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GOVERNOR



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No. \_\_\_\_\_

COMMENTS ON HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 309 REQUESTING  
THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO IMPLEMENT AN EARLY  
WARNING SYSTEM KNOWN AS THE BLUE ALERT TO EXPEDITE THE  
APPREHENSION OF VIOLENT CRIMINALS WHO KILL OR SERIOUSLY  
WOUND COUNTY, STATE, OR FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS.

by

Clayton A. Frank, Director  
Department of Public Safety

House Committee on Public Safety  
Representative Faye P. Hanohano, Chair  
Representative Henry J.C. Aquino, Vice Chair

Thursday, March 18, 2010; 9:00AM  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Representative Hanohano, and Members of the Committee.

The Department of Public Safety (PSD) thanks the legislature for their interest in wanting to publicize the killing or wounding of Law Enforcement Officers and promoting the creation of an early warning system referred to as a Blue Alert to assist in expediting the apprehension of these types of criminals.

The Department of Public Safety truly appreciates the intent behind this resolution, but because each department and law enforcement entity in the state, be it local, county, state or federal, already have their own internal public relations means at their disposal, they are each the only ones fully in

charge of the situations that arise, and are in charge of getting the word out to the media and to all other law enforcement agencies. Putting one department in charge of something like this would likely slow down the response, not speed it up, and would only serve to add confusion to an already serious situation. This is a small state, and unlike other large states who might employ such a program, word spreads at light speed in Hawaii.

Again, while appreciating the thought behind the resolution in trying to aid in a situation as serious as the killing or wounding of a law enforcement officer, each department and agency already have plans in place to react and to get the word out.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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The Twenty-Fifth Legislature, State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Public Safety

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association  
March 18, 2010

H.C.R. 309 - REQUESTING THE  
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC SAFETY TO  
IMPLEMENT AN EARLY WARNING SYSTEM  
KNOWS AS THE BLUE ALERT TO EXPEDITE  
THE APPREHENSION OF VIOLENT  
CRIMINALS WHO KILL OR SERIOUSLY  
WOUND COUNTY, STATE OR FEDERAL  
LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICERS

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO, strongly supports the intent and purpose of H.C.R. 309 which proposes to quickly notify government agencies to expedite the apprehension of violent criminals responsible for the death or serious injury of county, state or federal law enforcement officers and to protect the public from further harm.

This proposed "blue alert" would operate similarly to the existing "amber alert" and "silver alert" for missing children and the elderly, respectively. Activating a "blue alert" would provide our law enforcement officers with the information to assist them in apprehending these criminals.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit our testimony in support of H.C.R. 309.

Respectfully Submitted,

Nora A. Nomura  
Deputy Executive Director

