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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1036
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND HOMELAND SECURITY ADVISOR

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Hawaii Emergency Management Agency, and Homeland Security Advisor, State of Hawaii, Department of Defense.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1036. For over a decade, the Hawaii State Fusion Center (HSFC) has played a critical role in the protection of our residents and critical infrastructure by supporting our public safety agencies and our communities.

The HSFC functions as the nexus of information and intelligence sharing between federal, state, county, and private sector partners who collectively work to keep Hawaii and the Nation safe. It actively empowers front line law enforcement, fire, emergency management, public health, and private sector security partners by providing interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government. The HSFC provides critical real-time and strategic intelligence analysis, threat assessments, and targeted violence prevention program management that assists the public safety community in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime, terrorism, and emergent threats.

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Since its inception and subsequent federal recognition by the Department of Homeland Security as the Nation's 77th fusion center, the HSFC has also provided the required justification for millions of federal grant dollars that the Hawai'i Office of Homeland Security helps bring to the state annually. This grant funding, through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) supports numerous agencies statewide.

Passing this measure will bring official state-level recognition of the Fusion Center's value through its inclusion into HRS Chapter 128A. Importantly, supporting a key element that ensures the Hawai'i Office of Homeland Security will continue to provide the necessary support to keep our State, residents, and critical infrastructure safe.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1036.

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Frank Pace, Administrator: frank.j.pace@hawaii.gov, 808-369-3570

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1036
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY
BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

BY

FRANK J. PACE

ADMINISTRATOR

HAWAII OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 9, 2023

Aloha Chair Ichiyama, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and members of the committee:

I am Frank Pace, Administrator for the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security.

The Office of Homeland Security (OHS) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1036.

The passing of HB1036 will formally recognize the Hawaii State Fusion Center's value through its inclusion into HRS Chapter 128A, ensuring its continued support in keeping Hawaii's residents and critical infrastructure safe.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center (HSFC) has protected Hawaii's residents and critical infrastructure for over a decade by supporting public safety agencies and communities. Its federal recognition by the Department of Homeland Security has helped to justify millions of federal grant dollars annually through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) which supports numerous State and County agencies across Hawaii.

As the hub of information and intelligence sharing, the HSFC brings together federal, state, county, and private sector partners to ensure Hawaii and the nation's safety. It provides front-line law enforcement, fire, emergency management, public health, and private sector security partners with interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making

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at all levels of government. The HSFC offers critical real-time and strategic intelligence analysis, threat assessments, and targeted violence prevention program management, assisting the public safety community in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime, terrorism, and emerging threats.

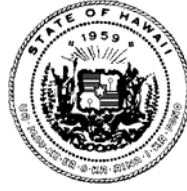
The HSFC collaborates with its partners to receive, analyze, and disseminate threat-related information. Its intelligence analysts actively piece together disparate bits of information to form integrated views, producing actionable intelligence products on emerging cyber incidents, threats, events, or trends.

The HSFC plays a vitally important role in Hawaii's homeland security. The State of Hawaii's formal recognition of this responsibility is a crucial step in ensuring its ability to do for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1036.

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STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 8, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Linda Ichiyama, Chair
House Committee on Water & Land

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **SB 1036 – RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY.**

Hearing: February 9, 2023, 9:30 a.m.
Conference Room 430 & Via Videoconference , State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure and provides comments.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill Formally establishes the Hawai'i State Fusion Center as a program under the Office of Homeland Security to be transferred to the Department of Law Enforcement and delineates its roles and responsibilities.

The Fusion Center are vital to government services and residents' and visitors' security, health, and well-being. The Fusion Center provides access to cross-sector and cross-government communication and training on broad security issues.

DHS is a partner agency with the Fusion Center, and DHS staff actively participate in training and briefings that are easily accessible and available on a variety of issues. For example, DHS staff have attended training and discussions addressing cyber security, efforts of online law enforcement to identify sex trafficking, active shooter events, COVID-19 procedures, and debriefs of significant events for situational awareness and to inform planning.

On Friday, February 3, 2023, DHS Child Welfare Services Intake Administrator provided a virtual in-training to Fusion Center partners on the child welfare intake process.

Additionally, Fusion Center staff also participates in Emergency Support Function 6, which DHS leads as part of the State's Emergency Management infrastructure.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
February 9, 2023**

Re: HB 1036 RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY

Good morning, Chair Ichiyama and members of the House Committee on Water and Land. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We support HB 1036 Relating to Homeland Security. This measure formally establishes the Hawai'i State Fusion Center as a program under the Office of Homeland Security to be transferred to the Department of Law Enforcement and delineates its roles and responsibilities.

For many years, the Retail Merchant of Hawaii have been working in partnership with the Hawaii State Fusion Center. They are very influential in formulating partnerships between not only federal, state and county government agencies, but with business community partners like us that share information to combat problems and issues facing not only our industry but our community and government as well.

As property crimes continue to plague retailers, the Hawaii State Fusion Center has been instrumental in establishing the Hawaii Organized Retail Crime Alliance (HIORCA) website that is open only to law enforcement and retail investigators to share cross jurisdictional information to identify, disrupt, and apprehend Organized Retail Crime (ORC) crews. HIORCA operates like a business "crime watch" that allows law enforcement and retailers to communicate on a real time basis through alerts about criminal activity and incidents impacting their business or geographic area, in an effort to prevent other retail partners from being victimized.

The information that we receive from the Hawaii State Fusion Center is invaluable through their dissemination of information on leads, tips, trends, suspicious activities and more. It is only by continuing to work in partnership that we can maintain a Hawaii that is not only safe to visit but to live and work as well.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1036

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:23:18 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/9/2023 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support. Mahalo