



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE, 2014**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 2241, RELATING TO PRODUCTION OF RECORDS.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

DATE: Monday, February 3, 2014 **TIME:** 2:10 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325

TESTIFIER(S): David M. Louie, Attorney General, or
Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General.

Chair McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General strongly supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to clarify provisions of chapter 806D, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), which allow for the service of process issued by another state upon a Hawaii recipient. This bill clarifies the following: (1) that the service of process may be upon a person or business, but not a government agency; (2) that the process is for the production of records; (3) that the process must be based upon a pending criminal investigation or prosecution; and (4) that the person or business being served must have conducted business or engaged in transactions occurring at least in part in the issuing state. This bill requires the process to include specified information that will assist the recipient of the process in responding appropriately to the process. For valid process, the bill requires that the issuing state have a law authorizing the production of records by out-of-state persons or businesses and a reciprocity provision. Finally, this bill also amends the definition of "recipient," to clarify that the out-of-state recipient, who receives process issued from Hawaii, must have conducted business or engaged in transactions or activities occurring at least in part in Hawaii.

Act 325, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, entitled, "Relating to the Production of Records," codified as chapter 806D, HRS, created a "criminal long arm statute" that authorizes Hawaii courts to order the production of records, including electronic records, held by entities located outside the State of Hawaii, for purposes of a criminal matter. Prior to Act 325, Hawaii law did not expressly authorize state courts to issue legal process for records held by out-of-state entities,

such as financial institutions and internet service providers, web-based e-mail providers, website hosting companies, social networking providers, cellular telephone providers, and other entities. There was nothing to compel an out-of-state entity to comply with legal process issued by a Hawaii court, and it was not uncommon for out-of-state entities to refuse to honor legal process issued by Hawaii courts.

Act 325 also included a reciprocity provision, which requires an entity located in Hawaii to comply with the criminal process issued by another state. The idea behind the reciprocity provision was to make access to records a two-way street.

This bill is intended to address several concerns about the reciprocity provision, enacted in section 806D-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), as follows:

When a Hawaii recipient is served with process issued by or in another state, and such process on its face purports to be a valid criminal process, the Hawaii recipient shall comply with that process as if that process had been issued by a Hawaii court.

The first concern is that this reciprocity provision does not appear to require the Hawaii recipient to have a connection or nexus to the issuing state that is requesting the recipient's records. This is troubling because under sections 806D-1 and 806D-2, HRS, when a Hawaii applicant requests records from an out-of-state recipient, the out-of-state recipient must have a nexus to Hawaii. The recipient of that request must have conducted business, or engaged in transactions, that occurred at least in part in Hawaii. This nexus requirement supports and justifies the authority of Hawaii courts to reach out into the other jurisdiction. The reciprocity provision, however, does not have this nexus requirement. In other words, under the present wording of section 806D-4, it appears other states may request records from Hawaii recipients even though the recipients are not engaged in business or transactions in that state.

A second concern is the use of the term, "criminal process," in the reciprocity provision of section 806D-4. The use of this term in the reciprocity provision appears to be misplaced and confusing because the term is defined in section 806D-1, HRS, as process issued pursuant to Hawaii law or penal rules, or signed by a district or circuit court judge. The process issued in the other state could not have been issued pursuant to Hawaii law or rules, or signed by a Hawaii judge.

A third concern, raised by a state agency, is that the reciprocity provision may be interpreted as allowing someone from another state to issue process to try to compel a state agency in Hawaii to disclose protected government records.

This bill will resolve these concerns with the reciprocity provision.

In the interest of fairness and reciprocity, this bill requires that the issuing state have a law authorizing the production of records by out-of-state persons or businesses and a reciprocity provision.

Furthermore, in order to make it reasonable for a local recipient to verify the process issued from out-of-state, this bill requires that certain information be provided in the process record that is served upon the local recipient.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill.

POLICE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honolulu.org



KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

DAVE M. KAJIHIRO
MARIE A. McCAULEY
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE TN-DK

February 3, 2014

The Honorable Angus L. K. McKelvey, Chair
and Members
Committee on Consumer Protection
and Commerce
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 325
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 2241, Relating to Production of Records

I am Captain Jeffery Richards of the Records and Identification Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 2241, Relating to Production of Records. This bill amends the definition of "recipient" and requires the issuing state to have a similar statute for out-of-state records and a reciprocity provision.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "J. Richards", is written over a horizontal line.

Jeffrey D. Richards, Captain
Records and Identification Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Louis M. Kealoha", is written over a horizontal line.

Louis M. Kealoha
Chief of Police