeguards against unauthorized disclosure, with an annual public report.

Therefore, regarding the FY 2026–27 budget, we request that no County funds be used for ALPR cameras, and that the Hawai'i Police Department not participate in or access any ALPR network, until the safeguards listed above are in place and enforceable.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to submit this testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

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[Kona Indivisible](#) is a local chapter of the [Indivisible Hawai'i State Network](#) and the national [Indivisible](#) network of 3,300 autonomous local groups, comprising millions of members across every state. The mission of Kona Indivisible is to protect Hawai'i and our democracy and defend our rights, communities and values. On March 28, we turned out 6,500 members across Hawai'i County and 25,000 members across the State to say No Dictators! and stand up for democracy.