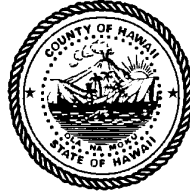


Mitchell D. Roth
Mayor

Deanna Sako
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Kazuo S. K. L. Todd
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March 15, 2024

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HCR97/HR81 & SCR46/SR34 FROM THE HAWAII FIRE DEPARTMENT

Aloha Honorable Members of the Legislature,

I write to you as the Fire Chief of the Hawaii Fire Department (HFD), directly advocating for your support and approval of House Concurrent Resolution No. 97 (HCR97), House Resolution No. 81 (HR81), Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 46 (SCR46), and Senate Resolution No. 34 (SR34). These resolutions aim to establish a working group under the Department of Accounting and General Services for the planning and construction of a Hawaii First Responders Memorial.

The necessity for a memorial that honors the sacrifices of Hawaii's first responders cannot be overstated. Our first responders—firefighters, paramedics, lifeguards, medical flight nurses, and pilots—demonstrate unwavering bravery and commitment to the safety of our communities. Recognizing their sacrifices through a dedicated memorial is not only a tribute but a fundamental act of acknowledgment and respect for their service.

The proposed legislation encompasses a collaborative effort, calling for the involvement of fire chiefs from all counties, ocean safety experts, and the families of fallen first responders. This inclusive approach ensures the memorial accurately reflects the values and sacrifices of our first responder community.

The HFD is fully prepared to engage in the working group and contribute to the development of a memorial that serves as a lasting tribute to those who have given their lives in the line of duty. This initiative represents more than just the construction of a physical structure; it symbolizes our state's recognition and appreciation of the courage and selflessness inherent in the profession of first responders.

Your support for HCR97, HR81, SCR46, and SR34 is crucial. By backing these resolutions, you affirm the state's commitment to honoring the legacy and sacrifices of Hawaii's first responders. We ask for your decisive action in supporting these resolutions to ensure that the valor and dedication of our heroes are forever commemorated.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and your ongoing support for the safety and well-being of the people of Hawaii.

With warmest aloha,


KAZUO S. K. L. TODD
Fire Chief

