

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR



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No. _____

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2008
RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY

by
Clayton A Frank, Director
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety & Military Affairs
Representative Cindy Evans, Chairperson

Thursday, February 07, 2008, 8:45 a.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Cindy Evans and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) opposes House Bill 2008, repealing Section 353-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which provides that gifts of money or property donated to the department of public safety must be deposited in the state treasury and reported to the legislature by the department annually.

There are a number of areas within the department that rely on donations of property to function, primarily the libraries within the correctional facilities. There are no appropriated funds that support the libraries because they rely on the donations of books to continue. Initiative such as the Going Home project on the Island Hawaii (Hale Nani site) and The Outdoor Circle on Oahu (WCCC facility) will also be adversely impacted by passage of this measure as they too rely heavily on donations. As written, this measure would also severely hamper our efforts to maintain and strengthen current partnerships, and have an adverse effect on our ability to create new partnership in both, the public and private sectors.

Under this measure, upon receipt of a donation, the PSD would be required to seek approval from the Governor through the Department of Budget and Finance prior

to accepting the donation or gift. After receiving the Governor's approval, a request would then have to be generated to the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish a gift or donor account in the state treasury to deposit the funds.

The repeal of Section 353-32, Hawaii Revised Statutes, would add time consuming, cumbersome, and unnecessary bureaucratic layers to the department in accepting gifts and donations. Moreover, PSD actively encourages the donation of property and equipment over cash or funds. This measure would dramatically hinder individuals and organizations from donating much needed gifts to the department, which directly supports our efforts to further enhance our comprehensive re-entry programs.

Thank you for allowing PSD the opportunity to testify on this important matter.