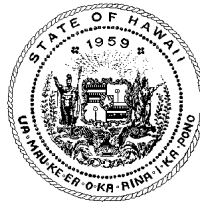


JOSH B. GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY
KA 'OIHANA HO'OPALEKANA LEHULEHU
1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

TOMMY JOHNSON
DIRECTOR

Melanie Martin
Deputy Director
Administration

Michael J. Hoffman
Acting Deputy Director
Corrections

William Oku
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No. _____

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1059
RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

by
Tommy Johnson, Director

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

Friday, February 3, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225 and Via Video Conference

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) **supports** Senate Bill (SB) 1059, which amends Section 707-700, Hawaii Revised Statutes' definition of "emergency worker." The department respectfully recommends the following amendments to include those categories of workers that were identified by the U.S. Department of Labor (DOL) during the high of the COVID pandemic.

PSD suggests adopting the definition of "emergency worker: as Defined by the DOL in the Families First Coronavirus Response Act:

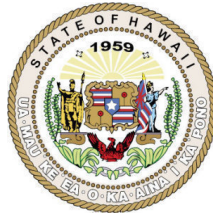
"An emergency responder is anyone necessary for the provision of transport care, healthcare, comfort and nutrition of such patients, or others needed ... This includes but is not limited to the military or national guard, law enforcement officers, **correctional institution personnel**, firefighters, emergency medical services personnel, physicians, nurses, public health personnel, emergency medical technicians, paramedics, emergency management personnel, 911 operators, child welfare workers and service provides, public works personnel, and persons with skills or training in operating specialized equipment or other skills needed to provide aid in a declared emergency, **as well as individual who work for such facilities employing these individuals, and whose work is necessary to maintain the operation of the facility.**"

Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental
and Military Affairs
Senate Bill 1059
February 3, 2023

In addition, the department also recommends amending HRS Section 707-700 to include a section "(8) Correctional institution personnel as well as individuals who work for such facilities or operations employing these individuals and whose work are critically necessary to maintain the operations of the facility". PSD's recommendations will ensure that our mission and legal mandates will be maintained during an emergency such as the recent Covid pandemic.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of SB 1059.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Ōhana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu

1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 587-2562

Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 1059
RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS
Before the Senate Committee on Public Safety
and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, February 3, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225, Via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) strongly supports Senate Bill 1059.

This bill Amends the definition of "emergency worker" in the Penal Code to include communications dispatchers.

The DLE recognizes that parole officers, adult correctional officers, and others employed in the corrections and rehabilitation work of the Department of Public Safety which will become the Department of Corrections and Rehabilitation should be included in the definition of emergency workers under §707-700, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The DLE strongly recommends that the bill be amended include the following additional subsection:

(8) Parole officers, adult correctional officers, and correctional institution personnel whose work is critically necessary to maintain the operations of the facility.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair

Senator Brandon J.C. Elefante, Vice Chair

February 2, 2023

Support for S.B. NO. 1059, Relating to Emergency Workers

The Honolulu Police Department Communications Division gives the public a connection to emergency services. I am a Police Communications Officer at the Honolulu Police Department and support SB1059, relating to emergency workers.

The fact that we are the first contact when people call to report emergencies is an obvious reason. We know what is happening before the police. We gather all the pertinent information needed to send help expeditiously.

We receive extensive training in the classroom as well as on the job. During OJT we are scheduled to work the three different shifts to gain the knowledge and skill to be able to provide professional, efficient and courteous service.

We are a 24/7 operation, 365 days a year. Just like police officers and firefighters we are required to report to work during natural disasters. While others are given an administration leave during hurricanes or tsunamis we leave our families and risk our lives by driving through the bad weather so that we can also help to save lives and property. Another recent example is the Coronavirus pandemic. When the entire island of Oahu was shut down, Communication Officers were considered essential and dutifully reported to work. In addition, we are constantly mandated. This means we are ordered to work involuntary overtime whenever there is not enough staff. Unfortunately this occurs regularly.

