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**PRESENTATION OF
DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS**

**TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE
ON
INTRASTATE COMMERCE**

**TWENTY-NINTH STATE LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION, 2017**

**WEDNESDAY, MARCH 15, 2017
9:00 A.M.**

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1264 S.D.1
RELATING TO SECURITY GUARDS**

**TO THE HONORABLE TAKASHI OHNO, CHAIR,
AND TO THE HONORABLE ISAAC W. CHOY, VICE CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:**

The Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs ("Department") appreciates the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1264 S.D.1 ("Senate Draft 1"), Relating to Security Guards. My name is Catherine P. Awakuni Colón, Director of the Department. The Department offers the following administrative-focused comments for the Committee's consideration.

Senate Draft 1 revises the existing guard registration requirements set forth in Haw. Rev. Stat. §463-10.5 by (1) allowing for guard applicants to self-attest to meeting educational requirements; (2) reducing the amount of classroom instruction required before a security guard's first day of work from eight hours to four; (3) beginning

June 30, 2018, reducing the frequency of the four-hour continuing educational (“CE”) requirement from every biennial renewal to every other biennial renewal period; and (4) authorizing alternative formats for CE classroom instruction. The Senate Draft 1 also has a defective effective date of July 1, 2050 to encourage further discussion.

Since the individual guard registration requirement went into effect on July 1, 2013, the Department has adopted various measures to improve the timeliness of security guard application processing. The Department recognizes the hardships that security guard companies face in trying to maintain adequate numbers of licensed security guards to meet client expectations, as well as the difficulties some applicants face providing necessary documentation for registration, and in getting the mandatory training. The Department has been working with stakeholders for a long time to adopt practical solutions under the current law that would expedite processing without compromising consumer protection.

Since the Senate Draft 1 was issued, the Department has conferred with some industry stakeholders in a wide-ranging discussion that included topics related to the Senate Draft 1. While the Department believes further outreach to a wider range of stakeholders is appropriate, recent discussions indicate that the provisions allowing self-attestation of the educational requirements and the use of alternate formats for CE instruction are generally acceptable.

However, the provision reducing the number of initial classroom instruction hours from eight to four appears to be an area of concern for many stakeholders, and that four hours would not be sufficient to cover the needed curriculum, even with the likely reduction in cost for initial classroom instruction time considered. The Department is

open to continuing its discussions with interested parties regarding possible additional refinements to this requirement.

Also, in lieu of the Senate Draft 1 provision reducing the four-hour CE requirement from every biennial renewal to every other biennial renewal period, the alternative idea of adjusting the current renewal schedule and CE requirement from a biennial requirement to triennial (every three years) appeared to be generally preferred.

The Department believes, from an administrative standpoint, that the revisions contained in the Senate Draft 1 will further streamline and reduce the cost of the application and renewal process and supports the Senate Draft 1, but is willing to continue to discuss stakeholder concerns about the reduction of the initial training requirement. In addition, the Department is agreeable, from an administrative standpoint, to revising the current renewal and CE requirement from biennial to triennial. Also, the Department recognizes that the Board of Private Detectives and Guards will be meeting to discuss this measure at its regularly scheduled meeting on March 16, 2017, and may have additional comments about the Senate Draft 1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1264, S.D.1. I will be happy to answer any questions the Committee may have.

**PRESENTATION OF THE
BOARD OF PRIVATE DETECTIVES
AND GUARDS**

TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON INTRASTATE COMMERCE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
Regular Session of 2017

Wednesday, March 15, 2017
9:00 a.m.

**TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL NO. 1264, S.D.1, RELATING TO SECURITY
GUARDS.**

TO THE HONORABLE TAKASHI OHNO, CHAIR,
AND MEMBERS OF THE COMMITTEE:

My name is Kenneth Chang, Applications Chairperson of the Board of Private Detectives and Guards ("Board"). Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 1264, S.D.1, which proposes to reduce the regulatory burden for initial registration and renewal without compromising essential consumer protection.

The Board has not had the opportunity to discuss this measure and will be discussing this bill at its meeting on March 16, 2017. The Board would like to note that the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs and Board committee members have been working to address the concerns of the security guard industry concerning the regulatory process and is open to continuing to work with the industry and other stakeholders to find improvements that would make the licensure process less onerous, while still leaving adequate public safeguards in place.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.