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

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 956 HD1,  
RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.

PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEES ON:

PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
&  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

BY

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

March 22, 2022

Chairs Nishihara and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and Government Operations.

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

The Department of Defense (DOD) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 956 HD1.

Governance sets the foundation for the collaboration and decision making necessary to support operability, interoperability, and continuity of emergency communications. A formal public safety communications governance body can provide a clear direction for future communications efforts to executive leadership, a framework for impacted parties to collaborate and make recommendations and more effective and efficient use of financial and technology resources.

Potential benefits that could result from the formation of such a body include:

- Better alignment in public safety communications strategies at all levels of government within the state
- Increased coordination in response to incidents and emergencies which can help save lives
- Greater insight into existing public safety communications capabilities, identify gaps, and assess areas for cooperation
- Better awareness of shared resources across levels and jurisdictions for incident response such as a cadre of trained professionals who can manage communications for incidents and emergencies

- Buy-in through participation and understanding of interoperability strategies included in decisions related to operability and interoperability

This measure proposes to create a new part to HRS Chapter 128A which would consist of the following 3 sections:

1. Establishes a Statewide Interoperable Communications Executive Committee to develop plans and strategies to improve public safety communications interoperability among state, county, and, where possible, federal public safety agencies. The Committee would be made up of 7 representatives from State agencies; 8 representatives from County agencies; and the chair of the 911 Board. This is important so that public safety communications can be discussed at a senior level for the reasons described above.
2. Establishes a statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee whose purpose is to provide technical advice to the statewide interoperable communications executive committee. It is intended that the members of this technical subcommittee would be the same as those who currently participate in the Statewide Communication Interoperability Plan (SCIP) meetings. This would allow the collective expertise of the SCIP group can be shared amongst all government agencies who utilize public safety communications networks.
3. Establishes the Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator (SWIC), as a full-time position exempt from chapter 76 whose critical responsibilities include aiding stakeholders in the development of projects, plans, policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines for statewide interoperable public safety communications. This position was previously established in HRS Chapter 127 and is fully funded. This measure seeks to codify the language describing the SWIC position in the statute. There will be no increased expense to DOD or the State.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **Support** of HB 956 HD1.

MG Kenneth S. Hara, [kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov](mailto:kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov); 808-672-1211  
Everett Kaneshige, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, [everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov](mailto:everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov)  
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PRESENTATION TO THE COMMITTEES ON:  
PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENTAL, AND MILITARY AFFAIRS  
&  
GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS

BY

EVERETT S. KANESHIGE  
STATEWIDE INTEROPERABILITY COORDINATOR

March 22, 2022

Chairs Nishihara and Moriwaki, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Dela Cruz and Members of the Committees on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs and Government Operations.

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 956 HD1.

The reasons that our office supports this measure are the same as those set forth in the testimony that was submitted by Major General Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of the Hawaii Emergency Management Agency and Homeland Security Advisor

In addition, I would like to provide the Committee with the following additional information:

- A. On March 3, 2022, this measure was discussed with approximately 35 public safety communications stakeholders at the quarterly Statewide Communications Interoperability Plan Committee (SCIP) meeting which was hosted by our office.
- B. On March 7, 2022, a follow-up meeting was held to go over specific questions and concerns that were raised by representatives from the State and each of the County public safety radio networks.
- C. On March 14, 2022, a new draft of the bill addressing the issues that had been raised during the previous meeting was circulated to the representatives from the State and each of the County public safety radio networks.

As a result of the above, I am requesting the following changes to HB956 HD1:

1. Insert “obtain the advice and input from with the statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee and then shall;” at the end of page 1, line 16:
2. Insert “statewide interoperable communications executive” before the word “committee” on page 4, line 12.
3. Replace the word “open” with the word “limited” on page 5, line 2.
4. Insert “subject to the limitation in subsection (b) above”, on page 6 at the end of line 3.
5. Replace “single point of contact for” with “a liaison between the statewide interoperable communications executive and/or statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee and” on page 7, line 8.
6. Replace “Facilitate” with “Assist, as needed or requested with” on page 7, line 16.

I have attached a red-lined version of the bill containing these revisions for your consideration as an SD1.

I would be happy to answer any questions that the Committee may have about the bill or any of the revisions that have been proposed.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in **Support** of HB 956 HD1.

Frank J. Pace, Administrator, Office of Homeland Security, [frank.j.pace@hawaii.gov](mailto:frank.j.pace@hawaii.gov), 808-369-3570

Everett Kaneshige, Statewide Interoperability Coordinator, [everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov](mailto:everett.s.kaneshige@hawaii.gov)  
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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO STATEWIDE INTEROPERABLE PUBLIC SAFETY COMMUNICATIONS.