I have been a Police Communications Officer for the department for 16 years. I can proudly say I have saved lives. I enjoy working with other emergency workers, including police officers, firefighters and emergency medical technicians. We coordinate with other agencies such as HECO and OTS and others to keep our community safe. For all these reasons I urge the committee to pass SB1059 so that we may have the dignity and motivation to continue to provide outstanding service to our communities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Vernette Logsdon

91-201 Koanimakani Place

Kapolei HI 96707



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION

AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirty-Second Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 3, 2023

S.B. 1059 — RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of S.B. 1059 which amends the definition of “emergency worker” in the Penal Code to include communications dispatchers.

S.B. 1059 appropriately adds telecommunications dispatchers, including police, fire, and emergency medical dispatchers to the definition of an emergency worker in the penal code under Section 707, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The inclusion of telecommunications dispatchers not only recognizes the efforts of our hard-working dispatchers who handle crisis situations at all hours of the day, but also honors their invaluable role as the unsung heroes in every emergency. Dispatchers must utilize multiple life-saving procedures and technologies to obtain critical information from a caller to make lightning fast decisions that could be the difference between life and death for our families and neighbors and deserve this recognition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of S.B. 1059.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira
Executive Director

SB-1059

Submitted on: 1/31/2023 9:42:11 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: Police Emergency Dispatchers are considered the "first, FIRST RESPONDERS." Thank you recognizing them as Emergency Workders.

Honorable Senators,

I support S.B. NO. 1059

My name is Kevin Nakano and I am a 25 year veteran with the Honolulu Police Department. I currently hold the rank of Metropolitan Police Lieutenant and am assigned to the Communications Division.

As an officer, I took for granted the role of the Police Communication Officers (PCO's). I knew they played a vital role in dispatching cases to officers and verifying checks that officers requested, but never took the time to put myself in their shoe. Not until I was assigned to the Communications Division did I fully comprehend and realize that they are truly an Officers life line. The following are just some of the tasks that they encounter on a daily basis: The volume of calls that they handle each and every day, the type of calls they receive with differing stress levels, keeping track of their assigned units to ensure that they are safe and have cover, hearing the cries and screams for help first hand, and to handle the ultimate sacrifice of an officer giving his life to save lives. These are just a few of the many calls for service and acts of heroism that they encounter in their line of work.

The majority of the PCO's were born and raised here and often take calls involving family and/or friends where they have to maintain their professionalism and remain calm during these stressful situations. They are tied to their radios and cannot just up and leave their stations to use the bathroom, take a personal phone call, or just walk away to take a breather after having a stressful call. They maintain their position and are relieved for assigned breaks only when manpower allows it and there is sufficient coverage.

PCO's go thru the same emotional rollercoasters as the officers that are handling the cases. They are with the officer on their calls from beginning to end and are affected in the same manner whether it be emotionally, mentally, or physically. In some respects, I think it is even harder for the PCO's because they are doing all they can over the radio, giving the officers the support through information requested in a timely manner, but must also separate their emotions while handling multiple calls for service for other officers on different types of cases, all being done simultaneously.

As an officer, we go from case to case, one case at a time. But for PCO's, they juggle from case to case all at the same time, and are affected on so many levels. This occurs throughout their entire shift. On top of that, at the end of their long and stressful day, they are often told that they will be mandated to stay into the next shift due to staffing shortages.

I applaud the PCO's for their hard work and dedication. They deserve to be considered as First Responders because there is no way possible that a Law Enforcement Agency could operate without their existence. PCO's deal with intense, life and death situations

that go far beyond just taking a phone call. They are the first line of defense in fighting crime and assisting the community in keeping the community safe and addressing the calls for service.

PCO's are a valued necessity for any Police Department and deserve to be recognized as a First Responder. By not being recognized as First Responders, there is an inadequacy in wages, training and high risk benefits. Being recognized will aid in the staffing shortages by attracting more highly trained individuals that would be willing to take on such a high stressed but rewarding job in helping to make our communities safer.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Kevin Nakano
46-431 Kuneki Street
Kaneohe, Hawaii 96744
(808) 478-4835

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:24:33 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Naomi Kumagai	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a Police Communications Officer also known as Police Radio Dispatcher I believe we should be considered as First Responders due to the work that is expected everyday. We are the first person the public hears when they call 911 for an emergency call or non emergency call .We dispatch officers to emergency & non emergency calls everyday to the best of our ability. We are told to bring in extra clothes & food & expect us to stay when there is a tsunami or hurricane or even its just a storm with lots of ponding or water run off we are still asked to stay if we are already at work just in case our relief cannot come in due to road closures. We are asked to call if we are needed when a natural disaster is occurring. We have to leave our families at home when we want to stay with them. A Clerk Title does not apply to any of those things.

