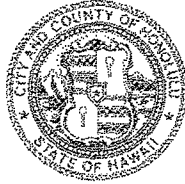


SB 2253

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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MUFI HANNEMANN
MAYOR



BOISSE P. CORREA
CHIEF

PAUL D. PUTZULU
MICHAEL D. TURNER
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE AB-SK

February 8, 2008

The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair
and Members
Committee on Energy and Environment
The Honorable Lorraine R. Inouye, Chair
and Members
Committee on Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
The Senate
State Capitol
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Menor and Inouye and Members:

Subject: Senate Bill No. 2253, Relating to An Environmental Crimes Education Program

I am Captain Alan Bluemke of the Training Division of the Honolulu Police Department, City and County of Honolulu.

The Honolulu Police Department (HPD) opposes Senate Bill No. 2253. The HPD feels that this bill will unduly burden the department with additional training and investigative duties at a time when it is suffering from a shortage of officers on the street and is taxed regarding its training personnel and resources. Additionally, the logistics of recovering, storing, and testing evidence (much of which may be hazardous, bulky, or toxic) will create an excessive burden requiring more personnel, training, and considerable monetary funding. Directing the limited training staff away from their primary duties of training new recruits, recertifying incumbent officers in "priority needs" training, or diverting current patrol personnel to an Environmental Crimes Unit could severely impact the HPD's ability to maintain adequate patrol levels. The department currently has Policy 4.51 (Environmental Crimes), which designates the HPD's Civil Defense Coordinator as the liaison that will notify the proper agency about any violation of the environmental laws.

A city audit in 2007 noted a lack of police resources in field positions and the need to recruit and train additional police officers. The HPD is currently attempting to secure additional personnel for these purposes but is presently utilizing personnel from other divisions on special assignment to assist in these duties. Due to the current shortage of personnel, the priority of training additional recruits, and the annual retraining of incumbent officers, the Training Division would be unable to take on the additional responsibilities of conducting an environmental education program. Also, the patrol divisions and the Criminal Investigation Division would be unable to fulfill the requirement of assigning officers to serve in an environmental crimes unit.

The Honorable Ron Menor and Lorraine R. Inouye, Chairs
and Members

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The public would be better served by funding and directing resources to bolster the current Environmental Crimes Unit, State Department of Health.

The Honolulu Police Department asks that you oppose the passage of Senate Bill No. 2253. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on this measure.

Sincerely,



ALAN BLUEMKE

Captain

Training Division

APPROVED:

for: 
BOISSE P. CORREA
Chief of Police