



TESTIMONY BY:

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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
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Tuesday, February 26, 2019
1:30 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 308

**H.B. 1176, H.D. 1
RELATING TO ELECTRIC GUNS.**

House Committee on Finance.

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** this measure that would authorize officers designated by the Director of the Department of Transportation pursuant to Chapter 266 with police powers to carry and use electric guns while performing their duties. This bill provides an alternative and tool for DOT law enforcement officers to use less lethal force in the performance of their duties.

Currently, authorized DOT officers are prohibited from carrying electric guns also referred to as tasers.

The DOT officers at the Harbors are responsible for the security and law enforcement that the State relies on its economic security of Hawaii. Each officer designated by the Director to enforce all state laws pursuant to HRS Chapters 266 are authorized to carry firearms in the performance of their duties such as serving and executing warrants, arresting offenders, and serving notices and orders to ensure the flow of commerce.

The DOT seeks to obtain accreditation from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. similar to training and accreditation efforts currently pursued by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.