SECTION 1. The purpose of this Act is to formally establish the statewide interoperable communications executive committee and technical subcommittee, and the position of statewide interoperability communications coordinator as a position exempt from section 76-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

SECTION 2. Chapter 128A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and to read as follows:

**"PART . STATEWIDE PUBLIC SAFETY INTEROPERABLE COMMUNICATIONS**

**§128A- Statewide interoperable communications executive**

**committee.** There is established within the department of defense for administrative purposes the statewide interoperable communications executive committee.

**§128A- Duties of the statewide interoperable communications executive**

**committee.** (a) The statewide interoperable communications executive committee shall, obtain the advice and input from with the statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee and then shall :

(1) Develop plans and strategies to improve public safety communications interoperability among state, county, and, where possible, federal public safety agencies;

(2) Develop plans and strategies to provide interoperable communications between and among public safety answering points in the State and public safety responder communications networks, infrastructure, and systems;

(3) Develop plans and strategies to promote statewide public safety communications interoperability utilizing state and county radio communication systems and networks, the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network, or FirstNet;

(4) Develop plans and strategies for the coordination of state, county, and, where possible, federal emergency alerts and warnings with public safety

answering points and public safety responder communications networks, infrastructure, and systems;

(5) Review and adopt plans and recommendations to improve or promote increased interoperability between public safety responders and other government or non-government stakeholders that support responses to emergencies; and

(6) Submit a status report on the requirements of this subsection, including any obstacles and proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of each regular session.

(b) The members of the statewide interoperable communications executive committee shall consist of the following:

(1) The adjutant general or the adjutant general's designee, who shall serve as the chair of the committee;

(2) The attorney general or the attorney general's designee;

(3) The deputy director of the law enforcement of the department of public safety or the deputy director's designee;

(4) The chairperson of the board of land and natural resources or the chairperson's designee;

(5) The state chief information officer or the chief information officer's designee;

(6) The director of transportation or the director's designee;

(7) The director of health or the director's designee;

(8) The chairperson of the Hawaii enhanced 911 board or the chairperson's designee; and

(9) Four members at the executive or senior personnel level from the first responder or emergency management agencies from each of the four counties, to be selected by the respective heads of the first responder or emergency management agencies of each county.

(c) Members of the statewide interoperable communications executive committee shall receive no compensation but shall be reimbursed for travel and other reasonable and necessary expenses incurred in carrying out their duties relating to the committee.

**§128A- Statewide interoperable communications technical**

**subcommittee.** (a) There is established a statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee whose purpose is to provide technical advice to the statewide interoperable communications executive committee.

(b) Membership on the statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee shall be limited open to representatives from any governmental agency whose duties include management, planning, and operation of public safety communications systems and networks, including government land mobile radio and broadband networks and those related to emergency communications centers and public safety answering points; provided that:

(1) The statewide interoperable communications coordinator shall serve as the chairperson of the statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee;

(2) The respective lead radio communication engineer or manager for the state and counties, or their designees, shall serve on the subcommittee as subject matter experts for their respective radio communication systems and networks; and

(3) The respective lead information security manager for the state and counties, or their designees, shall serve on the subcommittee as subject matter experts for matters relating to cyber security.

(c) The statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee shall:

(1) Not have a fixed membership, subject to the limitation in subsection (b) above;

(2) Not be subject to any quorum requirement; and

(3) Be exempt from part I of chapter 92.

**§128A- Statewide interoperable communications coordinator.** (a) There

is established within the office of homeland security the position of the

statewide interoperable communications coordinator, which shall be a full-time position exempt from chapter 76.

(b) The statewide interoperable communications coordinator shall:

(1) Collaborate with state, county, and federal governments and emergency response groups in long-term strategic planning;

(2) Aid stakeholders in the development of projects, plans, policies, standards, priorities, and guidelines for interoperable communications;

(3) Meet regularly with all interoperability stakeholders and partners to ensure transparency and information sharing;

(4) Coordinate governing body activities to maximize integration and collaboration across the emergency communications landscape;

(5) Coordinate ongoing assessment of the applicability of new technical developments in communications technologies for state and county public safety radio communication systems and networks;

(6) Serve as a liaison between the statewide interoperable communications executive and/or statewide interoperable communications technical subcommittee and the single point of contact for the federal government and industry on issues concerning statewide interoperable communications;

(7) Coordinate guidance, input, and recommendations from state, county, and federal agencies on the statewide communications interoperability plan and lead the development, implementation, and regular update of the statewide communications interoperability plan;

(8) Assist, as needed or requested with ~~Facilitate~~ communications among responders during emergencies when responding to planned and unplanned events;

(9) Coordinate closely with the state single point of contact on issues related to the implementation of the Nationwide Public Safety Broadband Network in the State;

(10) Coordinate interoperability activities with public safety answering points, operators of state, county and federal communications systems and emergency management coordinators;

(11) Manage communications unit program training and exercises provided by federal and state agencies, and work with public safety agencies to assist with any credentialing or recognition of their communications personnel; and

(12) Serve as the state representative to the National Council of Statewide Interoperability Coordinators."



