



TESTIMONY BY:

JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
LYNN A.S. ARAKI-REGAN
DEREK J. CHOW
ROSS M. HIGASHI
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

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

April 3, 2019
10:00 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 211

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

Senate Committee(s) on Judiciary & Ways and Means

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

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

The DOT-Harbor officers at the Harbors are responsible for the security and law enforcement that the State relies on its economic security of Hawaii. Each DOT-Harbor 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-Harbors Division 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.

HB-1176-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 8:25:47 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Testifying for Maui Police Department	Support	No

Comments:

Very effective tool for Maui Police Department.

Use of taser will minimize injuries to the officers and offenders. In addition, this tool will add another level of "use of force" before lethal use of force is considered.

HB-1176-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/2/2019 9:57:14 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/3/2019 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee	Support	No

Comments:

The O`ahu County Democrats Legislative Priorities Committee supports HB1176, HD1, because allowing law enforcement officers to use electric guns will provide a viable and safer alternative to other potentially deadly firearms when dealing with non-compliant, combative suspects.

Mahalo nui loa.

Melodie Aduja

Chair, OCDLPC