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STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII  
**DEPARTMENT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT**

*Ka 'Oihana Ho'okō Kānāwai*

715 South King Street  
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TESTIMONY ON HOUSE BILL 2461, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY  
Before the House Committee on Finance  
Thursday, February 22, 2024; 11:30 a.m.  
State Capitol Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference  
Testifiers: Michael Vincent or Jared Redulla

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

The Department of Law Enforcement (DLE) **strongly supports**, House Bill 2461, House Draft 1.

This Administration measure changes the Cybersecurity, Economic, Education, and Infrastructure Security Coordinator (CEEIS) to an exempt position and clarifies that this position is appointed by the Director of Law Enforcement.

The exemption of the CEEIS position is vital to bolster Hawaii's cybersecurity posture and safeguard our critical infrastructure against increasing digital threats. Clarifying that the position is appointed by the Director of Law Enforcement ensures the flexibility needed to retain someone with the right credentials, background, and fit for the needs of our community.

The CEEIS Coordinator serves as a crucial nexus between various sectors – cybersecurity, economy, education, and infrastructure – ensuring a comprehensive and cohesive approach to our state's security and prosperity. The role is designed to implement critical infrastructure cybersecurity policies, develop resilient frameworks against cyber-attacks, and coordinate with federal, state, local, and private sector entities. These responsibilities are not just administrative but are pivotal in safeguarding our state's digital landscape.

The coordinator is instrumental in driving educational initiatives to bolster our cybersecurity workforce, enhance economic growth, and ensure a sustainable and secure future for our state. By overseeing cyber investigations and intelligence, the CEEIS Coordinator plays a vital role in protecting our state against cyber-enabled crimes and intrusions, which are becoming increasingly sophisticated.

The exemption of this position is a necessary step in our ongoing efforts to secure our state's digital and physical infrastructure, enhance our economic resilience, and educate our future workforce in crucial cybersecurity skills.

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