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 3:34:59 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Sabrina Rogers	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Sabrina Rogers, I have worked as a Police Dispatcher for 5 years, two of those years I worked for an agency in California, and I am now very proud to be a part of and represent the Honolulu Police dept.

In my years dispatching for California, I was not initially considered a first responder, but after fighting for many years we finally won that battle and became recognized as first responders in the state of California.

Unfortunately it was very disappointing to have fought so hard for that to come work for another department to find that I have to fight this battle again.

That being said currently many states are now following suit; and it is beyond time.

There is currently a mass under staffing issue with dispatchers not just here in Honolulu, but all over the country and I believe this is greatly due to the fact that we are not considered first responders which equates to inadequate wages, training, and work environments.

The homeland security act of 2002 defines the term "first responder" as someone who in the beginning of an emergency incident are responsible for the protection and preservation of life, property , evidence, and the environment. By definition that is exactly what we do on a daily basis.

Currently we are considered secretaries. With all due respect to secretaries they are not required to come to work during a hurricane, pandemic, or any other mass emergency event. They are not forced to leave the safety of their home during an emergency event and leave their families at home to assist the public. They do not hold peoples lives in their hands, they are not forced to work a 12 or 16 hour shift because they are short staffed.

With every key stroke we are saving lives and getting people the urgent help they need as fast as we can. We are an essential part of any emergency event and should be recognized as such.

Thank you,

Sabrina Rogers

Police Communications Officer II, Honolulu Police Dept.

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 4:23:19 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dallas Smith	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Dallas Smith and I have been a Police Communications Officer with the Honolulu Police Department since 2018. It is appropriate that we are removed from a clerical classification and added into the category of emergency workers. We perform tasks on a daily basis that save lives, and allow out Police Officers on the roads to apprehend dangerous criminals. We are **required** to work during natural disasters, sometimes even **mandated** to work 12 or more hours if deemed absolutely necessary. During the peak of the COVID-19 pandemic we were *NOT* given the luxury of working from home away from others and were still required to report to work on a daily basis furthering our status as "emergency workers." We are constantly put under high stress, and high consequence situations with expectations of being 100% accurate to prevent loss of life, that to me, is not considered "clerical" which is what we are considered to be presently.

Thank you for your time,

Dallas Smith

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 5:31:25 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leila Battease	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support SB1059. I have been a Police Communications Officer II for almost 26 years. It is long overdue for us to be recognized as 1st responders. When there is an emergency , we are the ones who will make sure that your voice is heard & that help is on the way. Without us answering your call & dispatching an officer , no help would be coming. When there is bad weather & the Governor or Mayor recommends people to stay home , we still have to show up to work. Even during the pandemic we had to come to work. We were not able to work from home or just stay home & not be exposed.

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:28:13 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Bonnie Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Statement of

Bonnie S. Kim

Honolulu Police Communications Officer II

Before the

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Friday, February 3, 2023

3:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of SB 1059

RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

I am in support of SB 1059. I have been a Police Communications Officer II at the Honolulu Police Department for 22 years. In my years of service, I have handled a variety of calls ranging from homicides, shooting, stabbing, home invasions, robberies, kidnapping, missing children to parking complaints. We receive calls and dispatch officers to all these types case. At times only having a few seconds to determine what is going on. We are the critical link between the public and the police.

Police Communications Officers are subject to the same hiring process as Police Officers, Those include a performance exam, personal history statement, back ground checks, criminal history

checks, credit checks, psychological evaluations (written & verbal), polygraph test, medical exam, and a drug test.

The training program for a Police Communications Officer II is a year process. At the end of this training program a Recruit will be have the necessary skills needed to decipher the information the caller is giving, enter into a computer case and send to the radio in less than a minute. We often have cases where a critical incident or time sensitive situation is going on and we need to get emergency assistance to the scene as soon as possible.

