



## UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**THE SENATE  
KA 'AHA KENEKOA  
THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2024**

**COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

Monday, April 15, 2024, 3:01 PM  
Conference Room 225 & Videoconference

**Re: Testimony on HCR97, HD2 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A WORKING GROUP TO PLAN AND CONSTRUCT A HAWAII FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL**

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Gabbard, and Members of the Committee:

The United Public Workers, AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO (“UPW”) is the exclusive bargaining representative for approximately 14,000 public employees, which includes blue collar, non-supervisory employees in Bargaining Unit 1 and institutional, health, and correctional employees in Bargaining Unit 10, in the State of Hawaii and various counties.

UPW **supports** HCR97, HD2, which requests the Department of Accounting and General Services (“DAGS”) to establish a working group to plan and construct a Hawaii First Responders Memorial.

As the exclusive representative for the emergency medical technicians (“EMT”) and paramedics employed by the City and County of Honolulu, we believe that those first responders who have made the ultimate sacrifice while courageously serving our community should forever be honored with an appropriate memorial.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kalani Werner', written over a light blue circular stamp.

Kalani Werner  
State Director

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**LATE**

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*Honoring Our Heroes*

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April 15, 2024

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair  
Committee on Government Operations  
Conference Room 225  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Subject: STRONG SUPPORT- H.C.R. 97 HD2 / HSCR 1707-24 Requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish a working group to plan and construct a Hawaii First Responders Memorial

Aloha Chair McKelvey;

The Board of Directors for the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial for Fall Law Enforcement Officers would like to express our strong support for House Concurrent Resolution 97, HD2 / HSCR 1707-24 to establish a working group to plan and construct a Hawaii First Responders Memorial.

Having served in the Honolulu Police Department for 30 years, I know firsthand the importance of having a Memorial to honor those who selflessly gave their lives in the line of duty. During my career, two of my classmates from my police recruit class were killed in the line of duty and names are inscribed on the Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial. The Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial provides a place where family members, friends, peers, and the public can give respect, remember, and honor those who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our community.

A First Responder Memorial would provide a place of honor for fire fighters, lifeguards, paramedics, emergency medical technicians, and medical flight nurses and pilots. It is absolutely vital that we remember these heroes who died in the line of duty while serving the people of Hawaii. This measure will be the first step to honor these heroes.

On a personal note, I personally knew and worked side by side, with first responders like MICT Mandy Shiraki and Fire Fighters Cliff Rigsbee and Peter Crown who all died while in service to their community. These heroes deserve a Memorial so that we may remember their duty, dedication, commitment, and sacrifice.

The Hawaii Law Enforcement Memorial Foundation strongly supports this measure.

I can be reached via email at [hpd1670@aol.com](mailto:hpd1670@aol.com) or at (808) 223-4820 for further information.

Very respectfully,

Kurt Kendro, MS, Major (Retired)  
President, HLEMF Board of Directors

April 12, 2024

Testimony on HCR 97 HD2

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES TO ESTABLISH A  
WORKING GROUP TO PLAN AND CONSTRUCT HAWAII FIRST RESPONDERS' MEMORIAL.

Honorable Senator Angus L.K. McKelvey Chair and Senator Mike Gabbard Vice Chair Committee on  
Government Affairs

Hawaii State Senate

KA'AHA KENEKOA

Hawaii State Capital Room 225

415 S Beretania Street

Honolulu HI

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Co-Chair Gabbard, and Members on Government Operations Committee

I am Eddie Fujioka a Retired Honolulu EMS District Chief and Paramedic of 42 years of Service. Also, as a young Medic I have been employed as a Flight Paramedic for Hawaii Air Ambulance. I am here today to testify in strong support on requesting the Department of Accounting and General Services to establish a working group to plan and construct a Hawaii First Responder Memorial.

I urge this committee to pass HCR97 HD2 so the process can begin in planning, design and construction can begin as soon as possible. During Spring of 2023 I began an assessment on the viability of the Memorial. After reaching out to various organizations Nationally and locally I am convinced it is a viable project. Soon after beginning the assessment the Lahaina Fire happened.

Hearing the courageous stories of all first responders during the raging fires and how they placed their personal safety at risk to save others gave me a sense of pride as a former first responder. How proud of was of all of them, then I realized they could have perished in the fire too. Where and how would we memorialize them. Law enforcement has a Memorial but there is none for all other first responders. We have already lost too many in the line of duty.

It's time we honor those that pay the highest price as first responders, we are not asking for any funds. We will find a way to build and maintain it. **The Memorial will be a living monument representing all non-Law Enforcement First Responders Professionals and their families, past, present and future.**

Thank you for allowing me to testify,

Edward Fujioka

Retired EMS District Chief