Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender State of Hawaii to the House Committee on Judiciary

February 21, 2014

H.B. No. 2574: RELATING TO EVIDENCE

Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

We oppose passage of H.B. No. 2574 because we believe that the measure would be unconstitutional as a violation of an accused's right to confrontation of witnesses against him or her under the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution and Article I, Section 14 of the Hawaii Constitution. Those constitutional provisions assure a criminal defendant of the right to confront every witness against him or her in a trial. The Hawaii Supreme Court, in <u>State v. Faafiti</u>, 54 Haw. 637 (1973) elaborated upon the importance of this fundamental right:

[T]he confrontation clause was incorporated into the United States Constitution as the Sixth Amendment to prevent the despised practice of having an accused tried primarily on "evidence" consisting solely of ex parte affidavits, and depositions, and to give the accused the right to demand that his accusers, *i.e.*, witnesses against him, be brought to face him.

54 Haw. at 640

H.B. No. 2574 would allow a non-resident to present court testimony via video connection. We believe that this measure would directly violate the aforementioned constitutional provisions. A defendant in a criminal proceeding has a due process right to have the fact-finder directly observe the witness while he/she testifies. The fact-finder in a criminal proceeding is the exclusive judge of the credibility of the witnesses. To accomplish this, juries are routinely instructed that they must observe the witness's manner of testifying, the witness's intelligence, the witness's candor or frankness, or lack thereof, and the witness's temper, feeling, or bias. This duty would be severely impeded by testimony been delivered outside the presence of the fact-finder.

The bill does not impose any requirements pertaining to the visual or audio clarity of video connection. This is critical to the ability of the fact-finder to judge the credibility of the witness. Moreover, assuming a video connection would only show the face of the witness (as is the norm in "Skype" transmissions), the jury would be impeded in viewing the witness' body movements as he or she testifies. Oftentimes non-verbal communication is as important as what a witness says in judging credibility.

Even though H.B. No. 2574 provides for the right of the defendant to have his attorney present with the witness delivering the video testimony, this is not sufficient to protect the right to confrontation. The defendant has the right to physically confront a witness against him/her, not simply to have his/her attorney confront the witness. Moreover,

most defendants would not have the financial means to pay for the attorney to travel to the location of the witness to conduct the examination. It is questionable whether any trial court in the state would approve alternative testimony under this measure even if it is enacted into law because any conviction where such a procedure is employed will immediately come under constitutional attack.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this matter.



The Judiciary, State of Hawai'i

Testimony to the House Committee on Judiciary Representative Karl Rhoads, Chair Representative Maile S. L. Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

> Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 325

> > By

Judge Glenn J. Kim, Chair Supreme Court Standing Committee on the Hawai'i Rules of Evidence

Bill No. and Title: House Bill No. 2574, Relating to Evidence.

Purpose: Amends the Hawai'i Rules of Evidence to authorize nonresident property crime victims to testify in criminal proceedings by a live two-way video connection.

Judiciary's Position:

The Hawai'i Supreme Court's Committee on Rules of Evidence opposes H.B. No. 2574, which would authorize "video testimony of [a] nonresident in a [prosecution for a] felony property offense." The measure would allow a Hawai'i court to receive testimony by live, two-way closed circuit television from a property crime victim located outside Hawai'i. The procedure would violate the Confrontation Clauses of the U.S. and Hawa'i Constitutions.

The proponents of H.B. No. 2574 apparently recognize the applicability of the rule of <u>Maryland v. Craig</u>, 497 U.S. 836, 860 (1990)(approving closed circuit broadcast of testimony given by a child sexual abuse victim at a remote location out of the accused's presence), requiring a "case-specific finding of necessity" to satisfy the Sixth Amendment's Confrontation Clause. They claim, in the preamble to this measure, that the denial of face-to-face confrontation "is necessary to further an important public policy of ensuring public safety for visitors and residents." But there are no case-specific findings of necessity contemplated, other than (1) "the crime is a felony" and (2) the victim-witness is a nonresident of this state. These findings are not case-specific, and the link between this procedure and the stated goal of ensuring public safety is not stated, not apparent, and not inferable.



