

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 436 HD1 SD1
A BILL RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

PRESENTATION TO
THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

BY
BRIGADIER GENERAL ARTHUR J. LOGAN
ADJUTANT GENERAL
AND DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
April 6, 2015

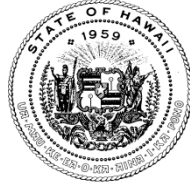
Chair Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair Shimabukuro, and Members of the Senate Committee on
Judiciary and Labor:

I am Brigadier General Arthur J. Logan, State Adjutant General and the Director of the Hawaii
Emergency Management Agency. I am testifying in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 436
HD1 SD1.

This measure amends the definition of "emergency vehicle" in the law that requires approaching
vehicles to slow and change lanes to include Hawaii Emergency Management Agency vehicles,
county emergency management vehicles and other law enforcement agencies. This needed
change to the statewide traffic code will assist emergency management in the performance of
their official duties in disaster situations.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **STRONG SUPPORT** of House Bill 436 HD1 SD1.

DAVID Y IGE
GOVERNOR



FORD FUCHIGAMI
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
JADE BUTAY
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

April 6, 2015
2:26 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 016

H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1
RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Labor

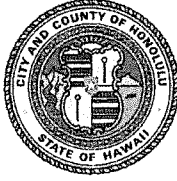
The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this bill and appreciates the Committees on Transportation and Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs for including DOT Harbor vehicles in Senate Draft 1.

This bill will help to ensure the safety of all first responders en route to hazardous events, especially on Hawaii roadways, when heavily trafficked and potentially dangerous to both first responders and members of the traveling public.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DEPARTMENT OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
650 SOUTH KING STREET • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 723-8960 • FAX: (808) 524-3439

KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR



MELVIN N. KAKU
DIRECTOR

PETER J.S. HIRAI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill (H.B.) 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Melvin Kaku, Director of the Department of Emergency Management, City and County of Honolulu (City). I am testifying in strong SUPPORT of HB 436 H.D. 1., S.D. 1.

H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles, amends the definition of "emergency vehicle" in the statewide traffic code to include "sheriff division vehicle, Hawaii Emergency Management Agency vehicle and County emergency management vehicles as 'Emergency Vehicles'".

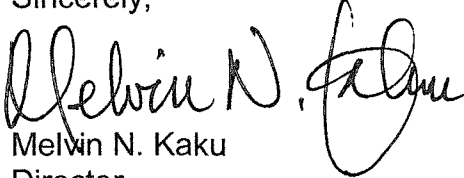
The City's Department of Emergency Management has a cadre of trained Emergency Management Reservists who provide mission critical duties in support of the City's first responders during emergencies. These duties include traffic control, closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to hazardous rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding and other duties which put them in harm's way. This measure will protect these personnel during their mission-critical duties.

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran and Members
April 2, 2015
Page 2

DEM strongly supports H.B. 436 H.D. 1, S.D. 1, with the proposed amended language and thanks the committee for recognizing the necessity to include the sheriff division as well as the State and County emergency management vehicles in carrying out public safety duties.

I urge your committee to pass H.B. 436 H.D. 1, S.D. 1, as amended. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Melwin N. Kaku
Director

cc: Roy K. Amemiya, Jr., Managing Director

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Elton S. Ushio
Civil Defense Manager

Nadine K. Nakamura
Managing Director

KAUAI CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

3990 Kaana St., Suite 100, Lihue, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-1800 FAX (808) 241-1860

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

I am Elton Ushio, Manager of the County of Kauai Civil Defense Agency. I am testifying in SUPPORT of H.B. 436 H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

H.B. 436 H.D. 1, S.D. 1 will help to protect and ensure the safety of emergency management, civil defense and other personnel who provide various critical public safety functions.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Sincerely,

Elton S. Ushio
Civil Defense Manager



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature, State of Hawaii
The Senate
Committee on Judiciary and Labor

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association
April 6, 2015

H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 – RELATING TO
EMERGENCY VEHICLES

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the purpose and intent of H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1, which promotes highway safety by amending the Statewide Traffic Code to include Sheriff Division, Harbor Division and Conservation and Resources Enforcement Division vehicles in the definition of emergency vehicles under Section 291C-27, HRS.

This section requires vehicles to slow and change lanes when approaching emergency vehicles that are stopped while performing their official duties. Amending Section 291C-27, HRS is necessary to protect state law enforcement personnel who provide vital services to the people of Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

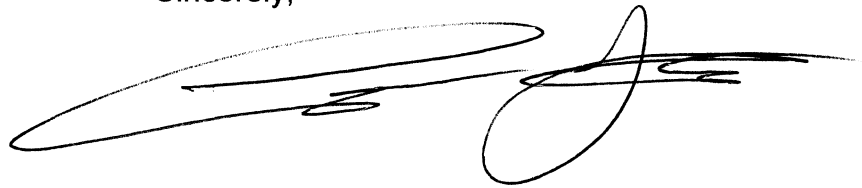
I am Christopher S. Date, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C -(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include emergency management/civil defense vehicles, Sheriff division vehicles, DLNR division vehicles, and DOT harbors division vehicles as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, HD1, SD1 and thank your committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Christopher S. Date". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end.

