

# HB 2769

## RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES.

Amends the definition of “public safety agency” to refer to state and county divisions and not federal government entities.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



Dean H. Seki  
Acting Comptroller  
Jan S. Gouveia  
Deputy Comptroller

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING  
AND GENERAL SERVICES  
P.O. BOX 119  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

TESTIMONY  
OF  
DEAN H. SEKI, ACTING COMPTROLLER  
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
ON  
March 13, 2012

H.B. 2769

RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Chair Espero and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on H.B. 2769.

The Department of Accounting and General Services supports H.B. 2769.

The current definition of "public safety agency" as a division of a "governmental entity" is too broad. H.B. 2769 clearly identifies the scope of the definition as a division of the "State or a county" for firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services. This definition mirrors the language in the original Act which created the Enhanced 911 Board.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

TESTIMONY  
OF  
PAUL K. FERREIRA, CHAIR  
STATE OF HAWAII, ENHANCED 911 BOARD  
TO THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE  
ON  
PUBLIC SAFETY, GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
SENATOR WILL ESPERO, CHAIR  
SENATOR MICHELLE KIDANI, VICE CHAIR  
ON  
March 13, 2012  
2:50 P.M.  
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 224

IN SUPPORT OF  
HOUSE BILL 2769  
RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Dear Senator Espero and Members:

I am Paul Ferreira, the Deputy Police Chief for the Hawai'i Police Department; however, I am providing testimony as the Chair of the Enhanced 911 (E911) Board that is comprised of representatives from each of the Public Safety Answering Points (PSAPs), representatives of the communications service providers, and representatives from State agencies.

The members of the then Wireless Enhanced 911 Board (Board) were instrumental in the drafting of the legislation that resulted in Act 168 becoming law during the 2011 Legislative Session, providing for amendments to the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, Chapter 138, Enhanced 911 Services. In reviewing the amendments that were implemented into the law, the current Board recognized the need to amend the definition in the law for a "Public safety agency" and approved seeking action during this legislative session.

In Chapter 138, the definition for "Public safety agency" is described currently as a functional governmental entity, which the Board recognized as being too broad of a definition and therefore needs to be amended for clarity. As written, a governmental entity may open the door for other federally funded agencies to seek disbursements from the E911 Fund minimizing the Fund's resources for state and county entities. This measure seeks to restore the former definition for "Public safety agency" establishing that a public safety agency is a functional division of the state or county government that provides for firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services, which provides the accurate meaning.

For the reasons above, we strongly urge this committee to approve House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services.

Thank you for allowing me to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,



PAUL K. FERREIRA  
CHAIR  
WIRELESS E911 BOARD

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE  
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS**

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March 12, 2012

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Committee on Public Safety, Government  
Operations, and Military Affairs  
The State Senate  
State Capitol, Room 231  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Espero:

Subject: H.B. 2769 Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

I am Kenneth G. Silva, Chair of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support H.B. 2769, which amends the definition of public safety agency.

This bill proposes to define public safety agency as a functional division of the state or county that has authority to provide fire fighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services. This clarification allows us to focus our funding and resources on the state and county public safety answering points that provide emergency services for our community.

The SFC and the HFD urge your committee's support on the passage of H.B. 2769.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or [sbratakos@honolulu.gov](mailto:sbratakos@honolulu.gov).

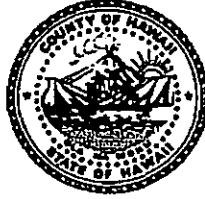
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA  
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

William P. Kenoi  
Mayor



Harry S. Kubojiri  
Police Chief

Paul K. Ferreira  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-2389

March 9, 2012

Senator Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee On Public Safety, Government Operations, And Military Affairs  
Chair and Members  
State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street, Room 224  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

**Re: House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services**

Dear Senator Espero and Members:

The Hawai`i Police Department **supports** the passage of House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services, seeking to establish that a public safety agency is a functional division of the State or a county that provides or has authority to provide, or a private entity contracted by a state or county agency that provides, firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services.

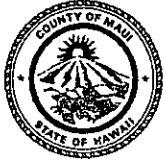
We are in agreement with the State of Hawai`i Enhanced 911 Board that the definition for "Public safety agency" in Chapter 138, currently described as a functional governmental entity, is too broad of a definition and therefore needs to be amended for clarity. As written, a governmental entity may open the door for other federally funded agencies to seek disbursements from the E911 Fund minimizing the funds resources for state and county entities.

For the reasons above, we strongly urge this committee to approve House Bill 2769, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services.

Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to testify on this bill.

Sincerely,

  
HARRY S. KUBOJIRI  
POLICE CHIEF



ALAN M. ARAKAWA  
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE  
YOUR REFERENCE

# POLICE DEPARTMENT

## COUNTY OF MAUI

55 MAHALANI STREET  
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793  
(808) 244-6400  
FAX (808) 244-6411



GARY A. YABUTA  
CHIEF OF POLICE

CLAYTON N.Y.W. TOM  
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

March 12, 2012

The Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety,  
Government Operations, and Military Affairs  
The Senate  
State Capitol  
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB No. 2769, RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Dear Chair Espero and Members of the Committee:

The Maui Police Department supports the passage of HB No. 2769. The passage of this bill amending the definition of "public safety agency" to refer to state and county divisions and not federal government entities, will assist in our goals to achieve enhanced 911 services for the State of Hawaii.

This change will provide clarity and designate the "public safety agency" that provides firefighting, law enforcement, ambulance, medical, or other emergency services with the authority needed to complete these very important tasks for the communities we protect.

I ask that you support the passage of HB No. 2769.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

  
GARY A. YABUTA  
Chief of Police

200 Akamainui Street  
Miliama, Hawaii 96789-3999  
Tel: 808-625-2100  
Fax: 808-625-5888



Honorable Will Espero, Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Government Operations and Military Affairs

Hawaii State Capitol  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: **HB 2769 - Relating to Enhanced 911 Services**  
March 13, 2012, 2:50 PM; Room 224

Aloha Chair Espero, Vice Chair Kidani and members of the committee,

My name is Kiman Wong and I am the General Manager of Wireless for Oceanic Time Warner Cable ("Oceanic").

HB2769 amends the definition of "public safety agency" to refer to state and county divisions and not federal government entities, which Oceanic supports.

We thank the committee for the opportunity to provide our comments with you and respectfully request that you pass this bill.

Sincerely,

Kim K. L. Wong  
General Manager - Wireless