

STATE OF HAWAII  
**OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER**

**Testimony of the Office of the Public Defender,  
State of Hawai'i to the Senate Committee on  
Judiciary**

March 16, 2021

H.B. No. 73 HD2: RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole, and Members of the Committee:

The Office of the Public Defender **opposes** H.B. No. 73 HD2.

This measure expands HRS § 707-700 by including additional qualifying occupations to the definition of an “emergency worker” to the ever-growing number of occupations which have been singled out for special protection against assaults in the normal course of their employment. The expansion of this definition will directly impact the offense of Assault Against an Emergency Worker, in violation of HRS § 707-712.7. This statute elevates a misdemeanor assault to a class B felony.

While we understand the desire to carve out special protections for certain classes of individuals who are assaulted in the normal course of their employment, this measure is just another example of the expansion of misdemeanor level assaults to felony level assaults -- *not* based on the act itself but based on the job description of the victim. Over the years, this list of qualifying occupations has steadily grown to include many special categories and specific occupations.

During the House Committee Hearing on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs for HB73 on February 4, 2021, Vice Chair Matayoshi stated the intent of this bill is to provide 911 operators and communication dispatchers with increased benefits. If this is the case, then we respectfully ask this Committee to add language in the measure that expressly states that these additional employees are not included in the definition of an “emergency worker” for purposes of application to HRS § 707-712.7.

It is our position that *all* employees should feel safe as they go about performing their requisite duties. As we have cautioned in the past, with the passage of time, more and more special categories and occupations will be added to this list. As the list grows, additional employees and groups will be asking themselves whether they should request special consideration and be included for special protection.

The flood gates of special protection requests are already open as each year we see the growing list of special employment categories to the assault statute elevating a simple misdemeanor assault to felony level status. We urge caution and we ask the Legislature to reevaluate the necessity for this measure and the necessity of expanding this ever-growing list. It is no small matter to be thrust into Circuit Court to face a felony charge for actions that would be treated as a misdemeanor in most other situations.

Of particular concern with H.B. No. 73 HD2 is the inclusion of emergency personnel who are not on the ground or out in the community during emergencies or disasters. We applaud the work of 911 operators, on-scene coordinators, and telecommunications dispatchers and we understand that their work is essential and critical during an emergency. However, these personnel are not in-the-field during an event, their location from callers to emergencies is remote. They work in controlled office environments and they are not in need of special protection like in-the-field first responders -- our police officers, our firefighters, our EMT responders, or members of our National Guard. A 911 operator or a communication dispatcher who operates a “9-1-1 automated terminal” is not actively managing people face-to-face and in-person in-the-field. We submit that a 911 operator, on-scene coordinators, and state hospital operators who are located in a secure office building far from actual on-site operations should not be included in the definition of an “emergency worker” for purposes of application to HRS § 707-712.7.

Enhancing the penalties (i.e., elevating a misdemeanor offense to a Class B felony) will not keep 911 operators, on-scene coordinators and state hospital operators safer, will not deter crime, and will only serve to fuel mass incarceration. Data and research show that increasing the severity of punishment does little to deter crime. Laws and policies designed to deter crime by focusing mainly on increasing the severity of punishment are ineffective.<sup>1</sup> Not only do more severe punishments not deter crime, but longer periods of incarceration exacerbate recidivism.<sup>2</sup> The consequences of a felony criminal conviction are far-reaching and pose barriers to reentry long after a sentence has been served. These collateral consequences make it far more difficult to find employment, housing, and seek higher education and are

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<sup>1</sup> National Institute of Justice, “Five Things About Deterrence.” *See* <https://nij.ojp.gov/topics/articles/five-things-about-deterrence>

<sup>2</sup> Prison Policy Initiative, “Recidivism and Reentry.” *See* [https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/recidivism\\_and\\_reentry/](https://www.prisonpolicy.org/research/recidivism_and_reentry/)

not limited to individuals; they are experienced by families and communities, for generations to come.<sup>3</sup>

Finally, enhanced penalties have additional consequences that harm communities in the long run and fuel mass incarceration. Our jails and prisons are filled above not only design capacity but also operational capacity. A significant portion of the State's prison population are incarcerated in a contracted private, for-profit prison in Arizona; they are exiled thousands of miles away from their families, friends and crucial support networks. According to a recent study by the Prison Policy Initiative, in 2018, Hawai'i had an incarceration rate of 487 per 100,000 people.<sup>4</sup> Although Hawai'i ranked 37th among the 50 states, if every state were an independent nation, Hawai'i would have the 43rd highest incarceration rate in the world.<sup>5</sup> Only three foreign countries have a higher incarceration rate than Hawai'i.<sup>6</sup> Thus, Hawai'i locks up a higher percentage of its people than many wealthy democracies do.<sup>7</sup>