House Bill No. 2574, Relating to Evidence House Committee on Judiciary Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m. Page 2

We invite the Committee's attention to <u>United States v. Yates</u>, 438 F.3d 1307 (11th Cir. 2006)(en banc), where the testimony of two witnesses located in Australia was broadcast into an Alabama courtroom by means of a two-way, closed circuit television procedure. The witnesses were unwilling to travel to the United States, and they were beyond the federal district court's subpoena power. <u>Yates</u> holds:

The district court made no case-specific findings of fact that would support a conclusion that this case is different from any other criminal prosecution in which the Government would find it convenient to present testimony by two-way video conference. All criminal prosecutions include at least some evidence crucial to the Government's case, and there is no doubt that many criminal cases could be more expeditiously resolved were it unnecessary for witnesses to appear at trial. If we were to approve introduction of testimony in this manner, on this record, every prosecutor wishing to present testimony from a witness overseas would argue that providing crucial prosecution evidence and resolving the case expeditiously are important public policies that support the admission of testimony by two-way video conference. . . . In this case, there simply is no necessity of the type <u>Craig</u> contemplates. When one considers that Rule 15 (which provides for depositions in criminal cases) supplied an alternative, this lack of necessity is strikingly apparent.

The <u>Yates</u> court added that Fed. R. Crim. P. 15 allows the Government to depose witnesses and guarantees "the defendant's right to physical face-to-face confrontation by specifically providing for his presence at the deposition." 438 F.3d at1317. The court reasoned: "On this record, there is no evidentiary support for a case-specific finding that the witnesses and defendants could not be placed in the same room for the taking of pretrial deposition testimony pursuant to Rule 15." <u>Id</u>.

We have presented <u>Yates</u> in some detail for several reasons. To begin with, it is a proper application of <u>Maryland v. Craig</u>. Secondly, it closely parallels any record that would be developed in a court adopting the HB 2574 procedure. And it shows that necessity is absent whenever a deposition procedure like that furnished by <u>Fed. R. Crim. P.</u> is available to the prosecutor. We note that the deposition procedure of <u>HRPP</u> (Hawai'i Rule of Penal Procedure) 15, our state counterpart of the federal deposition rule, permits depositions under the same conditions as does the federal rule, and both rules are far superior to a two-way closed circuit telecast because the defendant is entitled to be present at the deposition.

Why is the accused's presence with the witness when testimony is taken so critical?



House Bill No. 2574, Relating to Evidence House Committee on Judiciary Friday, February 21, 2014, 1:00 p.m. Page 3

Isn't two way TV, where the witness can see the defendant, and vice versa, just as good as physical presence? For the answer we go back to <u>Coy v. Iowa</u>, 487 U.S. 1012 (1988), which posited physical, face-to-face confrontation as the "core" value of the Confrontation Clause. The <u>Yates</u> court also addressed this question: "The simple truth is that confrontation through a video monitor is not the same as physical face-to-face confrontation. As our sister circuits have recognized, the two are not constitutionally equivalent. . . . The Sixth Amendment's guarantee of the right to confront one's accuser is most certainly compromised when the confrontation occurs through an electronic medium." <u>Id</u>.

HB 2574 should be disapproved because it is unnecessary and violative of the Constitution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 2574.

Justin F. Kollar Prosecuting Attorney

Kevin K. Takata First Deputy



Rebecca A. Vogt Second Deputy

Diana Gausepohl-White, LCSW Victim/Witness Program Director

OFFICE OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY

County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i 3990 Ka'ana Street, Suite 210, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766 808-241-1888 ~ FAX 808-241-1758 Victim/Witness Program 808-241-1898 or 800-668-5734

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF H.B. No. 2574 A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EVIDENCE

Justin F. Kollar, Prosecuting Attorney County of Kauai

House Committee on Judiciary

Friday, February 21, 2014 1:00 p.m., Room 325

Honorable Chair Rhoads, Vice-Chair Har, and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary, the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kaua'i submits the following testimony in STRONG SUPPORT of H.B. 2574, Relating to Evidence.

The proposed measure will recognize that in a substantial portion of the property crimes committed in the State of Hawaii, the victims are visitors from outside the state who may lack the financial or time resources to return to Hawaii to testify at trials or other evidentiary hearings, and that alternative measures are necessary to ensure that justice is done in these cases. Many thieves target obvious tourist vehicles or lodging specifically due to this logistical impediment to prosecution.

