

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
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96816-4495

KENNETH S. HARA
MAJOR GENERAL
ADJUTANT GENERAL
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 PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

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

MARCH 15, 2023

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, 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.

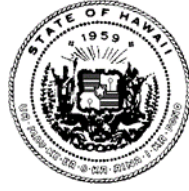
Since its inception and subsequent federal recognition by the Department of Homeland Security as the Nation's 77th fusion center, the HSFC has also provided the required justification for millions of federal grant dollars that the Hawai'i Office of Homeland Security helps bring to the state annually. 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

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

March 14, 2023

TO: The Honorable Senator Glenn Wakai, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs

FROM: Cathy Betts, Director

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

Hearing: March 15, 2023, 3:00 p.m.
Conference Room 225 & 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.

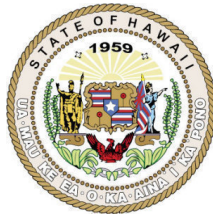
DHS is a partner agency with the Fusion Center, and DHS staff actively participate in training and briefings that are easily accessible and available on various issues. For example, DHS staff have attended training and discussions addressing cyber security, efforts of online law enforcement to identify 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



JORDAN LOWE
DIRECTOR

MICHAEL S. VINCENT
Deputy Director
Administration

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

1177 Alakea Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
(808) 587-2562

Vacant
Deputy Director
Law Enforcement

No.

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1036, HD 1
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY

Before the Senate Committee on
Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Wednesday, March 15, 2023; 3:00 p.m.
State Capitol Conference Room 225, via Videoconference
Testifiers: Jordan Lowe or Michael Vincent

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Elefante, and members of the Committee:

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

This bill formally 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 as early as 2010 when it was designated as the primary fusion center for the State of Hawai'i. For over a decade, the Hawai'i State Fusion Center has supported county, state, and federal agencies with timely information specifically directed to helping those agencies in their missions to protect the public from man-made and natural dangers. The importance of this bill to formally establish the Hawaii State Fusion Center and its integral role in helping to protect the health and safety of the public cannot be understated.

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
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DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 1036
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY
BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY AND INTERGOVERNMENTAL AND
MILITARY AFFAIRS

BY

FRANK J. PACE

ADMINISTRATOR

HAWAII OFFICE OF HOMELAND SECURITY

MARCH 15, 2023

Aloha Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and members of the committee:

I am Frank Pace, Administrator for the Hawaii Office of Homeland Security.

The Office of Homeland Security (OHS) provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1036.

The passing of HB1036 will formally recognize the Hawaii State Fusion Center's value through its inclusion into HRS Chapter 128A, ensuring its continued support in keeping Hawaii's residents and critical infrastructure safe.

The Hawaii State Fusion Center (HSFC) has protected Hawaii's residents and critical infrastructure for over a decade by supporting public safety agencies and communities. Its federal recognition by the Department of Homeland Security has helped to justify millions of federal grant dollars annually through the Homeland Security Grant Program (HSGP) which supports numerous State and County agencies across Hawaii.

As the hub of information and intelligence sharing, the HSFC brings together federal, state, county, and private sector partners to ensure Hawaii and the nation's safety. It provides front-line law enforcement, fire, emergency management, public health, and private sector security partners with

interdisciplinary expertise and situational awareness to inform decision-making at all levels of government. The HSFC offers critical real-time and strategic intelligence analysis, threat assessments, and targeted violence prevention program management, assisting the public safety community in preventing, protecting against, and responding to crime, terrorism, and emerging threats.

The HSFC collaborates with its partners to receive, analyze, and disseminate threat-related information. Its intelligence analysts actively piece together disparate bits of information to form integrated views, producing actionable intelligence products on emerging cyber incidents, threats, events, or trends.

The HSFC plays a vitally important role in Hawaii's homeland security. The State of Hawaii's formal recognition of this responsibility is a crucial step in ensuring its ability to do for years to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in **SUPPORT** of HB1036.

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



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, PRESIDENT
RETAIL MERCHANTS OF HAWAII
March 15, 2023**

Re: HB 1036 HD1 RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY

Good afternoon, Chair Wakai, and members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs. I am Tina Yamaki, President of the Retail Merchants of Hawaii and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Retail Merchants of Hawaii was founded in 1901 and is a statewide, not for profit trade organization committed to supporting the growth and development of the retail industry in Hawaii. Our membership includes small mom & pop stores, large box stores, resellers, luxury retail, department stores, shopping malls, on-line sellers, local, national, and international retailers, chains, and everyone in between.

We support HB 1036 HD1 Relating to Homeland Security. This measure 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 and delineates its roles and responsibilities.

For many years, the Retail Merchant of Hawaii have been working in partnership with the Hawaii State Fusion Center. They are very influential in formulating partnerships between not only federal, state and county government agencies, but with business community partners like us that share information to combat problems and issues facing not only our industry but our community and government as well.

As property crimes continue to plague retailers, the Hawaii State Fusion Center has been instrumental in establishing the Hawaii Organized Retail Crime Alliance (HIORCA) website that is open only to law enforcement and retail investigators to share cross jurisdictional information to identify, disrupt, and apprehend Organized Retail Crime (ORC) crews. HIORCA operates like a business "crime watch" that allows law enforcement and retailers to communicate on a real time basis through alerts about criminal activity and incidents impacting their business or geographic area, in an effort to prevent other retail partners from being victimized.

The information that we receive from the Hawaii State Fusion Center is invaluable through their dissemination of information on leads, tips, trends, suspicious activities and more. It is only by continuing to work in partnership that we can maintain a Hawaii that is not only safe to visit but to live and work as well.

Mahalo again for this opportunity to testify.

HB-1036-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/13/2023 10:04:05 AM

Testimony for PSM on 3/15/2023 3:00:00 PM

| 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.