When working on the Radio Section we need to maintain the status of at least 15 to 50 officers depending on district. We need to multi-task, talk, type & listen all while units are talking and often requesting information. All information needs to be recorded can time stamped into the CADS systems for future reference. Our documentation (computer generated or voice recordings) is sometimes used in a criminal case as evidence of an incident. .

Police Communications Officers work 24/7 365 days a year. We are subject to consistently forced overtime due to staff shortages. We are required to work during all emergencies such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, island wide power outages, phone service outage and ballistic missiles attacks.

This job is extremely hard to do. We have continuous recruitment, and many find the nature of work too hard and emotional draining to pass the one-year long training.

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit testimony. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Bonnie Kim

1750 Kalakaua Ave #2901

Honolulu, HI 96826

(808) 271 2135

Scott A.K. Sato

Honolulu, Oahu, Hawaii

**Written Statement of
Scott A.K. Sato
Honolulu Police Dispatcher
before the
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
Friday, February 3, 2023
3:00 PM
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference**

**In consideration of SB 1059
RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS**

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

I am a Honolulu Police dispatcher for the last 19 years and fully SUPPORT Senate Bill 1059 that will recognize 911 emergency service dispatchers as first responders.

When someone dials 911 they will be reaching a 911 dispatcher who will then need to determine what type of service will need to be rendered. There are times when the person on the other end is hysterical, and it is my duty to calm them down to obtain as much information as possible as not to send the police into a what could be dangerous situation. Many calls are from people which English is their second language and I need to be able decipher and conclude how to provide assistance. Many a day we take threatening and/or abusive calls, are talked down to yet I need to keep my composure and provide the help that they require.

In the event of a State emergency like a hurricane, flooding or earthquake we are called into work as many police, fire, ambulance are but they are considered first responders while we dispatchers are still not. In the event of a bomb threat made to our location we are made to stay at our position and continue to take calls, putting our lives at risk to help the public, yet we are still not considered first responders.

Due to shortage of dispatchers we are “forced” or mandated to work overtime at least every other week. Many people have applied but do not make it through the end training which should tell you how difficult the job of a 911 dispatcher is. We are also losing many current dispatchers due to retirement and just unable to handle the high stress levels.

While our physical lives might not be in imminent danger as a police officer or paramedic our mental beings are put through the test daily.

I implore you to truly consider passing this bill and thank you for your consideration.

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:47:10 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michael Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Statement of

Michael J. Kim

Honolulu Police Communications Officer II

Before the

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Friday, February 3, 2023

3:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

In consideration of SB 1059

RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Members of the Committee:

I am in support of SB 1059. I have been a Police Communications Officer II at the Honolulu Police Department for 25 years. In my years of service, I have handled a variety of calls ranging from homicides, shooting, stabbing, home invasions, robberies, kidnapping, missing children to parking complaints. We receive calls and dispatch officers to all these types case. At times only having a few seconds to determine what is going on. We are the critical link between the public and the police.

Police Communications Officers are subject to the same hiring process as Police Officers, Those include a performance exam, personal history statement, back ground checks, criminal history

checks, credit checks, psychological evaluations (written & verbal), polygraph test, medical exam, and a drug test.

The training program for a Police Communications Officer II is a year process. At the end of this training program a Recruit will have the necessary skills needed to decipher the information the caller is giving, enter into a computer case and send to the radio in less than a minute. We often have cases where a critical incident or time sensitive situation is going on and we need to get emergency assistance to the scene as soon as possible.

When working on the Radio Section we need to maintain the status of at least 15 to 50 officers depending on district. We need to multi-task, talk, type & listen all while units are talking and often requesting information. All information needs to be recorded and time stamped into the CADS systems for future reference. Our documentation (computer generated or voice recordings) is sometimes used in a criminal case as evidence of an incident. .

Police Communications Officers work 24/7 365 days a year. We are subject to consistently forced overtime due to staff shortages. We are required to work during all emergencies such as hurricanes, tsunamis, earthquakes, island wide power outages, phone service outage and ballistic missiles attacks.

