

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL

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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 795
RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION

BY

MAJOR GENERAL KENNETH S. HARA
ADJUTANT GENERAL
DIRECTOR OF THE HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
AND DIRECTOR OF HOMELAND SECURITY

FEBRUARY 8, 2021

Chair Representative Henry J.C. Aquino and Vice Chair Greggor Ilagan and members of the Transportation Committee.

I am Major General Kenneth Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Director of Homeland Security.

The Department of Defense provides the following testimony in **COMMENT** to HB 795.

HB 795 as written seeks to require the Department of Defense to conduct a vulnerability study and provides recommendations for areas in the State that should be protected by decorative bollards, including determining the appropriate sources of funding for the installation of such bollards.

While the Department of Defense does not support the legislation as written, I believe the Office of Homeland Security has well within its capabilities, and within its codifying statute, the latitude to facilitate and coordinate a collaborative effort that the proposed legislation envisions. Additionally, the Office of Homeland Security has established mechanisms to support efforts to obtain grant support for any physical measures that might be deemed necessary, or desirable by a collaborative assessment team.

The Department of Defense, in consultation with its Office of Homeland Security Administrator, understand the intent of this measure is to identify locations that present themselves as "soft targets" particularly with regard to high traffic pedestrian locations throughout the State of Hawaii.

One of the Office of Homeland Security's overarching missions includes securing critical infrastructure. Hawaii Revised Statute (HRS 128A) defines Homeland Security to include reducing "the State's vulnerability to attacks and terroristic activities" and goes further to ascribing the following mandatory tasks (amongst other responsibilities) to include coordination and cooperation among all organizations for homeland security; public agencies, including county, state, and federal agencies; and private organizations; and to cooperate with county, state, and federal homeland

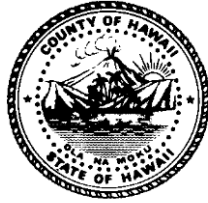
security and law enforcement agencies.” Additionally, the office may “Solicit and manage funding, including, but not limited to grants from the federal government...”

Thank you for allowing me to testify with COMMENT TO HB 795.

MG Kenneth S. Hara, kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov; 808-369-3455

Frank J. Pace, Administrator, frank.j.pace@hawaii.gov, 808-369-3570

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) 961-2389

February 8, 2021

Representative Henry J.C. Aquino
Chairperson and Committee Members
Committee on Transportation
415 South Beretania Street, Room 423
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: HOUSE BILL 795, RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY
HEARING DATE: FEBRUARY 10, 2021
TIME: 10:00 A.M.

Dear Representative Aquino:

The Hawai'i Police Department **supports** House Bill 795, with its purpose to require the department of defense to conduct a vulnerability study and recommend areas in the State that should be protected by decorative bollards.

Law Enforcement recognizes the potential mass casualty threat involving a vehicle as a weapon of choice targeting pedestrians to cause significant injury and death. Although such a tragedy has not yet occurred in Hawai'i, past incidents of this nature have regularly taken place at various random locations around the world. We would support a study to examine vulnerable areas of our community with a goal of enhancing pedestrian safety and deterring such an attack.

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 795.

Sincerely,

PAUL K. FERREIRA
POLICE CHIEF



LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes*



POLICE DEPARTMENT

COUNTY OF MAUI

MICHAEL P. VICTORINO
MAYOR

OUR REFERENCE
YOUR REFERENCE

55 MAHALANI STREET
WAILUKU, HAWAII 96793
(808) 244-6400
FAX (808) 244-6411

TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
CHIEF OF POLICE

DEAN M. RICKARD
DEPUTY CHIEF OF POLICE

February 9, 2021

The Honorable Matthew S. LoPresti, District 41
House of Representatives
31st Hawaii State Legislature
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 333
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HOUSE BILL 795 RELATING TO PUBLIC SAFETY

Dear Representative LoPresti:

The Maui Police Department SUPPORTS the passage of HB 795, authorizing a vulnerability study to identify areas that should have decorative bollards installed as well as determining sources of funding.


The safety bollards will serve a dual purpose of not only controlling traffic but protecting site perimeters and people from accidental or intentional damage without impeding pedestrian traffic flow.

In this time of civil disobedience and demonstration, the threat of hostility towards authority and their efforts to maintain public safety and order is a concern. Unfortunately, innocent bystanders and private/public property are often caught in the crossfire or become targets. The use of vehicles as a weapon in an act of domestic terrorism has happened here. Proactive efforts such as installing these posts will help mitigate loss of money and more importantly life.

Accordingly, the Maui Police Department request HB 795 be PASSED.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


TIVOLI S. FAAUMU
Chief of Police



HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM
A S S O C I A T I O N

Testimony of
Mufi Hannemann
President & CEO
Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association

Committee on Transportation
House Bill 795: Relating to Public Safety

Chair Aquino and members of the Committee, mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association, the state's largest private sector visitor industry organization.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association—nearly 700 members strong, representing more than 50,000 hotel rooms and nearly 40,000 lodging workers — **supports House Bill 795.**

Our local tourism industry is predominantly located within densely populated areas, none more so than the Waikiki Special District. During normal times, the streets and intersections of our tourism hubs are congested with drivers, visitors, and local residents and which can often lead to potentially dangerous situations. For this reason, we would support the implementation of upright, decorative bollards in areas with heavy foot and automobile traffic to serve as a buffer for pedestrians.

Furthermore, the topic of bollards in Waikiki was one of the key takeaways from the Honolulu Police Department's (HPD) presentation at HLTA's first Visitor Public Safety Conference in March of 2018. Therefore, we would like to suggest that the Department of Defense first consult with HPD in regards to the Waikiki Special District as they have studied this issue extensively in the past. Doing so would hopefully eliminate the possibility of redundancies in the proposed study and help expedite the process.

Mahalo for the opportunity to offer this testimony.