We all want safe workplaces and to feel protected and secure. Violence against any employee threatens that, and we have a responsibility to stop, prevent, and condemn violence in any form. But expanding HRS § 707-700 and enhancing penalties for conduct based on the job description of the victim and not the act does not do that. There are already adequate laws that ensure that those who compromise 911 operators, on-scene coordinators, and telecommunications dispatchers' safety are penalized.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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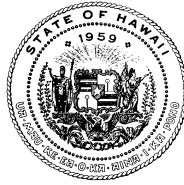
<sup>3</sup> Prison Policy Initiative, "Out of Prison & Out of Work: Unemployment among formerly incarcerated people." See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/reports/outofwork.html>

<sup>4</sup> Prison Policy Initiative, "Hawaii profile." See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/HI.html>

<sup>5</sup> Prison Policy Initiative, "States of Incarceration: The Global Context." See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/global/2018.html>

<sup>6</sup> Id.

<sup>7</sup> Prison Policy Initiative, "Hawaii profile." See <https://www.prisonpolicy.org/profiles/HI.html>



**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH**  
P. O. Box 3378  
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378  
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

WRITTEN  
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB0073 HD2  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS**

SENATOR KARL RHOADS, CHAIR  
SENATOR JARRETT KEOHOKALOLE, VICE CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Hearing Date: 3/16/2021

Room Number: Via  
Videoconference

1 **Fiscal Implications:** This measure may impact the priorities identified in the Governor's Executive  
2 Budget Request for the Department of Health's (Department) appropriations and personnel priorities.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Department supports this measure.

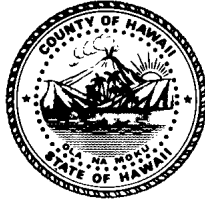
4 Under Hawaii Revised Statutes Title 10 §128D Environmental Response Law, a State On-Scene  
5 Coordinator is designated by the Hawaii Director of Health as authorized by the Governor to  
6 coordinate and direct State emergency response actions to hazardous substance release incidents  
7 throughout the State. Hazardous substance(s) include chemical, oil, medical waste, radioactive and  
8 biological materials, or pollutants and contaminants that cause or pose a threat to human health  
9 and/or the environment. State On-Scene Coordinators work alongside hazardous material firefighter,  
10 law enforcement officer, or any other emergency response personnel in an environmental emergency  
11 response incident.

12 Hawaii State Hospital telephone operators conduct the same roles and responsibilities of a County  
13 telecommunications dispatcher such as obtaining concise important information from a caller,  
14 analyzing the information given and accurately communicating the information to the appropriate  
15 recipient in a time-critical manner.

16 **Offered Amendments:** None

17 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**Mitchell D. Roth**  
Mayor



**Paul K. Ferreira**  
Police Chief

**Kenneth Bugado, Jr.**  
Deputy Police Chief

## County of Hawai`i

### POLICE DEPARTMENT

349 Kapi`olani Street • Hilo, Hawai`i 96720-3998  
(808) 935-3311 • Fax (808) 961-8865

March 12, 2021

Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chairperson and Committee Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawai`i 96813

RE : HOUSE BILL 73, HD 2, RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS  
HEARING DATE : MARCH 16, 2021  
TIME : 9:15 A.M.

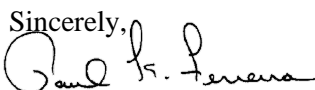
Dear Senator Rhoads:

The Hawai`i Police Department **strongly supports** House Bill 73, HD 2, with its purpose to amend the definition of "emergency worker" in the Penal Code to include communications dispatchers.

I am very familiar with our department's Dispatch Communications Center and have direct knowledge of the expectations placed on Dispatchers. Dispatchers are considered the truest first responders because they answer every emergency call before Police, Fire or Medical personnel are dispatched. They are solely responsible for calming hysterical callers, who are going through what might be the worst moments of their lives. While maintaining their composure and multi-tasking, Dispatchers must quickly and accurately obtain critical information and dispatch Police, Fire and/or Medical services to the caller. The Dispatcher's actions and ability to obtain accurate information are pivotal to the First Responders, which can greatly impact the outcome of the response.

