



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE, 2016**

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**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**

H.B. NO. 901, RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES.

**BEFORE THE:**

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Tuesday, January 26, 2016 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** Douglas S. Chin, Attorney General, or  
Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

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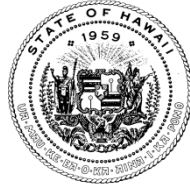
Chair Rhoads and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General supports this bill.

The purpose of this bill is to enable the Attorney General and the Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation to have law enforcement vehicles that are recognized authorized emergency vehicles under the law, with lights and sirens, by amending sections 291-31.5(a) and 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS).

Under chapter 28, HRS, the Attorney General is tasked with investigating and prosecuting violations of law. Investigators with the Department of the Attorney General have all the powers and authority of a police officer or a deputy sheriff. Under chapter 266, HRS, the Director of Transportation and any appointed enforcement officer are conferred the powers of police officers and are tasked with enforcing the laws and regulations for harbors in the State. Despite that law enforcement responsibility and authority, neither department has the official and explicit authority to use law enforcement vehicles with emergency response lights. This bill will provide the departments with that capability, which has already been granted to the county police, the Department of Public Safety, and the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

The Department respectfully requests the passage of this bill.



Testimony of  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
DARRELL T. YOUNG  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
JADE T. BUTAY  
ROSS M. HIGASHI

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:  
(808) 587-1965

January 26, 2016  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 901**  
**RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES**  
House Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** HB 901 which proposes to authorize the Department of the Attorney General and the DOT-Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation to be equipped with lights and sirens to be recognized as emergency vehicles. The department's Airports Division has the same requirement, and recommends that it be included in this measure by amending the language as follows:

SECTION 1, subsection (5), to be revised to read as follows:

(5) Department of transportation's harbors and airports division law enforcement vehicles, with blue and red lamps, reflectors, or illumination devices authorized and approved by the director of transportation.

SECTION 2, to be revised as follows:

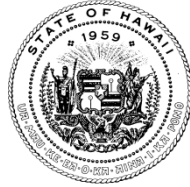
SECTION 2. Section 29IC-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending the definition of "authorized emergency vehicle" to read as follows:

"Authorized emergency vehicle" includes fire department vehicles, police vehicles, ambulances, ocean safety vehicles, public safety law enforcement vehicles, conservation and resources enforcement vehicles, attorney general law enforcement vehicles, and the law enforcement vehicles of the department of transportation's harbors and airports division.

This housekeeping measure corrects this oversight to include these departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**LATE**

**REVISED Testimony of**  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
DARRELL T. YOUNG  
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**H.B. 901**  
**RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT VEHICLES**  
House Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** HB 901 which proposes to authorize the Department of the Attorney General and the DOT-Harbors Division of the Department of Transportation to be equipped with lights and sirens to be recognized as emergency vehicles.

This housekeeping measure corrects this oversight to include these departments.

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Monday, January 25, 2016 11:12 AM  
**To:** JUDtestimony  
**Cc:** aurasaki@hawaiiantel.net  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB901 on Jan 26, 2016 14:00PM

**HB901**

Submitted on: 1/25/2016

Testimony for JUD on Jan 26, 2016 14:00PM in Conference Room 325

| <b>Submitted By</b> | <b>Organization</b> | <b>Testifier Position</b> | <b>Present at Hearing</b> |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Alan Urasaki        | Individual          | Support                   | No                        |

Comments: Please support this bill. Mahalo.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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