

TESTIMONY
OF
PAUL K. FERREIRA, CHAIR
STATE OF HAWAII, ENHANCED 911 BOARD
TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY AND MILITARY AFFAIRS
REPRESENTATIVE HENRY J.C. AQUINO, CHAIR
REPRESENTATIVE TY CULLEN, VICE CHAIR
ON
MARCH 21, 2012
11:00 A.M.
STATE CAPITOL, CONFERENCE ROOM 309

IN SUPPORT OF
SENATE BILL 2909
RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Dear Representative Aquino 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 Senate Bill 2909, 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



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
HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
PUBLIC SAFETY & MILITARY AFFAIRS
ON
March 21, 2012

S.B. 2909

RELATING TO ENHANCED 911 SERVICES

Chair Aquino and members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to testify on S.B. 2909.

The Department of Accounting and General Services supports S.B. 2909.

The current definition of "public safety agency" as a division of a "governmental entity" is too broad. S.B. 2909 clearly identifies the scope of the definition as a division of the "State or 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.

Please note that a substantively similar measure, H.B. 2769, passed Third Reading in the Senate yesterday (March 20, 2012).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



DWIGHT TAKAMINE
DIRECTOR

AUDREY HIDANO
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LABOR AND INDUSTRIAL RELATIONS

830 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 321

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

www.hawaii.gov/labor

Phone: (808) 586-8842 / Fax: (808) 586-9099

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March 19, 2012

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: S.B. 2909 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 S.B. 2909, 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 S.B. 2909.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Kenneth G. Silva".

KENNETH G. SILVA
Chair

KGS/LR:cn

William P. Kenoi
Mayor



Darren J. Rosario
Fire Chief

Renwick J. Victorino
Deputy Fire Chief

County of Hawai'i
HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT
25 Aupuni Street • Suite 2501 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720
(808) 932-2900 • Fax (808) 932-2928

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: S.B. 2909 Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

I am Darren J. Rosario, Member of the State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Hawai'i Fire Department of the County of Hawai'i (HCFD). The SFC and the HCFD support S.B. 2909, 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 HCFD urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2909.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "DJR".

DARREN J. ROSARIO
Member



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 20, 2012

Representative Henry J. C. Aquino, Chair
House Committee On Public Safety And Military Affairs
Chair and Members
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

Re: Senate Bill 2909, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

Dear Representative Aquino and Members:

The Hawai`i Police Department **supports** the passage of Senate Bill 2909, 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.

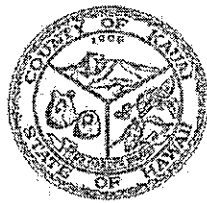
For the reasons above, we strongly urge this committee to approve Senate Bill 2909, Relating to Enhanced 911 Services.

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

Sincerely,


HARRY S. KUBOJIRI
POLICE CHIEF

Bernard P. Carvalho, Jr.
Mayor



Robert F. Westerman
Fire Chief

Gary K. Heu
Managing Director

John T. Blalock
Deputy Fire Chief

KAUA'I FIRE DEPARTMENT
County of Kaua'i, State of Hawai'i
3083 Akahi Street, Suite 101, Līhu'e, Hawai'i 96766
TEL (808) 241-4980 FAX (808) 241-6508

March 20, 2012

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: S.B. 2909 Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

I am Robert F. Westerman, Fire Chief of the Kauai Fire Department (KFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The KFD and the SFC support S.B. 2909, 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 KFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2909.

Please call me at (808) 241-4980 should you have any questions regarding this matter.

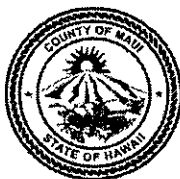
Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Robert Westerman".

Robert Westerman
Fire Chief, County of Kaua'i

RFW/eld

ALAN M. ARAKAWA
MAYOR



JEFFREY A. MURRAY
CHIEF

ROBERT M. SHIMADA
DEPUTY CHIEF

COUNTY OF MAUI
DEPARTMENT OF FIRE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

200 DAIRY ROAD
KAHULUI, MAUI, HAWAII 96732
(808) 270-7561
FAX (808) 270-7919
EMAIL: fire.dept@mauicounty.gov

March 19, 2012

The Honorable Henry Aquino, Chair
Committee on Public Safety and Military Affairs
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 419
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Aquino:

Subject: S.B. 2909 Relating to Enhanced 911 Services

I am Jeffrey A. Murray, Fire Chief of the County of Maui, Department of Fire & Public Safety (MFD) and a member of the State Fire Council (SFC). The MFD and the SFC support S.B. 2909, 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 MFD and the SFC urge your committee's support on the passage of S.B. 2909.

Should you have any questions, please contact SFC Administrator Socrates Bratakos at 723-7151 or sbratakos@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jeffrey A. Murray", is written over a printed name and title.

JEFFREY A. MURRAY
Fire Chief