Although Hawaii Revised Statutes Section 801D-7 already gives victims and witnesses the right to testify at trial by video, that right has never been implemented by the necessary amendment to the Hawaii Rules of Evidence. This bill would address that, and provide a reasonable and efficient framework for allowing the testimony of victims and witnesses to crimes which may otherwise never reach a just resolution.

For these reasons, we strongly support H.B. 2574. We ask the Committee to PASS this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

Respectfully, Justin F. Kollar Prosecuting Attorney

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ALAN M. ARAKAWA MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE

POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

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

February 19, 2014



GARY A. YABUTA CHIEF OF POLICE

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

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair And Members of the Committee on Judiciary House of Representative State Capitol Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: House Bill No. 2574 - Relating to Evidence

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports the passage of HB 2574. The passage of this bill amends the Hawaii Rules of Evidence to authorize nonresident property crime victims to testify in criminal proceedings by a live two-way video connection.

This bill will save taxpayers in witness travel and incidental costs associated with the prosecution of cases. It will also help to deter those who prey on non-residents as they would be assured that prosecution of offenses could still occur even if the victim were no longer in the state. Not only non-residents should be allowed to provide testimony via video connection, but also previous residents who no longer reside in Hawaii and members of our armed forces who may have been reassigned to other posts to protect our county.

The Maui Police Department asks that you support the passage of HB 2574.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely, GARY A. YABUTA Chief of Police

Submitted on: 2/19/2014 Testimony for JUD on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard K. Minatoya	Dept. of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui	Support	No

Comments: The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui, SUPPORTS the passage of HB 2574, and joins in the testimony of the Office of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Kauai. HB 2574 will help address the problem of property crimes committed against visitors, by amending the Hawaii Rules of Evidence to include video testimony as allowed by HRS § 801D-7. We ask that the committee PASS HB 2574. Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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TESTIMONY OF THE COUNTY OF KAUAI OFFICE OF ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

4444 Rice Street, Suite 200 Līhu'e, HI 96766 Tel (808) 241-6390

February 19, 2014

TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Hearing scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2014; 1:00 pm

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2574, RELATING TO EVIDENCE

TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is George K. Costa, Director of the Office of Economic Development, testifying on behalf of the County of Kaua'i and the Mayor's Crime Task Force.

The Mayor's Crime Task Force was formed over 4 years ago in an effort to bring various community and business stakeholders together to address the ongoing crime problems in Kaua'i County. During this time period, and after reviewing various department procedures to find solutions that may someday reduce or eliminate crime on our island. During this time period we have developed a "Wish List" of initiatives and one of those rising to the top of our priorities is being able to have live, two-way video as part of the evidence proceedings.

As you know, not only in the County of Kaua'i, but throughout the State of Hawaii, criminals frequently target our visitors for property crimes, as they are less likely to testify in a criminal case because they live outside of our state.

The Visitor Industry is the "main economic engine" in Kauai County and all too often, thieves target rental cars, vacation rental homes and crimes against our visitors significantly damage our Visitor industry's image and reputation.

We would like to amend the Hawaii Rules of Evidence to authorize nonresident property crime victims to testify in criminal proceedings by a live two-way video connection. It is our understanding that the fundamental constitutional right of criminal defendants is the opportunity to confront and cross-examine witnesses against them. It is our hope that the legislature will find that this right may be satisfied absent a physical, face-to-face confrontation at trial where denial of such confrontation is necessary to further an important public policy of ensuring public safety for visitors and residents and where the reliability of the testimony is otherwise assured.

We extend our Kokua in advance for your assistance. Mahalo Ke Akua.



BERNARD P. CARVALHO, JR. Mayor

> NADINE K. NAKAMURA Managing Director

POLICE DEPARTMENT COUNTY OF KAUAI

3990 KAANA STREET, SUITE 200 LIHUE, HAWAII 96766-1268 TELEPHONE (808) 241-1600 FAX (808) 241-1604 www.kauaipd.org



DARRYL D. PERRY Chief of Police dperry@kauai.gov

MICHAEL M. CONTRADES Deputy Chief <u>mcontrades@kauai.gov</u>

February 20, 2014

Representative Karl Rhoads Chair Committee on Judiciary State Capitol, Conference Room 325 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: SUPPORT FOR HOUSE BILL 2574 RELATING TO EVIDENCE

Dear Chair Rhoads:

I am writing in support for HB 2574, Relating to Evidence.

