LINDA LINGLE GOVERNOR



LATE TESTIMONY

STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY 919 Ala Moana Boulevard, 4th Floor Honolulu, Hawaii 96814

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL NO. 2685 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

> Clayton A. Frank, Director Department of Public Safety

Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs Representative Cindy Evans, Chair Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

February 7, 2008, Thursday, 8:45 a.m. State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Evans and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Public Safety opposes House Bill 2685 for the following reasons:

Development of a high-rise, medium-security detention center to house minimumsecurity and community-level inmates would not take advantage of the numerous costsaving, construction measures available to accommodate these populations. Development of the proposed high-rise facility on the grounds of the only operational "jail" facility on Oahu would make current operations at the Oahu Community Correctional Center extremely difficult. An avigation easement exists at the facility that limits the maximum permissible height to which a high-rise facility may be built. This easement is significantly lower than the current height of the Federal Detention Center,

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thereby increasing the development "footprint" required at OCCC to a much larger one than the 4-acre Federal Detention Center site on Elliot Street.

The proposed development would trigger the displacement of substantial numbers of facility inmates to other locations in Hawaii and on the mainland and at substantial expense. The present day cost of the Federal Detention Center is estimated to be approximately \$122.8 million in FY 2008 dollars, nearly double its original \$63.0 million cost to construct.

The Department strongly recommends a thorough review of potential sites on Oahu appropriate to this proposed development be accomplished first as part of required initial planning activities.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.