

February 6, 2013

The Honorable Representatives Aquino and Takai
And the House of Representatives, PBS and VMI Committees
State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: HB850 Relating to Homeland Security

Aloha Chairs Aquino and Takai, Vice Chairs Ing and Ito and Members of the Committees:

I am writing In Support of HB850.

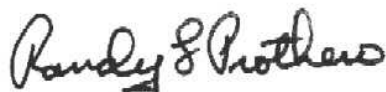
I am a member of the State Civil Defense Advisory Committee, but testifying as an individual.

I believe this bill is needed to assist the state in restructuring State Civil Defense. Currently that department is wearing many hats and while doing a wonderful job, needs to be more specialized and focused. Issues of homeland security are quite different than those of natural disasters, with different requirements and needs. Processing of security clearances is among the differing tasks that should be separated from the current State Civil Defense agency. I believe that a restructuring is needed. This bill would also allow the counties to do a similar restructuring if they chose.

With Hawaii being a tourist destination for people from all over the world and having such a large military presence, we can be a target for terrorist activities and as such need to maintain a high level of preparedness. I believe this bill will assist the state better carrying out that task.

Thank you in advance for your support of this bill. Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sincerely,



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