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February 6, 2018

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair
Committee on Transportation and Energy
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 210
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Clarence Nishihara, Chair
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
The State Senate
State Capitol, Room 214
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chairs Inouye and Nishihara:

Subject: Senate Bill (SB) 2430 Relating to Cargo Inspections

I am Manuel P. Neves, Chair of the Hawaii State Fire Council (SFC) and Fire Chief of the Honolulu Fire Department (HFD). The SFC and the HFD support SB 2430, which proposes to increase random inspections of incoming cargo for illegal fireworks and explosives by establishing a pilot program using dogs to inspect cargo shipments.

The widespread use of illegal fireworks continues to impact our citizen's health and safety. In addition to injuries and fires, citizens are greatly impacted by noise, pollution, and mental health issues. The HFD has identified many illegal fireworks that are coming into the City and County of Honolulu through the port of Honolulu. We strongly believe that any program to reduce and, hopefully, eliminate the use of illegal fireworks is a step in the right direction.

Public safety and property protection are priorities for the HFD's approval of fireworks permits.

The Honorable Lorraine Inouye, Chair
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The SFC and the HFD urge your committees' support on the passage of SB 2430.

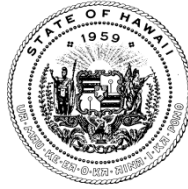
Should you have questions, please contact SFC Administrative Specialist Lloyd Rogers at 723-7176 or lrogers@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



MANUEL P. NEVES
Chair

MPN/LR:clc



Testimony by:
JADE T. BUTAY
INTERIM DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
ROY CATALANI
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN
DARRELL T. YOUNG

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

February 8, 2018
10:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

LATE

**S.B. 2430
RELATING TO CARGO INSPECTIONS**

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs
and
Committee on Transportation and Energy

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports the intent** of this measure, but offers the following comments for consideration.

This measure seeks to establish a three-year pilot program that uses dogs to inspect incoming cargo for illegal fireworks and explosives after the arrival of the cargo at the State commercial harbors. Inspections under this program may be done outside the harbors at freight forwarder warehouses or other facilities where consolidated cargo is segregated and prepared for delivery.

Given the volume of cargo and goods that move through the commercial harbors and the desire to avoid delays in cargo movements and commerce, the DOT appreciates the provision for the proposed inspections to happen at sites away from the harbors.

The DOT is primarily concerned that it does not have the explicit authority to open cargo containers or shipping devices for inspections. A federal agency like the Department of Homeland Security may have the authority to do so. This bill in its current form does not delegate the authority to open cargo containers or shipping devices for inspections to the DOT. As such, the DOT's ability to implement the proposed pilot program on its own is limited and we cannot guarantee participation or support by the necessary federal agencies.

In addition, the DOT does not have data on the training requirements for canine units, both time and costs, to determine the appropriation required to effectively carry out this pilot program. We will address this in greater detail with the Committee on Ways and Means at a future hearing.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.

LATE