SECTION 3. Section 76-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by amending section (b) to read as follows:

"(b) The civil service to which this chapter applies shall comprise all positions in the State now existing or hereafter established and embrace all personal services performed for the State, except the following:

(1) Commissioned and enlisted personnel of the Hawaii National Guard as such, and positions in the Hawaii National Guard that are required by state or federal laws or regulations or orders of the National Guard to be filled from those commissioned or enlisted personnel;

(2) Positions filled by persons employed by contract where the director of human resources development has certified that the service is special or unique or is essential to the public interest and that, because of circumstances surrounding its fulfillment, personnel to perform the service cannot be obtained through normal civil service recruitment procedures. Any such contract may be for any period not exceeding one year;

(3) Positions that must be filled without delay to comply with a court order or decree if the director determines that recruitment through normal recruitment civil service procedures would result in delay or noncompliance, such as the Felix-Cayetano consent decree;

(4) Positions filled by the legislature or by either house or any committee thereof;

(5) Employees in the office of the governor and office of the lieutenant governor, and household employees at Washington Place;

(6) Positions filled by popular vote;

(7) Department heads, officers, and members of any board, commission, or other state agency whose appointments are made by the governor or are required by law to be confirmed by the senate;

(8) Judges, referees, receivers, masters, jurors, notaries public, land court examiners, court commissioners, and attorneys appointed by a state court for a special temporary service;

(9) One bailiff for the chief justice of the supreme court who shall have the powers and duties of a court officer and bailiff under section 606-14; one secretary or clerk for each justice of the supreme court, each judge of the intermediate appellate court, and each judge of the circuit court; one secretary for the judicial council; one deputy administrative director of the courts; three law clerks for the chief justice of the supreme court, two law clerks for each associate justice of the supreme court and each judge of the

intermediate appellate court, one law clerk for each judge of the circuit court, two additional law clerks for the civil administrative judge of the circuit court of the first circuit, two additional law clerks for the criminal administrative judge of the circuit court of the first circuit, one additional law clerk for the senior judge of the family court of the first circuit, two additional law clerks for the civil motions judge of the circuit court of the first circuit, two additional law clerks for the criminal motions judge of the circuit court of the first circuit, and two law clerks for the administrative judge of the district court of the first circuit; and one private secretary for the administrative director of the courts, the deputy administrative director of the courts, each department head, each deputy or first assistant, and each additional deputy, or assistant deputy, or assistant defined in paragraph (16);

(10) First deputy and deputy attorneys general, the administrative services manager of the department of the attorney general, one secretary for the administrative services manager, an administrator and any support staff for the criminal and juvenile justice resources coordination functions, and law clerks;

- (11) (A) Teachers, principals, vice-principals, complex area superintendents, deputy and assistant superintendents, other certificated personnel, not more than twenty noncertificated administrative, professional, and technical personnel not engaged in instructional work;
- (B) Effective July 1, 2003, teaching assistants, educational assistants, bilingual/bicultural school-home assistants, school psychologists, psychological examiners, speech pathologists, athletic health care trainers, alternative school work study assistants, alternative school educational/supportive services specialists, alternative school project coordinators, and communications aides in the department of education;
- (C) The special assistant to the state librarian and one secretary for the special assistant to the state librarian; and
- (D) Members of the faculty of the University of Hawaii, including research workers, extension agents, personnel engaged in

instructional work, and administrative, professional, and technical personnel of the university;

(12) Employees engaged in special, research, or demonstration projects approved by the governor;

(13) (A) Positions filled by inmates, patients of state institutions, persons with severe physical or mental disabilities participating in the work experience training programs;

(B) Positions filled with students in accordance with guidelines for established state employment programs; and

(C) Positions that provide work experience training or temporary public service employment that are filled by persons entering the workforce or persons transitioning into other careers under programs such as the federal Workforce Investment Act of 1998, as amended, or the Senior Community Service Employment Program of the Employment and Training Administration of the United States Department of Labor, or under other similar state programs;

(14) A custodian or guide at Iolani Palace, the Royal Mausoleum, and Hulihee Palace;

(15) Positions filled by persons employed on a fee, contract, or piecework basis, who may lawfully perform their duties concurrently with their private business or profession or other private employment and whose duties require only a portion of their time, if it is impracticable to ascertain or anticipate the portion of time to be devoted to the service of the State;

