

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 17 2017

RE: S.B. No. 1293
S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Twenty-Ninth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2017
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs, to which was referred S.B. No. 1293 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Establish the special operations K9 unit special fund;
and
- (2) Appropriate money to the fund for deputy canines and
full-time equivalent permanent canine handler positions
within the Department of Public Safety.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Judiciary, State of Hawai'i; and Office of the Prosecuting
Attorney, County of Hawai'i. Your Committee received comments on
this measure from the Department of Budget and Finance and
Department of Public Safety.

Your Committee finds that abuse of illicit drugs is a serious
health problem that threatens the welfare of the people of the
State. It is essential to deploy every reasonable means necessary
to ensure that an epidemic of drug abuse does not spread. One
technique that could increase the efficiency of law enforcement
with detecting and subsequently removing illicit drugs from the
State is the expanded use of trained canines. The benefits of
drug detecting canines are well-known and widely utilized across



the globe. Expanding the use of canine special units in the State would enhance law enforcement's ability to combat illicit drug use.

Your Committee, however, acknowledges the concerns raised by the testimony of the Department of Public Safety relating to the costs of administering the proposed K9 program. The Department estimates that the measure as written would have an initial start-up cost of approximately \$9,719,699, excluding the cost of an area for kennels and training. Further, the Department calculates that the recurring annual costs of the program would total approximately \$6,265,555. Therefore, your Committee believes that a phased in approach for implementation, beginning first in Oahu then expanding to the neighbor islands at a rate of thirty-three percent annually for three years, is prudent. In addition, given the costs of the program, it is important to put in place auditing requirements to monitor the program's expenditures.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Adding language to require the auditor to conduct an annual audit of the uses of the special operations K9 unit special fund; and
- (2) Establishing a phased-in approach, introducing the program first on the Island of Oahu then expanding to the neighbor islands over the course of three years.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 1293, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 1293, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.



Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military
Affairs,

Clarence K Nishihara
CLARENCE K. NISHIHARA, Chair