This job is extremely hard to do. We have continuous recruitment, and many find the nature of work too hard and emotional draining to pass the one-year long training.

Thank you very much for allowing me to submit testimony. Your support is greatly appreciated.

Michael Kim

1750 Kalakaua Ave #2901

Honolulu, HI 96826

(808) 943-1675

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 9:49:50 AM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Fawn Kiyota	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Written Statement of

Fawn T. Kiyota

Police Communications Officer II

before the

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Friday, February 2, 2023

3:00 PM

Conference Room 225 & Video Conference

In consideration of SB 1059

RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

Dear Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante and Memebers of the Committee:

I have been a dispatcher for the Honolulu Police Department for the last 20 years and fully support Senate Bill 1059: recognizing 911 emergency service dispatchers as first responders.

Currently, I am considered a “non-essential” worker. However, in times of dire need, when emergencies arise such as hurricanes, floods, tsunamis etc., I am bound by duty to report to work when all other non-essential workers are allowed to take time off to secure their safety and safety of their families.

Due to staffing shortages, I am often force mandated to work 4 hours over my normal 8 hour shift. After a grueling 8 hour shift, I am mentally drained. Enduring an additional 4 hours of verbal abuse from the public is often unbearable. I recall working on the night shift and being so exhausted from working a 12 hour mandated shift, that I couldn’t even remember the drive home. These forced mandates, made for the safety and benefit of the public, often put both my mental and physical self in jeopardy. Yet I am deemed “non essential”.

I maintain the status of “non essential” worker, yet there were times when I was forced to work thru circumstances that were potentially life threatening. Bomb threats were made to our building, all other non-essential workers were evacuated. was forced to stay and work, all to ensure the safety of the public. A job that FIRST RESPONDERS do.

I implore you to recognize the true job scope, and sacrifices I make as a Police Radio Dispatcher. Please give all consideration in passing this bill. Thank you for your consideration.

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 12:58:02 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
lakea Tjomsland	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Honorable Senators,

I support S.B. 1059

I am in favor of S.B.1059. I believe by elevating the status for Emergency Service Dispatchers this will recognize the employees for the important role they play in the safety of the citizen of Hawaii. This will allow funding for training, and recruitment.

I have been a Police Communications Officer II, for Honolulu Police Department for twenty-three years. I have handled homicides, shootings, stabbing, home invasions, robberies, kidnappings, missing children, and an array of other type of cases. I receive calls for police service and need to determine what other types of service are needed at a scene whether it is HFD, EMS and/or other emergency services to co response. Police Communications Officers are the critical link between the public, Police Officers, and other agencies.

During my year-long training, I have acquired specific skills to utilize during call taking and radio operations. I gather information from the caller, enter it into our system, and send to the radio operator in less than a minute. When receiving a call that is critical and time sensitive situation, I gather basic information to get police officers and other emergency services to the scene as soon as possible. Once support is on the way, I continue gathering suspect and weapon information which is critical for the safety of our Police Officers and other agencies responding. There are times when I stay on the phone with a caller during an in progress case. I have had calls from homicide suspects saying they had just killed someone, people threatening to jump off a building or overpass, children calling that their grandparent isn't breathing, and people that sees suspects in their homes. There is a wide variety of cases we handle daily.

While working on the radio section, Communications Operators need to maintain, the status between 15 and 50 officers, depending on the district and what type of incident is going on. Operators need to multitask, talk, type & listen, all while units are talking and often running checks. Operators need to make sure all-important information is entered correctly and time stamped while it is occurring. Operators ensure responding officers are given any additional information that is coming in verbal or via computer message. While taking in information from our officers, we often hear what is going on in the background. We hear the screams of the public and officers for help. It is the Operators job to ensure whatever agency is need on scenes, is contacted to co-respond.

Police Communications Officers work 24/7 365 days a year. Currently we have 86 combined call takers & radio operators in Honolulu County. Operators are consistently being forced to work mandatory overtime on top of the voluntary overtime, due to staff shortages. Currently all operators, are required to work during all State and County emergencies. Which include not limited to hurricane, tsunamis, earth quakes, island wide power outages, phone service outage, ballistic missiles attacks and the most recent Covid -19 pandemic. In 2022, employees were subject to an additional 1450 emergencies hold over due to staff shortages.

