

JOHN D. KIM Prosecuting Attorney

ROBERT D. RIVERA First Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

## DEPARTMENT OF THE PROSECUTING ATTORNEY COUNTY OF MAUI WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793 PHONE (808) 270-7630 • FAX (808) 270-7927

February 5, 2018

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair The Honorable Will Espero, Vice Chair Members of the Senate Committee on Transportation and Energy Twenty-Ninth Legislature Regular Session of 2018 State of Hawai`i

Re: TESTIMONY S.B. NO. 2551 RELATING TO RESISTING AN ORDER TO STOP A MOTOR VEHICLE

Dear Senator Inouye, Senator Espero, and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui STRONGLY SUPPORTS S.B. NO. 2551. This bill allows the offense of Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle in the First Degree to be charged by way of Felony Information.

The offense of Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle under Hawai'i Revised Statutes ("HRS") § 710-1026.9 was recently enacted in 2016. This offense punishes resisting an order to stop a motor vehicle under the conditions specified therein that put public safety and officer safety at greater risk. In general, the material witnesses for this offense are law enforcement officers.

S.B. NO. 2551 would provide the opportunity to present the facts establishing probable cause by way of declaration, instead of requiring the law enforcement officers to appear in court to testify at preliminary hearing or grand jury. As a result, the disruption to the law enforcement to maintain its service and protection of the community would be minimized. The demand on court time and resources otherwise allotted for hearings and trials would be reduced through Information Charging.

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Accordingly, the Department of the Prosecuting Attorney, County of Maui requests that S.B. NO. 2551 be PASSED.

Thank you for your consideration of this matter.

Very truly yours,

RENEE ISHIKAWA DELIZO

Felt awa Orgo

Deputy Prosecuting Attorney

## POLICE DEPARTMENT

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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KIRK CALDWELL MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD

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OUR REFERENCE RN-GR

February 7, 2018

The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair and Members
Committee on Transportation and Energy State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 225
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Inouye and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 2551, Related to Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle

I am Ryan Nishibun, Major of the Traffic Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports the passage of Senate Bill No. 2551, Related to Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle.

The HPD supports the reclassification of the offense of Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle from a Class C felony to a Class B felony. A vehicle is a potentially deadly weapon, and a person refusing to obey a lawful order to stop a motor vehicle puts the public and law enforcement officials at risk of death or bodily injury.

In addition, allowing the police departments to charge a Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle in the First Degree offense via written information will provide for a quicker charging process and eliminate the need for a preliminary hearing. Written information will eliminate the need for officers to appear in court and allow them to remain in their assignments and service the public more efficiently.

The HPD strongly supports Senate Bill No. 2551, Related to Resisting an Order to Stop a Motor Vehicle.

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Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Ryan Nishibun, Major Traffic Division

APPROVED:

Susan Ballard

Chief of Police