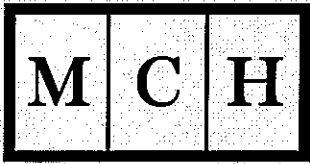


# **SB 839**

RELATING TO POLICE DEPARTMENT REPORTS TO THE  
LEGISLATURE.

Amends the annual reporting dates for police department reports submitted to the legislature. Changes reporting period to previous calendar year. Requires descriptions of each incident of misconduct reported.



# Media Council Hawai'i

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**U Win Tin**

January 30, 2013

To: Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Hearing Thursday January 31, 2013, 3 PM

Conference Room 224

State Capitol

415 South Beretania Street

## **Testimony in Support SB 839, Relating to Police Department Reports to the Legislature**

Dear Chair, Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair Senator Rosalyn Baker, and Members of the Committee,

Media Council Hawaii is in support of SB 839. Our organization has a long history supporting transparency and accountability in government affairs. It is said that democracy dies behind closed doors!

While we support the men and women who serve in our police forces, we also feel that nowhere is transparency more important than with those who have police power.

We believe that this measure takes a step in the right direction toward providing information that is necessary for public understanding and accountability and urge your support for passage. Thank you.

Sincerely,

President



**SOCIETY OF  
PROFESSIONAL  
JOURNALISTS**  
Hawaii Chapter

P.O. Box 3141  
Honolulu, HI 96802  
Jan. 31, 2013

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs  
Conference Room 224  
State Capitol  
415 S. Beretania St.

**Senate Bill 839, Relating to Police Department Reports to the Legislature**

Chair Will Espero and Committee Members,

The Hawaii chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists supports the intent of SB 839 to get adequate descriptions of police disciplinary reports in an annual report to the Legislature.

Proper disclosure of such information would increase accountability for those who have police powers.

We do not hold anything against the Police Department but feel this is a housekeeping measure that merits your support.

Thank you for your time,

Stirling Morita  
Hawaii Chapter SPJ  
529-4755