

TESTIMONY
OF
PAUL K. FERREIRA, CHAIR
STATE OF HAWAII, ENHANCED 911 BOARD
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
REPRESENTATIVE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY CULLEN, VICE CHAIR
ON
FEBRUARY 16, 2012
9:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 309

IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 2769
RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Dear Representative Aquino and Members:

I am Paul Ferreira, the Deputy Police Chief for the Hawai'i Police Department; however, I am providing testimony as the Chair of the Enhanced 911 (E911) Board that is comprised of representatives from each of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), representatives of the communications service providers, and representatives from State agencies.

The members of the then Wireless Enhanced 911 Board (Board) were instrumental in the drafting of the legislation that resulted in Act 168 becoming law during the 2011 Legislative Session, providing for amendments to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 138, Enhanced 911 Services. In reviewing the amendments that were implemented into the law, the current Board recognized the need to amend the definition in the law for a "Public safety agency" and approved seeking action during this legislative session.

In Chapter 138, the definition for "Public safety agency" is described currently as a functional governmental entity, which the Board recognized as being too broad of a definition and therefore needs to be amended for clarity. As written, a governmental entity may open the door for other federally funded agencies to seek disbursements from the E911 Fund minimizing the Fund's resources for state and county entities. This measure seeks to restore the former definition for "Public safety agency" establishing that a public safety agency is a functional division of the state or county government that provides for firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services, which provides the accurate meaning.

For the reasons above, we strongly urge this committee to approve House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,



PAUL K. FERREIRA
CHAIR
WIRELESS E911 BOARD

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



Dean H. Seki
Acting Comptroller

Jan S. Gouveia
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING
AND GENERAL SERVICES
P.O. BOX 119
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY
OF
DEAN H. SEKI, ACTING COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
February 16, 2012

H.B. 2769

RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Chair Aquino and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2769.

The Department of Accounting and General Services supports H.B. 2769.

The current definition of “public safety agency” as a division of a “governmental entity” is too broad. H.B. 2769 clearly identifies the scope of the definition as a division of the “State or a county” for firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services. This definition mirrors the language in the original Act which created the Enhanced 911 Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

HONOLULU EMERGENCY SERVICES DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

3375 KOAPAKA STREET, SUITE H-450 • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96819-1869
Phone: (808) 723-7800 • Fax: (808) 833-3934



PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

JAMES H.E. IRELAND, M.D.
DIRECTOR

MARK K. RIGG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

February 15, 2012

The Honorable Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
The Honorable Ty Cullen, Vice Chair
And Members
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
The House of Representatives
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature
Regular Session 2012
State Capitol
Honolulu Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

RE: HB 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

The City and County of Honolulu, Honolulu Emergency Services Department supports the intent of HB 2769 as it clarifies the State and County public safety agencies which provide emergency services within the State of Hawaii.

The Honolulu Emergency Services Department provides both Emergency Medical Services (EMS) and Ocean Safety Services (OSD) for the City and County of Honolulu.

We request that the HB 2769 be amended to include Ocean Safety Services in the definition of public safety agency.

The Department's Ocean Safety Division provides both first responder emergency medical response and executes the vast majority of near shore ocean rescue responses on the Island of Oahu.

Thank you for your favorable consideration of this legislation and the proposed amendment.

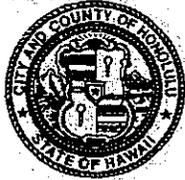
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "James Ireland M.D.", is written over a faint, larger version of the same signature.

James H.E. Ireland, M.D.
Director, Honolulu Emergency Services Department

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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PETER B. CARLISLE
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE JT-SKT

February 16, 2012

The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2769, Relating to Enhanced 9-1-1 Services

I am John Thompson, Major of the Communications Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2769 to amend section 138-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The bill defines a "public safety agency" as a functional division of the state or county that provides or has authority to provide firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services. This clarification allows us to focus our funding and resources on the state and county public safety answering points that provide emergency services for our community.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "John C. Thompson".

JOHN C. THOMPSON, Major
Communications Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoha".
LOUIS M. KEALOHA
Chief of Police

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira
Deputy Police Chief

County of Hawai`i

POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998
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February 15, 2012

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Chair
House Committee On Public Safety And Military Affairs
Chair and Members
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

Dear Representative Aquino and Members:

The Hawai`i Police Department **supports** the passage of House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services, seeking to establish that a public safety agency is a functional division of the State or a county that provides or has authority to provide, or a private entity contracted by a state or county agency that provides, firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services.

We are in agreement with the State of Hawai`i Enhanced 911 Board, that the definition for "Public safety agency" in Chapter 138, currently described as a functional governmental entity, is too broad of a definition and therefore needs to be amended for clarity. As written, a governmental entity may open the door for other federally funded agencies to seek disbursements from the E911 Fund minimizing the funds resources for state and county entities.

For the reasons above, we strongly urge this committee to approve House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF



ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
(808) 244-6400
FAX (808) 244-6411

February 14, 2012



GARY A. YABUTA
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

The Honorable Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
House of Representatives
The State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB No. 2769, RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Dear Chair Aquino and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports the passage of HB No. 2769. The passage of this bill amending the definition of "public safety agency" to refer to state and county divisions and not federal government entities will assist in our goals to achieve enhanced 911 services for the State of Hawaii.

This amendment will provide clarity and designate the "public safety agency" that provides firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services the authority needed to complete this very important task for the communities we protect.

I ask that you support the passage of HB No. 2769.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

GARY A. YABUTA
Chief of Police