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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
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February 8, 2018
10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B. 2430
RELATING TO CARGO INSPECTIONS

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
and
Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this measure, but offers the following comments for consideration.

This measure seeks to establish a three-year pilot program that uses dogs to inspect incoming cargo for illegal fireworks and explosives after the arrival of the cargo at the State commercial harbors. Inspections under this program may be done outside the harbors at freight forwarder warehouses or other facilities where consolidated cargo is segregated and prepared for delivery.

Given the volume of cargo and goods that move through the commercial harbors and the desire to avoid delays in cargo movements and commerce, the DOT appreciates the provision for the proposed inspections to happen at sites away from the harbors.

The DOT is primarily concerned that it does not have the explicit authority to open cargo containers or shipping devices for inspections. A federal agency like the Department of Homeland Security may have the authority to do so. This bill in its current form does not delegate the authority to open cargo containers or shipping devices for inspections to the DOT. As such, the DOT's ability to implement the proposed pilot program on its own is limited and we cannot guarantee participation or support by the necessary federal agencies.

In addition, the DOT does not have data on the training requirements for canine units, both time and costs, to determine the appropriation required to effectively carry out this pilot program. We will address this in greater detail with the Committee on Ways and Means at a future hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

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