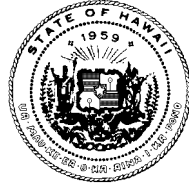


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February 26, 2022

TO: The Honorable Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: **HB 957 – RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY.**

Hearing: February 28, 2022, 11:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference, State Capitol

DEPARTMENT'S POSITION: The Department of Human Services (DHS) supports this administration measure.

PURPOSE: The purpose of the bill is to establish the Hawaii State Fusion Center as a program under the Office of Homeland Security as described in chapter 128A, Hawaii Revised Statutes. Establishes the position of Hawaii State Fusion Center Director. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1) The HD1 amended the measure by defecting the effective date and making technical amendments.

The Fusion Center and the Fusion Center Director are vital to government services and residents' and visitors' security, health, and well-being. The Fusion Center provides access to cross-sector and cross-government communication and training on broad security issues.

DHS is a partner agency with the Fusion Center, and DHS staff actively participate in training and briefings that are easily accessible and available on a variety of issues. For example, DHS staff have attended training and discussions addressing cyber security, efforts of online law enforcement to identify sex trafficking, active shooter events, COVID-19 procedures, and debriefs of significant events for situational awareness and to inform planning.

In January 2020, shortly after news of the coronavirus emerged from China, DHS staff attended a presentation at the Fusion Center by the CDC Honolulu Region Division of Global Migration and Quarantine on CDC's procedures. Throughout the pandemic, the Fusion Center has continued to provide pandemic-related resources, awareness, and other security information and advice leading up to the 2020 election and the violent January 6, 2021 insurrection at the U.S. Capitol. Additionally, Fusion Center staff provided an important briefing to Emergency Support Function 6, which DHS co-leads with Hawaii Emergency Management for providers to conduct community vaccination clinics safely.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this bill.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



KENNETH S. HARA
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 957 HD1
A BILL RELATED TO HOMELAND SECURITY

PRESENTATION TO THE
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

February 28, 2022

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and Members of the Committee on Finance.

I am MG Kenneth S. Hara, Adjutant General, Director of Emergency Management and Homeland Security Advisor. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 957.

The proposal of HB 957, with the additions to HRS Chapter 128A will solidify the Hawaii State Fusion Center. One of the major functions of the fusion center is to share information ensuring our partners are equipped with the necessary tools to keep Hawaii and the Nation safe, secure and resilient.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center serves as a focal point for the state for the receipt, analysis, gathering and sharing of threat-related information between the federal, state, local, and private sector partners. Fusion centers are situated in the state to empower front line law enforcement, public safety, fire, emergency responders, public health, critical infrastructure protection and private sector security personnel to understand the implications of intelligence for and to the State. The fusion center provides interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government. The Hawaii State Fusion Center conducts analysis and facilitates information sharing by assisting law enforcement and homeland security partners in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime, terrorism, and all-hazard incidents.

The fusion center collaborates among all levels of government to receive, analyze, and disseminate threat related information in coordination with intelligence partners by coordinating with the 16 critical infrastructure sectors and lifelines, for example, electric, water, food, gas, utilities, communications, etc.

The collaboration includes the integration of cyber related threat information, cyber-crime prevention and analytic capabilities to assist in identifying cyber threats and indicators to individual networks and systems.

The intelligence analysts within the fusion center assist piecing together the disparate bits of information to form integrated views to produce actionable intelligence products on emerging cyber incidents, risk, threats, event, or trend.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center works closely with all educational levels and security personnel to track certain school incidents, such as stranger-danger or threats of targeted school violence. In addition, the Hawaii State Fusion Center works with members of the visitor industry and with retail establishments to help them track threats against visitors and businesses.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center is an important part of Hawaii's Homeland Security and the protection of our citizens and visitors.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 957.

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