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Lisa Kehl
UH School of Social Work
MSW Student & Research Assistant
753-0762
kehl@hawaii.edu

LATE TESTIMONY

Thursday, February 7, 2008; 8:45 am
Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309

STRONG SUPPORT – HB 2146 – RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Aloha Chair Evans, Vice Chair Har and Members of the Committee.

My name is Lisa Kehl and I am a Master's of Social Work Student and Research Assistant at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, School of Social Work. I am testifying in support of HB 2146.

As a student of research and program evaluation I have learned that there is little point to implementing a program without building in a process of evaluation. With no evaluation of what is happening, there is no accountability and no way of knowing whether the program is even working. By having Public Safety provide regular monthly reports on the specified indicators, it will be evident as to the effectiveness of their implementation and where energy or intervention will need to be focused to make improvements.

In the private non-profit sector, it has become standard practice to build an evaluation plan into the grant request and budget of a proposed program, especially when large amounts of money are involved. Grantors are no longer willing to give out money to programs without knowing the impact that it is having by requiring evaluation and reports on specified indicators.

It is only logical that the state government request the same level of accountability from Public Safety by providing reports of performance indicators on a monthly basis not only to the government, but also to the people of Hawaii by posting the information on their website.

I encourage you to pass HB 2146. Without this bill there are no strict guidelines to hold Public Safety accountable and to be sure that they are enforcing Community Safety Act 2007.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.