

LIQUOR COMMISSION
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
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March 16, 2009

Representative Robert N. Herkes, Chair
Representative Glenn Wakai, Vice Chair
Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Representative Jon Riki Karamatsu, Chair
Representative Ken Ito, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary

Hearing: Monday, March 16, 2009
2:00 pm; Room 325

Position: Support SB470 Relating to Liquor

The Departments of Liquor Control of the Counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui and the City and County of Honolulu Liquor Commission strongly support SB470 and urge its passage.

SB470 continues the progress begun with Act 168, Session Laws of Hawaii 2008 (HB2253 HD2 SD1 CD1) to clarify and expand provisions of law to improve certain practices and procedures relating to liquor licensing, industry practices, and the adjudication process. Among other things, the proposed bill will accomplish the following objectives:

- Enable the liquor control departments to extend relief to licensees who cannot obtain a tax clearance prior to license renewal or transfer.
- Expand the use of fine moneys to include public liquor-related educational or enforcement programs, subject to a quantified annual limit.
- Clarify procedures relating to liquor license transfers, to more accurately reflect modern business enterprise organization.
- Extend the time within which a liquor commission may grant or refuse a liquor license application following public hearing.

The proposed bill is the result of a comprehensive review of Chapter 281 conducted by the four county liquor control departments, including its commissions and adjudication boards and industry representatives. This process was begun at the 2007 Annual Liquor

Conference, and continued at the 2008 Conference and through meetings with various industry groups. We submit that the proposed bill will improve liquor regulation with negligible negative impact to licensees.

The Committees on Transportation, International & Intergovernmental Affairs and Commerce & Consumer Protection passed SB470 unamended, prior to its transmittal to the House.

We strongly support SB470 and respectfully request your favorable action on this important matter.

Janice Pakele, Director
County of Hawaii

Eric Honma, Director
County of Kauai

Franklyn Silva, Director
County of Maui



Dewey H. Kim, Jr., Administrator
City and County of Honolulu Liquor Commission