Christopher S. Date

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Colin S. Watanabe, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C –(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include emergency management/civil defense vehicles, Sheriff division vehicles, DLNR division vehicles, and DOT harbors division vehicles as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, HD1, SD1 and thank your committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

Colin S. Watanabe

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

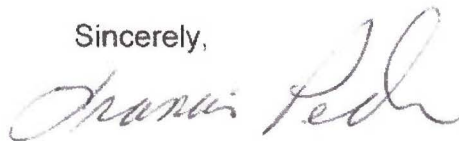
I am Francis Pedro, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C -(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include emergency management/civil defense vehicles, Sheriff division vehicles, DLNR division vehicles, and DOT harbors division vehicles as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, HD1, SD1 and thank your committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Francis Pedro".

**TESTIMONY OF GINO SOQUENA
GOVERNMENT RELATIONS DIRECTOR
LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL UNION OF NORTH AMERICA LOCAL 368**

STATE SENATE
COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND LABOR

Sen. Gil Keith-Agaran, Chair
Sen. Maile Shimabukuro, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

DATE: Monday, April 6, 2015

TIME: 9:26 AM

PLACE: Conference Room 016

State Capitol 415 South Beretania Street

TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF H.B. 436 HD1 SD1, RELATING TO EMERGENCY VEHICLES.

TO THE HONORABLE GIL KEITH-AGARAN, CHAIR, MAILE SHIMABUKURO, VICE CHAIR, AND MEMBERS OF THE JUDICIARY AND LABOR COMMITTEE:

Name is Gino Soquena, Government and Community Relations Director for the Hawaii Laborers Union Local 368. **I also serve as one of five Commissioners on the Civil Defense Commission** for the Department of Emergency Management of the City and County of Honolulu.

I am testifying as an individual in **STRONG SUPPORT** of H.B. 436 HD1 SD1. Passage of this bill will amend the definition of "emergency vehicle" in the statewide traffic code to include "emergency management" and "Sheriff division" vehicles, thus giving them the added protection needed while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I respectfully ask for your favorable consideration to pass H.B. 436 HD1 SD1 as amended. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

Aloha,

Gino Soquena

Hawaii Laborers Union Local 368

Jeffrey K. Spencer
Honolulu, Hawaii

April 2, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Jeffrey Spencer, Reserve Services Coordinator for the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management (DEM) and I stand in strong support of House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As the Reserve Services Coordinator for DEM and former volunteer emergency management reservist for the past 20 years, I have responded to various emergency situations that place me and my fellow reservists in harm's way on the roadways of O'ahu,

While off at motor vehicle accidents as well as other road hazards I myself have had close calls where motorists come uncomfortably close to me, my fellow reservist and our vehicles, even with our emergency warning lights flashing.

The passage of this bill is critical in protecting all first responders statewide, by amending §291C –(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include Emergency Management vehicles/personnel as "Emergency Vehicles" and various State Public Safety vehicles thus giving all of us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, and thank this committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "JK Spencer", with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

I am Kenneth Kato, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C –(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include emergency management/civil defense vehicles, Sheriff division vehicles, DLNR division vehicles, and DOT harbors division vehicles as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, HD1, SD1 and thank your committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

Kenneth Kato
District VIII

April 3, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Chair and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
State Senate
415 Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Subject: House Bill (HB) 436, H.D.1, S.D. 1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

As a member of the City & County of Honolulu Citizens Advisory Committee for Civil Defense I strongly support HB436, H.D. 1, S.D. 1 which amends the definition of emergency vehicles to include "Hawaii Emergency Management Agency" vehicles.

Honolulu City & County have a number of trained and equipped personnel on staff and reservists who will be responding to emergency situations. It is important that they be supported and not hindered by the language in this bill.

I ask that the committee pass H.B. 436 H.D. 1, S.D. 1 as amended.

Sincerely,

Richard Peterson

City and County Citizens Advisory Committee on Civil Defense

The Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith Agaran, Chair
and Members
Committee on Judiciary and Labor
The Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Keith-Agaran and Members:

Subject: House Bill 436 HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles

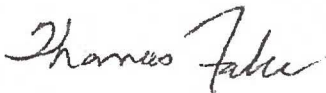
I am Thomas Fake, an Emergency Management Reservist for the Department of Emergency Management, and stand in support of House Bill 436, HD1, SD1, Relating to Emergency Vehicles.

As a volunteer Emergency Management Reservist for the City & County of Honolulu's Department of Emergency Management, my fellow reservists and I provide mission critical duties for the City & County of Honolulu alongside other first responders during emergencies. These duties include closing of roads, highways and other thoroughfares due to rockslides, mudslides, flash flooding as well as other duties which put us in harm's way.

The passage of this bill will amend subsection §291C -(2) (b) of the Hawaii Revised Statutes to include emergency management/civil defense vehicles, Sheriff division vehicles, DLNR division vehicles, and DOT harbors division vehicles as "Emergency Vehicles", thus giving us the added protection we need while serving the public during emergencies or other incidents.

I support House Bill 436, HD1, SD1 and thank your committee for the opportunity to provide testimony for this bill.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Thomas Fake".

Thomas Fake