The criminal justice system incorporates a wide variety of laws at all levels of government to provide due process for individuals alleged to have committed crime(s). This is in keeping with both the United States and State Constitutions. Those provisions apply to both the accused as well as the victim. Unfortunately victims—particularly visitors—in circumstances out of their control have not been afforded the opportunity to participate in evidentiary hearings because of geographical and economic restrictions.

The passage of this bill will allow victims of crimes to have a voice in the process and provide a sense involvement that would otherwise have been lost. Furthermore, predators who target our visitors will no longer have a free ride to reoffend over and over again and not be held accountable. Repeat and serious offenders are often released from custody and not prosecuted because of the lack of evidence due to the non-participation by the victim. This bill will close that loophole.

For those reasons, we support the passage of HB 2574. Thank you for the opportunity to submit my testimony.

Sincerely, PERR Chief of Police

Submitted on: 2/19/2014 Testimony for JUD on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randall Francisco	Kauai Chamber of Commerce	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Submitted on: 2/18/2014 Testimony for JUD on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Murphy Allison	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 2/18/2014 Testimony for JUD on Feb 21, 2014 13:00PM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaeo Bradford	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I Support HB2574.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Testimony of the **County of Kaua'i** Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr., Mayor 4444 Rice Street, Suite 235 Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766 Tel: (808) 241-4900; Fax (808) 241-6877

Re: HB 2574 Relating to Evidence Before a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee

February 20, 2014

Aloha, and mahalo for considering my testimony in strong support of HB 2574.

Several years ago, I convened a task force of community and business leaders to meet regularly with law enforcement personnel, so that we could seek partnerships and initiatives to reduce crime on Kaua'i.

This year, the Mayor's Crime Task Force identified its top priority as seeking to amend state law so that victims of crime, notably visitors to our island, could participate in the adjudication of their cases without enduring the burden of having to physically travel back to Kaua'i for a trial.

Unfortunately, visitors are often targeted for crime. Because they often times don't have the ability to return to Hawai'i for a trial these cases often go unresolved. Allowing visitors to testify during trials via two-way video conferencing will allow us to better address crime in our communities and insure that justice is served.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Mahalo nui loa,

Been and

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr. Mayor, County of Kaua'i

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAI'I POLICE DEPARTMENT



HOUSE BILL 2574

RELATING TO EVIDENCE

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

- DATE : Friday, February 21, 2014
- TIME : 1:00 P.M.
- PLACE : Conference Room 325 State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

PERSON TESTIFYING:

Deputy Police Chief Paul K. Ferreira Hawai'i Police Department County of Hawai'i

(Written Testimony Only)

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 (808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

February 20, 2014

Representative Karl Rhoads Chairman and Committee Members Committee on Judiciary 415 South Beretania Street, Room 325 Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: HOUSE BILL 2574 RELATING TO EVIDENCE

Dear Representative Rhoads:

The Hawai'i Police Department supports House Bill 2574 with its purpose being to authorize nonresident property crime victims to testify in criminal proceedings by a live two-way video connection.

We believe this legislation as written will serve to ensure that those individuals who criminally prey on visitors to our shores will no longer find themselves gaining a "free pass" when the visitors must return to their residences or are otherwise unable to return to Hawai'i in order to testify.

We further believe this legislation will ensure that those visitors, who are victims of property crimes, will have a sense of relief in knowing that distance will no longer equate to being re-victimized if they are unable to return to Hawai`i to testify.

It is for these reasons, we urge this committee to approve this legislation.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai'i Police Department to provide comments relating to House Bill 2574.

Sincerely,

PAUL K. FERREIRA DEPUTY POLICE CHIEF

Testimony of Rev. Mike Hough Board Director of the Kapaa Business Associatio 6440 Olohena Road, Kapaa HI 96746 Tel: (808) 808-822-5381



Re: HB 2574 Relating to Evidence Before a hearing of the House Judiciary Committee Hearing scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2014; 1:00 pm

TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

My name is Mike Hough, Director of the Kapaa Business Association, testifying on behalf of the membership of the Kapaa Business Association and the Mayor's Crime Task Force, of which I am a member.

