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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 956 HD1
RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE:

BY

EVERETT S. KANESHIGE
STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR

February 28, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

My name is Everett Kaneshige and I am the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator with the Office of Homeland Security at the State Department of Defense. Thank you for the opportunity for our office to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 956 HD1.

The reasons that our office supports this measure are the same as those set forth in the testimony that was submitted by Major General Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor

In addition, I would like to provide the Committee with the following additional information:

1. A copy of this measure was distributed to approximately 136 public safety communications stakeholders who are on the notice list for the quarterly Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Committee (SCIP) meetings which are hosted by our office. A virtual SCIP meeting was held on December 11, 2020, and no objections or comments were raised during the meeting.
2. On February 11, 2021, a copy of this measure was presented and discussed by approximately 35 public safety officials at a meeting of the Enhanced 911 Board held in Honolulu, HI. No objections or comments were raised during the meeting.

I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have about the bill. Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **Support** of HB 956 HD1.

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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 956, HD1
RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 28, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

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

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 956 HD1.

Governance sets the foundation for the collaboration and decision making necessary to support operability, interoperability, and continuity of emergency communications. A formal public safety communications governance body can provide a clear direction for future communications efforts to executive leadership, a framework for impacted parties to collaborate and make recommendations and more effective and efficient use of financial and technology resources.

Potential benefits that could result from the formation of such a body include:

- Better alignment in public safety communications strategies at all levels of government within the state
- Increased coordination in response to incidents and emergencies which can help save lives
- Greater insight into existing public safety communications capabilities, identify gaps, and assess areas for cooperation
- Better awareness of shared resources across levels and jurisdictions for incident response such as a cadre of trained professionals who can manage communications for incidents and emergencies
- Buy-in through participation and understanding of interoperability strategies included in decisions related to operability and interoperability

This measure proposes to create a new part to HRS Chapter 128A which would consist of the following 3 sections:

1. Establishes a Statewide Interoperable Communications Executive Committee to develop plans and strategies to improve public safety communications interoperability among state, county, and, where possible, federal public safety agencies. The Committee would be made up of 7 representatives from State agencies; 8 representatives from County agencies; and the chair of the Enhanced 911 Board. This is important so that public safety communications can be discussed at a senior level for the reasons described above.
2. Establishes a statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee whose purpose is to provide technical advice to the statewide interoperable communications executive committee. It is intended that the members of this technical subcommittee would be the same as those who currently participate in the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) meetings. This would allow the collective expertise of the SCIP group can be shared amongst all government agencies who utilize public safety communications networks.
3. Establishes the Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator (SWIC), as a full-time position exempt from chapter 76 whose critical responsibilities include aiding stakeholders in the development of projects, plans, policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines for statewide interoperable public safety communications. This position was previously established in HRS Chapter 127 and is fully funded. This measure seeks to codify the language describing the SWIC position in the statute. There will be no increased expense to DOD or the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **Support** of HB 956 HD1.

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