Police Communications officers are subject to the same hiring process as Police officers. Those include a performance exam, personal history statement, back ground checks, criminal history checks, credit checks, psychological evaluations (written & verbal), polygraph test, medical exam, and a drug test.

This job is extremely hard to learn and perform. We have continuous recruitment, and many find the nature of work too hard and emotionally draining to pass the one-year long training. There are 44 positions open for Police Communications Officer I and Police Communications Officer II at the Honolulu Police Department.

The Honolulu Police Department handles about one million calls for service yearly. The Communications Division takes around 2000 calls a day.

Thank you for allowing me to submit my testimony.

Lakea Tjomsland

47-401 HUI IWA ST #4

KANEOHE HI 96744

808 753-2370

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:05:49 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica LM Lafaele	Testifying for Honolulu Police Department - Communications Div	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

February 2, 2023

Honorable Legislatures,

RE: I support SB#1059 & HB#162 -Section 707-700, Hawaii Revised Statues, amending the definition of “emergency worker”.

As a resident of the City and County of Honolulu, I support the proposed SB#1059 & HB#162 concerning the amendment of the definition of emergency worker to include **communications dispatchers aka police radio dispatchers who in the course of their duty have to utilize a multitude of specialized training and skill sets in order to ensure the situation is addressed as expediently and efficiently as possible.**

We are a unique group of emergency workers that must undergo the same lengthy background checks and scrutiny as Honolulu police officers during the hiring process; (less the physical fitness test police must pass).

As police communications officers, we are responsible for using multiple robust lifesaving procedures and technologies to obtain critical information from the callers, analyze the information given, and use specialized mapping systems when dispatching the appropriate police officer(s) / first responder.- SB1059/HB162.

Your vote to pass these bills will allow emergency communication dispatchers aka police communications officers **to be recognized as the first responders we are.** I respectfully ask for your support.

Sincerely,

Jessica LM Lafaele

Police Communications Officer – 18 years

Honolulu Police Department

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 5:33:40 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
MARSELLA EBERHARDT	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

HI MY NAME IS MARSELLA EBERHARDT. I AM A POLICE COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER II FOR THE PAST 28 YEARS. I FULLY SUPPORT THIS BILL. WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED FIRST RESPONDERS. WE ARE THE FIRST PERSON TO ANSWER THE CALL FOR HELP. I DONT THINK WE SHOULD BE CONSIDERED CLERKS. ANY NATURAL DISASTER, BIG STORMS WE HAVE TO REPORT TO WORK. THEY CLERKS GET A FREE DAY TO STAY HOME. DURING COVID WE DID NOT HAVE THE LUXURY OF WORKING FROM HOME LIKE MANY OF THE CLERKS DID. IM HOPING THAT THIS BILL WILL BE PASSED. YOUR CONSIDERATION WOULD BE MUCH APPRECIATED. .

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 6:49:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Daniel Netz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Daniel Netz and I work as a Police Communications Officer (formerly known as a Police Radio Dispatcher) for the Honolulu Police Department. I am writing in support of SB1059 which amends the definition of "Emergency Worker" in the Penal Code to include Communications Dispatchers. I have been a Police Dispatcher for 20 years and can tell you that the job is very intense, requires high level of skills, and involves so much more than a simple clerical or secretarial position. Our job duties include answering emergency 911 calls, dispatching police officers, and data inputs into the law enforcement computer files. By including emergency dispatchers in the definition of emergency workers, it recognizes our role as being essential to public safety and includes us as a protected class in the penal code should a crime be committed against us. Thank you very much for your consideration

SB-1059

Submitted on: 2/2/2023 7:44:01 PM

Testimony for PSM on 2/3/2023 3:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tiffany Lightfoot	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Dispatchers are essential to emergency work. They deploy information and rescuers to those having emergencies. They also are the lifeline for our emergency workers when responding to emergencies. With over 20 years of EMS experience as a paramedic and a nurse, please accept my testimony in support of SB 1059. Mahalo.