(16) Positions of first deputies or first assistants of each department head appointed under or in the manner provided in section 6, article V, of the Hawaii State Constitution; three additional deputies or assistants either in charge of the highways, harbors, and airports divisions or other functions within the department of transportation as may be assigned by the director of transportation, with the approval of the governor; four additional deputies in the department of health, each in charge of one of the following: behavioral health, environmental health, hospitals, and health resources administration, including other functions within the department as may be assigned by the

director of health, with the approval of the governor; an administrative assistant to the state librarian; and an administrative assistant to the superintendent of education;

(17) Positions specifically exempted from this part by any other law; provided that:

(A) Any exemption created after July 1, 2014, shall expire three years after its enactment unless affirmatively extended by an act of the legislature; and

(B) All of the positions defined by paragraph (9) shall be included in the position classification plan;

(18) Positions in the state foster grandparent program and positions for temporary employment of senior citizens in occupations in which there is a severe personnel shortage or in special projects;

(19) Household employees at the official residence of the president of the University of Hawaii;

(20) Employees in the department of education engaged in the supervision of students during meal periods in the distribution, collection, and counting of meal tickets, and in the cleaning of classrooms after school hours on a less than half-time basis;

(21) Employees hired under the tenant hire program of the Hawaii public housing authority; provided that not more than twenty-six per cent of the authority's workforce in any housing project maintained or operated by the authority shall be hired under the tenant hire program;

(22) Positions of the federally funded expanded food and nutrition program of the University of Hawaii that require the hiring of nutrition program assistants who live in the areas they serve;

(23) Positions filled by persons with severe disabilities who are certified by the state vocational rehabilitation office that they are able to perform safely the duties of the positions;

(24) The sheriff;

(25) A gender and other fairness coordinator hired by the judiciary;

(26) Positions in the Hawaii National Guard youth and adult education programs;

(27) In the state energy office in the department of business, economic development, and tourism, all energy program managers, energy program specialists, energy program assistants, and energy analysts;

(28) Administrative appeals hearing officers in the department of human services;

(29) In the Med-QUEST division of the department of human services, the division administrator, finance officer, health care services branch administrator, medical director, and clinical standards administrator;

(30) In the director's office of the department of human services, the enterprise officer, information security and privacy compliance officer, security and privacy compliance engineer, and security and privacy compliance analyst; ~~and~~

[+](31)[+] The Alzheimer's disease and related dementia services coordinator in the executive office on aging[-]; and

(32) In the office of homeland security of the department of defense, the statewide interoperable communications coordinator.

The director shall determine the applicability of this section to specific positions.

Nothing in this section shall be deemed to affect the civil service status of any incumbent as it existed on July 1, 1955."

SECTION 4. Chapter 128A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is amended by designating sections 128A-1 to 128A-5 as follows:

"PART I. GENERAL PROVISIONS"

SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair  
Senator Lynn DeCoite, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senator Sharon Y. Moriwaki, Chair  
Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair  
Senate Committee on Government Operations

Testimony of Jame K. Schaedel

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

**Support** for House Bill No. 956, HD1 - Relating to Statewide Interoperable Public Safety Communications

### **WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY**

Honorable Chairs, Vice Chairs and Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to offer testimony in **support** for House Bill No. 956, HD1. This bill would create a Statewide Interoperable Communications Executive Committee, a technical subcommittee, and establish the position of Statewide Interoperable Communications Coordinator in the Office of Homeland Security within the state Department of Defense.

I offer this testimony as a private citizen.

The proposed committees and position will ensure the state remains committed to the principles and lessons learned after the horrific attacks against the citizens of our nation on September 11, 2001. First responders from multiple local, district, state and federal agencies, and military personnel arriving at the Pentagon were unable to communicate with each other which resulted in confusion and hindered rescue efforts.

As a result, the Federal Emergency Management Agency developed the National Response Framework (NRF) which is a guide on how the nation responds to disasters and emergencies. Contained within the NRF is Emergency Support Function No. 2 (ESF 2) which relates to communications.

This bill will allow the Adjutant General to formally employ someone in his department to coordinate the state's ESF 2 kuleana.

Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

Senate Committee on Government Operations

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

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I believe this bill is necessary to maintain existing capabilities to ensure multiple state and county agencies can communicate with each other during disasters and emergencies. Further, the coordinator will ensure individual agencies do not deviate from the NRF or ESF 2. I implore your Committees to pass this bill, un-amended, with a recommendation for passage on Second Reading.

Respectfully,

Jame K. Schaedel  
Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i

**LATE**

**HB-956-HD-1**

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 1:59:14 PM

Testimony for PSM on 3/22/2022 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Senior Public Safety Expert	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members

**OPPOSE HB956**

The States Office of Enterprise Technology Services (OETS) currently manages the State-Wide Hawaii Wireless Interoperability Network and by its inherent design creates a seamless interoperability network. OETS daily interfaces and coordinates with Public Safety agencies on Interoperability and has in the past Lead the way with interoperability communications in the State. I strongly OPPOSE HB956 in its current format and the lack of written support from other agencies should send a strong message as well.