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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION

Tuesday, February 7, 2023
8:45 AM

Via Video Conference, State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 767
RELATING TO THE CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT PROGRAM

House Bill 767 proposes to require the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to pursue and obtain accreditation for the Conservation and Resources Enforcement Program from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc. and appropriates funding. **The Department supports this bill with a proposed amendment, and provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request, and that sufficient additional funds are provided.**

In 2009, the Department's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) participated in the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies (CALEA) formal accreditation process. The past effort was stymied by the amount of funding needed to implement the standards, and frustration encountered with consultation of new policies with the employee union. Due to these issues, continuing the accreditation effort was not feasible.

The Department is open to participating in the CALEA accreditation process. Participation will require appropriate amounts of additional funding needed for equipment purchases, training and possibly for capital improvements to DOCARE facilities to meet CALEA's standards. Additional annual funding will also be needed to maintain formal participation and affiliation with CALEA.

Lastly, the Department is concerned with the language of the bill which provides DOCARE should attain accreditation by June 30, 2025. Given the potential volume of policies which may need to be drafted and consulted upon with the employee union, as well as the procurement of equipment and

services to implement the CALEA standards and policies, this deadline may not be realistic. The Department recommends a minimum of five years be considered as a realistic timeframe to provide the time the Department believes is needed to attain CALEA's accreditation. The Department therefore recommends that Section 2 of the measure be amended to read as follows:

SECTION 2. No later than June 30, [~~2025;~~ 2029], the Department of Land and Natural Resources shall pursue and obtain accreditation for the conservation and resources enforcement program from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support with a proposed amendment on this measure.



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection
IN SUPPORT OF HB 767

February 7, 2022, 8:45AM, Room 325

My name is Kevin Chang and I am the Executive Director of [Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo \(or KUA\)](#). KUA works to empower grassroots rural and Native Hawaiian mālama 'āina groups to celebrate their places and pass on their traditions to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

KUA supports HB 767 as an incremental step towards 'āina momona. This bill would appropriate funds to the Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR-DOCARE) “to require the department of land and natural resources to seek and obtain accreditation for the conservation and resources enforcement program from the Commission on Accreditation for Law Enforcement Agencies, Inc.”

KUA employs a community-driven approach that currently supports a statewide network of 36 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 40 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a growing group of over 60 Limu practitioners and supporters called the Limu Hui. Members of these networks and future generations need a more skilled, objectively certified and resourced DOCARE and it is encouraging to see bills that will support this.

Today a number of our network participants partner with DOCARE through growing community-based co-management initiatives from mauka to makai. DOCARE officers are often the first representation community members get of DLNR. In some significant places it has long been known that there is an absence of almost any DLNR presence and in the past inadequate training resources to up their capacity. A bill like this and the ongoing and growing DOCARE Academy you've supported are beginning to fill that gap. A nationally recognized certification will improve the skill and quality of officers in our community. The expertise and skills objectively determined through certification can influence perception and recognition and individual professionalism, behavior and skills.

The communities we work with are committed to ensuring the long-term health of our biocultural resources. They have depended on them for generations. We believe our environment, the foundation of our very existence, is about long-term investment and a vision of 'āina momona. To get there it requires among other things greater skill and capacity, new and more innovative career pathways, mindsets, relationships and resource flows for mālama 'āina. This definitely includes a properly and objectively certified DOCARE. Passing this bill out of your committee will open a pathway toward reaching this vision.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify in support.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:10:16 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: ALL the respective Police Departments in the State of Hawaii are accredited. The benefits of accreditation are priceless. Best Practices in all areas are addressed. The process is strict but necessary to maintain a very high level of professionalism in all areas i.e., training, manpower, hiring practices, administration, equipment, general orders, job description...etc.

HB-767

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 10:24:52 PM

Testimony for EEP on 2/7/2023 8:45:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alan Urasaki	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of passage of this measure. Mahalo/

Denise Antolini
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Pūpūkea, HI 96712

Re: **HB767** EEP Hearing Feb. 7, 2023, Conference Room 325, 8:45 am

Aloha EEP Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Cochran, and Members of the Committee,

I write in **strong support of HB757, CALEA accreditation for DOCARE.**

For many years, as a law professor devoted to environmental protection and a community member involved in marine stewardship programs, I have worked on various projects to assist DOCARE build capacity and its enforcement toolkit. For example, through my position at the William S. Richardson School of Law, I was the principal investigator for a grant in 2018-19 that assisted DOCARE with designing the new DOCARE Academy, which is now completing training for its second class -- 42 new recruits who will graduate next month. I also worked with DOCARE on the passage of the "ASSET" bill (Act 67, SB2453) in 2016 to expand the enforcement options for sentencing marine resources violators to include community service and an education course. I have also collaborated with the State Judiciary on the biennial trainings for the Hawai'i Environmental Court, established in 2015 by the Legislature. And, for the past ten years, since 2014, I have partnered with DOCARE to place a recent law graduate – a full-time "law fellow" – inside DOCARE to provide legal research and writing capacity particularly related to supporting the enforcement cases in the Environmental Court.

Many years ago, when Laura Thielen was DLNR Chair (2007-2010), **I participated in several meetings with DOCARE and partners as the division launched a major effort to seek CALEA accreditation.** I also followed the work of the Law Fellow during that period whose duties included assisting DOCARE with this complex effort. That effort did not succeed, not due to lack of leadership or officer interest in professionalizing, which was in fact impressive and inspiring, but due to **lack of funding and capacity.** Here we are, a decade later, and thankfully, DOCARE is in a much stronger position to stretch and lean into this major project.

In short, **CALEA accreditation is an effective way to "professionalize" DOCARE up to national standards, and to align DOCARE with other Hawai'i law enforcement units that are CALEA-accredited.** However, the CALEA standards process is **highly complex and very burdensome in terms of process, documentation, equipment upgrades, and training.** It is not "one and done," but an ongoing, constant, and demanding engagement with the national accreditors. So, if the Legislature wants DOCARE to obtain and maintain CALEA accreditation – which I fully support – **it must appropriate sufficient funds for personnel and equipment.** Last year, when the CALEA bill (SB3019) was heard by EEP-WAL, the appropriation request by DOCARE was **\$1m initial funding then \$750k recurring.** I believe this is still a minimum amount for CALEA.

Mahalo nui loa for passing HB767 with the necessary appropriation!

Best regards,



Denise Antolini