

Time/Date: 1:30 p.m., March 15, 2023
Committee: Senate on Agriculture and Environment
Senate on Public Safety and Intergovernmental and Military Affairs
Bill: HB 695, HD2 Relating to Battery-Charged Security Fences
Position: Support

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Richards, Vice-Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Elefante, and members of the committees!

We are writing in support of HB 695, HD 2 relating to battery-charged security fences which allows for the use of security alarm fences under certain circumstances.

Property crimes, burglaries, car thefts, arson, and theft of metals such as copper wire are among the many physical security concerns of Hawaii's businesses. Last year, the legislature sought to address skyrocketing thefts of catalytic converters by enacting tougher laws for their resale. Based on the most recent statistics available, approximately \$85 million in property value was reported stolen in the State of Hawaii, an increase of 6.6% from the figure reported in the prior year. Building suppliers, auto collision parts and repair shops, large equipment rental companies, utilities, freight terminals and trucking sales and service companies, among others, located in industrial, often isolated, areas are seeking effective security solutions.

Commercial security fencing companies provide perimeter security for business sites in local jurisdictions and many states across the country. Security fencing strategies include deterring crime with physical infrastructure and warning signs, as well as activating a monitored and audible alarm system when a trespass is detected. If an alarm is detected and verified, responders are contacted and deployed to investigate. The authority of Hawaii's counties to grant permits to battery-charged security fences even in remote industrial areas has been clouded by a state law that does not clearly differentiate between battery-charged security fences and electrical fences which are permissible in an agricultural setting.

This bill will allow counties the authority to grant permits for battery-charged security fences meeting certain conditions. We believe it is an important tool to help businesses avert theft and crime.

Amarok provides perimeter security fencing to more than 6,000 customers in 48 states, preventing 98% of theft after installation. We respectfully request that you pass HB 695 HD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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