The Kapaa Business Association is in strong support of HB 2574.

Several years ago, the KBA was instrumental in beginning the conversations that were the foundation of The Mayors Crime Task Force, which initially came about through our discussions with businesses on the Eastside of Kauai seeking to reduce crime on Kaua'i.

After 2 years of hard work meeting with all levels of the government on Kauai from the Police Department, KVB, the County Prosecutor Office, Ex Judges, Ex criminals, KCCC and business community Associations from across the Island, the Mayor's Crime Task Force identified its top priority in seeking to amend current state law so that victims of crime, notably visitors to our island, could participate in the adjudication of their cases without enduring the burden of having to physically travel back to Kaua'i for a trial.

Unfortunately, visitors are often targeted for crime. Because they often times don't have the ability to return to Hawai'i for a trial these cases often go unresolved. Allowing visitors to testify during trials via two-way video conferencing will allow us to better address crime in our communities and insure that justice is served.

Mahalo for your favorable consideration of this measure.

Sincerely

Mike Hough. KBA Board Member



Kapaa Business Association PO Box 1480, Kapaa, HI 96746 (808) 651-3273 www.kbakauai.org TESTIMONY OF Edgar S. Justus IV Owner of "Talk Story - The Bookstore in Hanapepe" PO Box 770 Hanapepe, HI 96716 Tel (808) 335-6469

February 21, 2014

TO THE HOUSE JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

Hearing scheduled for Friday, February 21, 2014; 1:00 pm

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2574, RELATING TO EVIDENCE

TO THE HONORABLE COMMITTEE CHAIRS AND COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

Thank you for hearing my testimony in **full support** for live video testimony for non-resident victims of theft.

A few years ago, I was asked to serve on the Mayor's Crime Task Force as the business representative for Hanapepe. In those few years, I've learned a lot about the issues of crime that occur on Kauai, and what the challenges are for the police department and prosecutor's office in keeping repeat offenders off the streets. They related that one of their major frustrations is that even if the police do everything right in the arresting of a criminal, and the prosecutors do their due diligence, if the victim of the crime was not present, many of these cases get either dismissed or a "slap on the wrist" and the criminal is back out on the streets continuing their criminal behaviors. It was also made clear that most visitors who are victims of theft continue to be a victim, if they make the choice to fly back to Hawaii in order to attempt to see the crime brought to justice, because of the money and time spent in doing so. And those that choose not to spend the money or the time, feel frustrated that they didn't (or couldn't) do what it took to try to see that justice was done.

At our Task Force meeting, I suggested the idea of "live streaming video testimony" in court cases for non-resident victims of theft as a way to resolve this problem. The Task Force agreed that this idea would have the greatest positive impact overall. Non-resident victims of theft would be able to be present by live video in court to be able to testify that they did not give permission for the accused to take their property, all without there being the added expense to both the state and the victim in flying back to Hawaii to resolve the matter, not to mention the inconvenience of it. This would help bring these situations finally to proper justice. It would, as an added benefit, discourage criminals from targeting visitors for theft now that it would be easy for the victim to be present for the court proceedings.

I request that you approve this bill in your committee, as I feel it will be of the greatest positive benefit for both Kauai, Hawaii at-large, and to the numerous visitors who are a part of our island life. Thank you for your consideration.

Aloha, Ed Justus POLICE DEPARTMENT

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU TESTIMON

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813 TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulupd.org



LOUIS M. KEALOHA CHIEF

DAVE M KAJIH RO MARIE A MCCAULEY DEPUTY CHIEFS

KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE CO-SH

February 21, 2014

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair and Members Committee on Judiciary House of Representatives Hawaii State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

Subject: House Bill No. 2574, Relating to Evidence

I am Cary Okimoto, Major of District 6 (Waikiki) of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD strongly supports the passage of House Bill No. 2574, which would authorize nonresident property crime victims to testify in criminal proceedings by live two-way video connection. Waikiki has a large tourist population, and when they are victims of property crimes, they are frequently unable to return to testify for court proceedings. This bill will make the victims accessible, and suspects will be held accountable for victimizing tourists.

Passing this bill would deter criminals who constantly victimize tourists in the State of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Cary Okimoto, Major District 6

APPROVED:

naci

Louis M. Kealoha Chief of Police

Serving and Protecting With Aloha