Their roles are intertwined with that of the First Responders because of the additional support services provided to the Responders throughout the duration of each call. As a result, their roles and responsibilities are clearly graver than that of non-emergency dispatchers both in the enormity and complexity of work that they are called upon to perform.

It is for these reasons, we urge this committee to approve this legislation. Thank you for allowing the Hawai`i Police Department to provide comments relating to House Bill 73, HD 2.

Sincerely,  


PAUL K. FERREIRA  
POLICE CHIEF

12 March 2021

State of Hawaii  
House of Representatives  
Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

SUBJ: Testimony by Pacific Environmental Corporation  
H.B. 73, RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

As a primary, private environmental emergency response contractor for more than 25 years in Hawaii, Pacific Environmental Corporation (dba PENCO) strongly supports H.B. 73, to amend the definition of “emergency worker” to include Hawaii State On-Scene Coordinators.

Although the general public may not be aware, most environmental emergency responses (oil spill or chemical spill responses; land and sea) fall under the direct oversight and/or direction of a Hawaii State On-Scene Coordinator (SOSC). Called to duty at any time 365 days a year in an emergency capacity, the SOSC brings State authority and judgement to emergency response sites throughout the State of Hawaii. While working with other public and private responders, the rapid but thought out decisions of the SOSC can make the difference between a controlled emergency response and an environmental disaster.

Given their duties, it seems virtually impossible to exclude an SOSC’s position from the realm of an Emergency Worker. I appreciate the opportunity to testify, supporting H.B. 73.



Teal K. Cross  
Executive Vice President  
Pacific Environmental Corporation



**HAWAII GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES ASSOCIATION**  
AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO

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

The Thirty-First Legislature, State of Hawaii  
The Senate  
Committee on Judiciary

Testimony by  
Hawaii Government Employees Association

March 16, 2021

**H.B. 73, H.D. 2 – RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS**

The Hawaii Government Employees Association, AFSCME Local 152, AFL-CIO supports the intent of H.B. 73, H.D. 2 which amends the definition of “emergency worker” to include communications dispatchers and on-scene coordinators. We appreciate the amendments from the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs to increase the inclusiveness and recognition of additional employees.

H.B. 73, H.D. 2 appropriately adds telecommunications dispatchers, including police, fire, and emergency medical dispatchers, on-scene coordinators, and Hawaii State Hospital telephone operators to the definition of an emergency worker in the penal code under Section 707, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The inclusion of telecommunications dispatchers not only recognizes the efforts of our hard-working dispatchers who handle crisis situations at all hours of the day, but also honors their invaluable role as the unsung heroes in every emergency. Dispatchers must utilize multiple life-saving procedures and technologies to obtain critical information from a caller to make lightning fast decisions that could be the difference between life and death for our families and neighbors and deserve this recognition.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of H.B. 73, H.D. 2.

Respectfully submitted,

Randy Perreira  
Executive Director

**HB-73-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/12/2021 4:25:56 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/16/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Stacy Perreira	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Committee on Judiciary  
Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Jarrett Keohokaole, Vice Chair

Stacy M. Perreira  
Police Sergeant

Friday, March 12, 2021

Support of HB 73, HD2, Related to Emergency Worker

I humbly request your support of this bill related to our Emergency Services Dispatchers and Supervising Dispatchers as an “Emergency Worker.” Their role as a first responding emergency worker is invaluable. They are the true “first, first responders.”

When a member of our community is in need of help from our Police, Fire, or EMS partners they must first call 911 and speak with an Emergency Services Dispatcher. It is the role of our Emergency Services Dispatcher to ensure the information that they gather will not only keep the caller safe but our Police, Fire, and EMS personnel as well. Our dispatchers must keep the caller calm enough to provide pre-arrival triage instructions for the injured, CPR instructions for patients who might not be responding, as well as potentially assist a father with delivering his first child. This is in addition to dispatching the proper unit’s weather it is Police, Fire, EMS personnel.

As our Emergency Services Dispatchers gather crucial information such as location of a caller, if weapons are involved, if anyone is injured or in need of immediate medical care they must then capture all this information into software that allows this information to be passed on to our police, fire, and EMS partners. Our dispatchers use various tools such as location services to find our callers who may not know their location, as well as several state and federal program for missing or wanted persons. All of the aforementioned, is done simultaneously. Their multi-tasking skills must always at the forefront of each and every call or someone’s life might be in danger.

