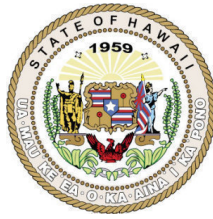


JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT
Ka 'Oihana Ho'opalekana Lehulehu

1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
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Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1036, HD 1
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY
Before the House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, February 28, 2023; 11:30 a.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 308 and via Videoconference

WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and members of the Committee:

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) supports House Bill 1036, HD 1.

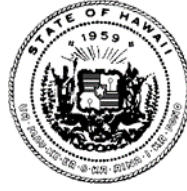
This bill establishes the Hawaii State Fusion Center as a program under the Office of Homeland Security to be transferred to the Department of Law Enforcement.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center has been supporting county, state, and federal law enforcement, first responder, and emergency management agencies as part of the Department of Defense Office of Homeland Security. The importance of this bill is to formally establish the Hawaii State Fusion Center and its integral role in helping to protect the health and safety of the public.

The DLE supports this bill and urges the passage of this measure.

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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



CATHY BETTS
DIRECTOR
KA LUNA HO'OKELE

JOSEPH CAMPOS II
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OKELE

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES
KA 'OIHANA MĀLAMA LAWELAWE KANAKA
Office of the Director
P. O. Box 339
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809-0339

February 25, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
House Committee on Finance

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

SUBJECT: [HB 1036 HD1](#) – RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY.

Hearing: February 28, 2023, 11:30 a.m.
Conference Room 308 & Via Videoconference, State Capitol

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

PURPOSE: The bill formally establishes the Hawai'i State Fusion Center as a program under the Office of Homeland Security to be transferred to the Department of Law Enforcement on 1/1/2024, and delineates its roles and responsibilities. Effective 6/30/3000.
(HD1)

The HD1 amended the measure by:

- (1) Changing the effective date to June 30, 3000, to encourage further discussion; and
- (2) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

The Fusion Center is 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 various 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.

On Friday, February 3, 2023, DHS Child Welfare Services Intake Administrator provided a virtual in-training to Fusion Center partners on the child welfare intake process.

Fusion Center staff also participates in Emergency Support Function 6, which DHS leads as part of the State's Emergency Management infrastructure.

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

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
OFFICE OF THE ADJUTANT GENERAL
3949 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
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KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
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KA 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STEPHEN F. LOGAN
BRIGADIER GENERAL
DEPUTY ADJUTANT GENERAL
KA HOPE 'AKUKANA KENELALA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAII EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1036
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY
BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

BY

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

FEBRUARY 28, 2023

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and members of the committee:

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

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB 1036. For over a decade, the Hawaii State Fusion Center (HSFC) has played a critical role in the protection of our residents and critical infrastructure by supporting our public safety agencies and our communities.

The HSFC functions as the nexus of information and intelligence sharing between federal, state, county, and private sector partners who collectively work to keep Hawaii and the Nation safe. It actively empowers front line law enforcement, fire, emergency management, public health, and private sector security partners by providing interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government. The HSFC provides critical real-time and strategic intelligence analysis, threat assessments, and targeted violence prevention program management that assists the public safety community in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime, terrorism, and emergent threats.

JOSH GREEN
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



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Since its inception and subsequent federal recognition by the Department of Homeland Security as the Nation's 77th fusion center, the HSFC has also provided the required justification for millions of federal grant dollars that the Hawai'i Office of Homeland Security helps bring to the state annually. This grant funding, through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) supports numerous agencies statewide.

Passing this measure will bring official state-level recognition of the Fusion Center's value through its inclusion into HRS Chapter 128A. Importantly, supporting a key element that ensures the Hawai'i Office of Homeland Security will continue to provide the necessary support to keep our State, residents, and critical infrastructure safe.

Thank you for allowing me to testify in **SUPPORT** of House Bill 1036.

MG Kenneth S. Hara: kenneth.s.hara@hawaii.gov, 808-672-1211
Frank Pace, Administrator: frank.j.pace@hawaii.gov, 808-369-3570

HB-1036-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/27/2023 10:05:05 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frank Pace	Hawaii Office of Homeland Security	Support	In Person

Comments:

HB-1036-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2023 5:09:14 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/28/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly oppose HB1035, HB1036 & HB1037. No to the Homeland Security Fusion Center; no to militarization of police forces; no to the police state.