

HB-1176

Submitted on: 1/29/2019 9:59:14 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/1/2019 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brett Kulbis	Honolulu County Republican Party	Support	No

Comments:



HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

RANDY PERREIRA, Executive Director • Tel: 808.543.0011 • Fax: 808.528.0922

The Thirtieth Legislature, State of Hawaii
House of Representatives
Committee on Public Safety, Veterans & Military Affairs
Committee on Transportation

Testimony by
Hawaii Government Employees Association

February 1, 2019

H.B. 1176 – RELATING TO ELECTRIC GUNS

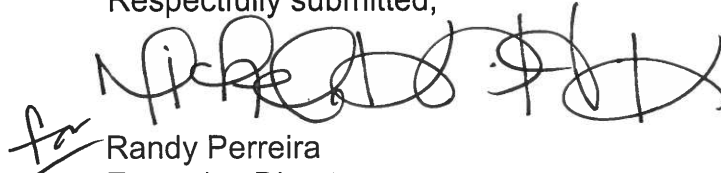
The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO would like to seek clarification on the purpose and intent of H.B. 1176.

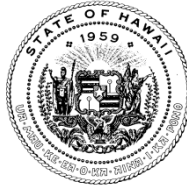
As drafted, H.B. 1176 authorizes law enforcement officers of the Department of Transportation to use electric guns while performing their duties and requires these officers to be accredited to use electric guns by June 30, 2024. Although this measure specifically enables law enforcement officers appointed by the Director of Transportation pursuant to Chapter 266-24, Hawaii Revised Statutes, the right to use electric guns, it is not clear whether this measure enables only state law enforcement officers and harbor police or if it also extends this right to privately contracted airport employees who are employed by a an outside agency.

We respectfully request the Committee amend H.B. 1176 to ensure clarity on which specific employees will be authorized to use electric guns.

Thank you for the opportunity to seek clarification on the intent of H.B. 1176.

Respectfully submitted,


for Randy Perreira
Executive Director



Testimony by:
JADE T. BUTAY
DIRECTOR

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

IN REPLY REFER TO:

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

Friday, February 1, 2019
11:15 a.m.
State Capitol, Room 430

H.B. 1176
RELATING TO ELECTRIC GUNS

House Committee on Public Safety, Veterans and Military Affairs
and
House Committee of Transportation

The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this measure that would authorize officers designated by the Director of the DOT 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 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 H.R.S. 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 **supports** the intent of House Bill 1176 to obtain accreditation Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. that is similar to training and accreditation efforts currently being pursued by the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

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Submitted on: 1/30/2019 7:44:40 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/1/2019 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Concur with bill.

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Submitted on: 1/30/2019 10:38:16 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/1/2019 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ron Klapperich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 1/30/2019 3:43:01 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/1/2019 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Submitted on: 1/31/2019 1:24:48 AM

Testimony for PVM on 2/1/2019 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-1176

Submitted on: 1/31/2019 7:43:59 PM

Testimony for PVM on 2/1/2019 11:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gabriel	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I fully support this bill. This is a long overdue use of force option that should be available to Officers, as non-lethal methods of restraint are important to police work. An electric gun or "Taser" is known to be used by more than 16,000 law enforcement agencies in the U.S.

The reason is because it is simple, effective and safe, it allows officers to subdue a suspect without resorting to physical force or a blunt impact instrument. It also gives the Officer an alternative use of force besides resorting to deadly force.

Frequently the mere sight of a Taser being displayed will convince a criminal to give up without a fight. A nationwide study conducted by Wake Forest University, Baptist Medical Center in 2007 examined the safety of Tasers used by law enforcement agencies suggests the devices are safe, causing a low occurrence of any serious injuries. In a review of nearly 1,000 cases, 99.7 per cent of those subjected to a Taser had very mild injuries, such as scrapes and bruises, or no injuries at all. Only three subjects (0.3%) in this study suffered injuries that were severe enough to need hospital admission.

Tasers are used by an increasing amount of police agencies in the United States and are credited with decreasing police officer and suspect injuries and deaths due to police use of force incidents.

Thank you,

Gabriel Delapenia

State of Hawaii, DOT, Harbor Police