



Testimony of:
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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February 23, 2018
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211



S.B. NO. 2428
RELATING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** S.B. No. 2428, Relating to Law Enforcement.

The purpose of S.B. No. 2428 is to amend Section 353C-4, Hawaii Revised Statutes to develop standards to ensure reputable and responsible characters of officers.

The DOT recognizes that currently the law enforcement profession is faced with many complex situations, integrity challenges, and a multitude of new criminal elements (i.e., insider threat, active shooters, terrorism, etc.) and techniques (diversion of law enforcement response teams to determine response time and methods). To address these new developments many law enforcement agencies, rely on outdated standards and certification processes, policies and procedures, rules and regulations and recruitment and training standards. Many law enforcement agencies do not have consistent standards and certifiable processes, which is essential to minimize vicarious liability to the State of Hawaii.

To this end, the DOT acknowledges that “best practices” for law enforcement occupation requires the development and establishment of comprehensive entry level minimal qualification standards along with congruent certifiable screening of applicant’s knowledge, skills and abilities, testing (physical fitness) evaluation (mental stability), and background checks for previous work performance history, reference checks to determine if administrative misconducts were substantiated and criminal convictions (Lautenberg Amendment Federal Gun Ban on Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Convictions) of all qualified applicants for law enforcement positions. Internal controls must also be developed to ensure fair and equitable application of these standards by the various agencies.

The DOT recommends that S.B. No. 2428 (page 3, line 20) be amended as follows:

(3) Shall deny employment to a prospective public safety officer whose previous position as a law enforcement officer was terminated while the prospective public safety officer was in poor employment standing-, to include but not limited to reference checks to determine if administrative misconducts were substantiated as well as criminal convictions (Lautenberg Amendment Federal Gun Ban on Misdemeanor Domestic Violence Convictions). Internal controls must also be developed to ensure fair and equitable application of these standards by the various agencies.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

LATE

SB-2428

Submitted on: 2/22/2018 7:16:12 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/23/2018 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
William Caron	Testifying for Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of YPDA Hawaii's nearly 600 registered members, I would like to express strong support for this bill. We must never again be so careless when granting law enforcement powers as to allow a criminal to swap badges and continue to terrorize people from behind a uniform. The fact that a police officer was fired for abusing his power and was then allowed to don a DOCARE uniform only to reabuse that power in one of the most heinous ways imaginable is inexcusable. Our government owes it to the people to ensure that those entrusted with our safety are worthy of that trust.

Mahalo,

Will Caron
Social Justice Action Committee Chair
Young Progressives Demanding Action - Hawaii
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