Not only does the public have to trust in our dispatchers to get them the help that they need, but our field responders also have to trust our dispatchers to get them correct and



accurate information in order to keep them safe so they too can provide services upon arrival. However, none of this would be possible without properly trained and skilled Emergency Services Dispatchers.

Thank you again for your consideration of HB 73, HD2 Related to Emergency Worker

Respectfully,

Stacy M. Perreira  
Police Sergeant

**HB-73-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 11:45:06 AM

Testimony for JDC on 3/16/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Julia Morgan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I respectfully request your support to pass HB73 and its companion bill SB184 to recognize Hawaii State On-Scene Coordinators as “emergency workers”. As On-Scene Coordinators, they are physically present and on-scene alongside other emergency response personnel such as a County’s fire hazardous material teams and other emergency response personnel. In addition, they respond to emergency releases of hazardous substances including oil and hazardous chemicals, 24/7 every day of the year. To deny them support and protection would be a travesty. Please pass this bill. Thank you

**HB-73-HD-2**

Submitted on: 3/14/2021 2:59:13 PM

Testimony for JDC on 3/16/2021 9:15:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
David Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am respectfully requesting your support to pass HB73 and its companion bill SB184 to recognize Hawaii State On-Scene Coordinators as “emergency workers”. As On-Scene Coordinators, they are on-scene alongside other emergency response personnel such as a County’s fire hazardous material teams and along other emergency response personnel. 24/7/365 days a year, they respond to emergency releases of hazardous substances including oil and hazardous chemicals.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



STEPHEN F. LOGAN  
COLONEL  
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL

STATE OF HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE**  
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL  
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 73, HD2  
RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS

PRESENTATION TO  
THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

BY

EVERETT S. KANESHIGE  
STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR

MARCH 16, 2021

Aloha Chair Rhoads, Vice Chair Keohokalole and Members of the Committee on Judiciary.

My name is Everett Kaneshige and I am the Statewide Interoperability Coordinator with the Office of Homeland Security at the State Department of Defense. Thank you for the opportunity for our office to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 73, HD2.

This measure creates a definition for a "telecommunications dispatcher" and further classifies these individuals as an "emergency worker" under section 707-700 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes.

Telecommunications dispatchers play a vital role in partnership with their in-the-field first responder colleagues including police, firefighters, emergency medical services and other public safety personnel. Often these individuals face situations where individuals are in a great amount of distress, harm, fear, or injury. Each of them is called upon to fulfill skills they have learned during extensive training where communications with individuals during a variety of situations means coaching their callers through first aid, collecting important information to relay to officers, and negotiating persons out of difficult situations.

Currently, telecommunications dispatchers are usually classified as an office and administrative support occupation. As a result, these skilled personnel cannot be hired at a level of pay and benefits commensurate with their level of training and expertise. This bill represents an important first step to recognize the importance and specialized functions that telecommunications dispatchers perform on a daily basis so that they can receive the compensation, benefits and recognition that they deserve as first responders.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in Support of HB 73, HD2.

Our office supports this measure as long as its implementation does not impact or replace the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

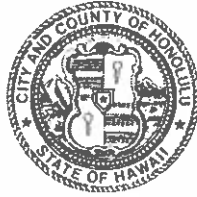
Everett S. Kaneshige; [everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov](mailto:everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov); 808-369-3523

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org

**LATE**

RICK BLANGIARDI  
MAYOR



SUSAN BALLARD  
CHIEF

JOHN D. MCCARTHY  
AARON TAKASAKI-YOUNG  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE AF-AS

March 16, 2021

The Honorable Karl Rhoads, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
State Senate  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Rhoads and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 73, H.D. 2, Relating to Emergency Workers

I am Aaron Farias, Captain of the Communications Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports House Bill No. 73, H.D. 2, Relating to Emergency Workers.

This bill would classify telecommunications dispatchers for police, fire, and emergency medical services as emergency workers under Hawaii Revised Statutes 707-700 (definitions for the chapter relating to offenses against persons). This will effectively align our 911 emergency response operators and police communications officers with law enforcement officers, firefighters, and armed services members during declared emergencies.

Like the Federal 9-1-1 SAVES Act (Supporting Accurate Views of Emergency Services Act of 2019) introduced as H.R. 1629 of the 116<sup>th</sup> Congress (2019-2020), this bill seeks to advance public safety telecommunications personnel above administrative or clerical classifications but as specialized in performing lifesaving work along with and in support of first responders.

The HPD urges you to support House Bill No. 73, H.D. 2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

APPROVED:

Handwritten signature of Susan Ballard in black ink.

