



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
LT. GOVERNOR

STATE OF HAWAII
OFFICE OF THE DIRECTOR
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS

335 MERCHANT STREET, ROOM 310

P.O. Box 541

HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Phone Number: 586-2850

Fax Number: 586-2856

www.hawaii.gov/dcca

KEALI`I S. LOPEZ
DIRECTOR

JO ANN M. UCHIDA TAKEUCHI
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2014

WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2014
9:05 A.M.

TESTIMONY OF JEFFREY T. ONO, EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR, DIVISION OF
CONSUMER ADVOCACY, DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER
AFFAIRS, TO THE HONORABLE DAVID Y. IGE, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE

SENATE BILL NO. 2810 - RELATING TO THE ONE CALL CENTER

DESCRIPTION:

This measure proposes to allow for more flexible use of the State's One Call Center funding collected from civil penalties by amending section 269E-6(e), Hawaii Revised Statutes.

POSITION:

The Division of Consumer Advocacy supports this measure.

COMMENTS:

The One Call Center provides a valuable service to help utilities, and their ratepayers, as well as the excavating community in Hawaii. This center helps to reduce the possibility of unintended damage to underground facilities, which benefits Hawaii by making excavating safer, reduces costs by mitigating the need for replacement facilities

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when unintended damages occur, and improves utility service reliability by reducing the probability of damage to underground facilities.

This proposed measure will grant flexibility and eliminate the possibility of violations related to the contract between the Hawaii Public Utilities Commission and the vendor selected to operate the One Call Center. It is the Consumer Advocate's understanding that any funds collected as One Call penalties will continue to be solely used for One Call purposes, such as education or other worthy activities related to One Call functions, but not limited to only education activities.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

TESTIMONY OF HERMINA MORITA
CHAIR, PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
STATE OF HAWAII
TO THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS & MEANS

FEBRUARY 19, 2014
9:05 a.m.

MEASURE: S.B. No. 2810
TITLE: Relating to the One Call Center

Chair Ige and Members of the Committee:

DESCRIPTION:

This is an Administration measure that proposes to amend Section 269E-6, Hawaii Revised Statutes ("HRS"), which deals with the One Call Center's use of civil penalties, so as to allow for the discretionary use by the Commission of civil penalties authorized under HRS § 269E-14.

POSITION:

The Commission strongly supports this measure and would like to offer the following comments.

COMMENTS:

This measure would provide the Commission flexibility regarding the use of One Call Center-related collection of civil penalties authorized under HRS § 269E-14. Currently, the Commission is limited under HRS § 269E-6(e) to using penalty amounts collected to "educate the operating and excavating community in Hawaii and to reduce the center's operating costs." The One Call Center is operated under a fixed-fee contract,¹ so the usage of collected penalties under the current contract structure for operational purposes would involve added administrative burden to track and link expenditures of penalty collection amounts to specific operational costs.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this measure.

¹Under a Commission contract that runs through June 30, 2014, the One Call Center is operated by One Call Concepts, Inc. The contract is for a fixed price, and includes planned events to educate the operating and excavating community in Hawaii.