Susan Ballard  
Chief of Police

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Aaron Farias in black ink.

Aaron Farias, Captain  
Communications Division

**THE SENATE**  
**THE THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE**  
**REGULAR SESSION OF 2021**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY**  
 Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
 Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair

**NOTICE OF HEARING**

DATE: Tuesday, March 16, 2021  
 TIME: 9:15 a.m.  
 PLACE: Via Videoconference

**THE STATE CAPITOL IS CLOSED TO THE PUBLIC DURING THE ONGOING COVID-19 PANDEMIC**  
 To comply with social distancing requirements, only written and videoconference testimony will be accepted. If you wish to testify via videoconference you must also submit written testimony.

A live stream of all Senate Standing Committee meetings will be available on the [Senate YouTube Channel](#).

Click [here](#) for more information about Live and On-Demand Video options.

**AGENDA**

<b><u>GM 513</u></b> <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u>	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Registration of the Island of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, SHAWN MERRILL, for a term to expire 06-30-2023.	JDC
<b><u>GM 514</u></b> <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u>	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Registration of the Island of Hawai'i, Gubernatorial Nominee, PHILIP BARNES, for a term to expire 06-30-2022.	JDC
<b><u>GM 521</u></b> <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u>	Submitting for consideration and confirmation to the Board of Registration of the Islands of Maui, Moloka'i, Lana'i, and Kaho'olawe, Gubernatorial Nominee, DYLAN ANDRION, for a term to expire 06-30-2024.	JDC
<b><u>HB 73, HD2</u></b> <u>(HSCR889)</u> <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u>	<b>RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS.</b> Amends the definition of "emergency worker" in the Penal Code to include Hawaii state on-scene coordinators and communications dispatchers. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)	JDC, WAM
<b><u>HB 185, HD1</u></b> <u>(HSCR897)</u> <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u>	<b>RELATING TO THE JUDICIARY.</b> Appropriates funds for the Judiciary for the fiscal biennium beginning 7/1/2021, and ending 6/30/2023. Effective 7/1/2021.	JDC, WAM
<b><u>HB 189</u></b> <u>(HSCR933)</u> <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u>	<b>RELATING TO DESIGNATING SUBSTITUTE JUDGES ON THE INTERMEDIATE COURT OF APPEALS.</b> Authorizes the Chief Justice to designate circuit court judges, retired intermediate appellate judges, or retired supreme court justices to temporarily fill a vacancy on the Intermediate Court of Appeals.	JDC, WAM

<p><b><u>HB 357, HD1</u></b>  <u>(HSCR798)</u>  <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u></p>	<p>RELATING TO STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.  Establishes a two-year statute of limitations for all actions for an inverse condemnation against the State, including a claim brought under article I, section 20, of the state constitution, regarding eminent domain. (HD1)</p>	<p>JDC, WAM</p>
<p><b><u>HB 631, HD1</u></b>  <u>(HSCR891)</u>  <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u></p>	<p>RELATING TO FINANCIAL HARDSHIP.  Provides courts with greater discretion to adjust the amount owed or installments to be paid by a person who violates certain traffic offenses based on the person's inability to pay. Decreases the imprisonment term to contumacious nonpayment ratio. Increases the amount of credit given to a person committed for contumacious nonpayment. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)</p>	<p>JDC, WAM</p>
<p><b><u>HB 1043, HD3</u></b>  <u>(HSCR870)</u>  <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u></p>	<p>RELATING TO TRANSIENT ACCOMMODATIONS TAX.  Amends chapter 237D, HRS, relating to the transient accommodations tax, to repeal the misdemeanor criminal penalty for failing to register under that chapter and replace it with a fine structure; replace references to operator or plan manager with person or taxpayer; clarify that a certificate of registration is required for persons advertising transient accommodations; apply personal liability provision under general excise tax law to transient accommodations tax; and make various technical amendments. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD3)</p>	<p>JDC, WAM</p>
<p><b><u>HB 1119, HD2</u></b>  <u>(HSCR901)</u>  <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u></p>	<p>RELATING TO CHARITABLE ORGANIZATIONS.  Clarifies that social welfare organizations granted tax exempt status under 501(c)(4) of the Internal Revenue Code that donate or contribute to noncandidate committees, engage in electioneering communications, or provide an endorsement for or against a candidate to register with the campaign spending commission and file organizational and financial reports. Effective 7/1/2060. (HD2)</p>	<p>JDC, WAM</p>
<p><b><u>HB 1377, HD1</u></b>  <u>(HSCR888)</u>  <u>Status &amp; Testimony</u></p>	<p>RELATING TO CITATIONS.  Creates an electronic citation program under the judiciary and establishes an electronic citation surcharge. Repeals on 6/30/26. (HD1)</p>	<p>JDC, WAM</p>

Decision Making to follow, if time permits.

All testimony received by the Hawai'i Senate is posted on the Hawai'i Legislature's website, which is accessible to the public. Please do not include private information that you do not want disclosed to the public.

Persons wishing to submit written testimony or request to testify via videoconference may do so up to 24 hours prior to the hearing.

Click [here](#) to submit **written testimony**.

If you wish to **testify via videoconference** during the hearing, please sign in to your account on the Legislature's website, then click on the "Testimony" icon on the home page. Detailed step-by-step instructions are available on the testimony submittal page. They are also posted on the Legislature's website [here](#).

Please note the following:

- The number of videoconference testifiers and/or time allotted to each testifier may be limited by the Chair when necessary to adhere to the committee hearing schedule. We may not be able to accommodate

everyone who requests to testify remotely.

- Videoconference testifiers for this hearing will be limited to **2 minutes** each.

For general help navigating the committee hearing process, please contact the Public Access Room at (808) 587-0478 or [par@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:par@capitol.hawaii.gov). You can also visit their website at <https://lrh.hawaii.gov/par/>.

For special assistance: The cable TV broadcast and/or live stream of this meeting will include closed captioning. If you require other auxiliary aids or services to participate in the public hearing process (i.e., interpretive services (oral or written) or ASL interpreter), or are unable to submit testimony via the website due to a disability, please contact the committee at [JDCcommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:JDCcommittee@capitol.hawaii.gov) at least 24 hours prior to the hearing.

For amended notices: Measures that have been deleted are stricken through and measures that have been added are underscored. If a measure is both underscored and stricken through, that measure has been deleted from the agenda.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION, PLEASE CALL THE COMMITTEE CLERK AT (808) 587-7211.

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Senator Karl Rhoads  
Chair



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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EMERGENCY WORKERS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. Section 707-700, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending the definition of "emergency worker" to read  
3 as follows:

4           ""Emergency worker" means any:

- 5           (1) Law enforcement officer, including any police officer,  
6           public safety officer, parole or probation officer, or  
7           any other officer of any county, state, federal, or  
8           military agency authorized to exercise law enforcement  
9           or police powers;
- 10          (2) Firefighter, emergency medical services personnel,  
11          emergency medical technician, ambulance crewmember,  
12          Hawaii state on-scene coordinator, or any other  
13          emergency response personnel;
- 14          (3) Member of the Hawaii National Guard on any duty or  
15          service done under or in pursuance of an order or call  
16          of the governor or the President of the United States  
17          or any proper authority;



- 1 (4) Member of the United States Army, Air Force, Navy,  
2 Marine Corps, or Coast Guard on any duty or service  
3 performed under or in pursuance of an order or call of  
4 the President of the United States or any proper  
5 authority;
- 6 (5) Member of the National Guard from any other state  
7 ordered into service by any proper authority; [~~e~~]
- 8 (6) Person engaged in emergency management functions as  
9 authorized by the director of Hawaii emergency  
10 management or the administrator or director of the  
11 county emergency management agency or as otherwise  
12 authorized under chapter 127A[~~-~~]; or
- 13 (7) Telecommunications dispatcher, including any Hawaii  
14 state hospital telephone operator or call taker,  
15 police, fire, or emergency medical dispatcher, or any  
16 person who performs any combination of these  
17 functions; emergency dispatcher; or any other  
18 telecommunications dispatch personnel member who,  
19 while operating a 911 automated terminal, uses  
20 multiple robust lifesaving procedures and technologies  
21 to obtain critical information from the caller,



1           analyzes the information given and, from specialized  
2           mapping systems, sends the appropriate and closest  
3           available emergency unit, and communicates the best  
4           course of action for the caller to take before the  
5           arrival of the field first responder."

6           SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
7 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
8 begun before its effective date.

9           SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Emergency Workers; Hawaii State On-scene Coordinator;  
Communications Dispatchers; Penal Code; Offenses Against the  
Person

**Description:**

Amends the definition of "emergency worker" in the Penal Code to  
include Hawaii state on-scene coordinators and communications  
dispatchers. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is  
not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

