

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KEITH A. REGAN
COMPTROLLER
KA LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

MEOH-LENG SILLIMAN
DEPUTY COMPTROLLER
KA HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU HANA LAULĀ

STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES | KA 'OIHANA LOIHELU A LAWELAWE LAULĀ
P.O. BOX 119, HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0119

WRITTEN TESTIMONY
OF
KEITH A. REGAN, COMPTROLLER
DEPARTMENT OF ACCOUNTING AND GENERAL SERVICES
TO THE COMMITTEE ON

PUBLIC SAFETY

JANUARY 31, 2024, 8:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 411 AND VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE, STATE CAPITOL

H.B. 503

RELATING TO THE HAWAII FIRST RESPONDERS MEMORIAL

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on H.B. 503.

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) **supports** the measure which appropriates funds to the DAGS to hire a consultant to evaluate potential locations and designs for the Hawaii First Responders Memorial.

Pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 97 (2024), DAGS has formed a working group to plan and construct a Hawaii First Responders Memorial. DAGS supports the concept of creating a memorial that will serve as a lasting tribute to Hawaii First Responders who have selflessly served our community and paid the ultimate price. This measure will provide the necessary funding to assist the working group with the identification and evaluation of various sites as well as for the design of the memorial.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

HB-503

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 2:20:46 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/31/2025 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jayson Pablo	County of Kaua'i Fire Department	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am submitting this testimony in **strong support** of **Senate Bill 998 and House Bill 503**, which appropriate funds to hire a consultant to evaluate potential locations and designs for the Hawai'i First Responders Memorial.

Hawai'i's first responders dedicate their lives to protecting and serving our communities, often at great personal risk. A permanent and properly designed memorial will ensure that the sacrifices of those who have fallen in the line of duty are honored and remembered for generations to come. By funding a consultant to evaluate the best possible site and design, these bills take a crucial step toward making this long-overdue tribute a reality.

I urge the committee to **pass SB998 and HB503** to recognize and honor the bravery, service, and sacrifice of our first responders.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

**Respectfully,
Jayson Pablo**

Administrative Battalion Chief

County of Kaua'i Fire Department

**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKELE

KRISHNA F. JAYARAM
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
and Members of the House Committee on Public Safety
House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, and Members of the Committee:

Subject: HB503 – Relating to the Hawaii First Responders Memorial

The City and County of Honolulu (City) has the utmost respect and gratitude for our team of first responders. Every day, including holidays, these public servants have worked to promote safety and preserve life in our community, often putting their own lives on the line.

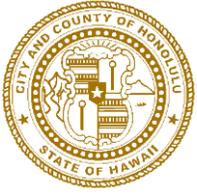
As such, the City is in strong support of providing our everyday heroes, and their families, the acknowledgment of their sacrifices in the line of duty while protecting our home.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this measure,

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "M. Formby", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Michael D. Formby
Managing Director Designate



HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU
530 S. KING ST. STE. 202, HONOLULU, HI 96813

RADIANT CORDERO
FLOOR LEADER
HOPE LUNA HO'OMALU
HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL
DISTRICT VII
TELEPHONE: (808) 768-5007
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EMAIL: rcordero@honolulu.gov

January 29, 2025

The Honorable Della Au Belatti, Chair
The Honorable Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair
And Members of the Committee on Public Safety

Friday, January 31, 2025, 8:30 AM
Conference Room 411 Via Videoconference
State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street

Subject: Support for HB 503 Relating to the Hawaii First Responders Memorial

I am writing to provide testimony **in support** of HB 503 to adopt a working group recommendation by appropriating funds for the Department of Accounting and General Services to engage a consultant to evaluate potential locations and designs for the Hawaii First Responders Memorial.

At the county level, our first responders provide critical assistance and often risk their own lives to save others. I strongly support working toward completion of the memorial, which aims to provide a lasting tribute to the first responders who have selflessly served the community and paid the ultimate price in the line of duty.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony **in support** of this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Radiant Cordero".

Radiant Cordero, Councilmember
Honolulu City Council, District VII



UNITED PUBLIC WORKERS

AFSCME Local 646, AFL-CIO

**HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2025**

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY
Rep. Della Au Belatti, Chair
Rep. Kim Coco Iwamoto, Vice Chair

Friday, January 31, 2025, 8:30 AM
Conference Room 411 & Videoconference

Re: Testimony on HB503 – RELATING TO THE HAWAII FIRST RESPONDERS’ MEMORIAL

Chair Belatti, Vice Chair Iwamoto, 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 HB503, which adopts the working group recommendation by appropriating funds for the department of general services (“DAGS”) to engage a consultant to evaluate potential sites and designs for the 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.

We would like to note that despite UPW’s prescribed inclusion in the working group, pursuant to House Concurrent Resolution 97, House Draft 2, we were not, to our knowledge, notified about any meetings scheduled by the working group. Despite this oversight, UPW remains committed to this effort.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HEADQUARTERS

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Toll Free - *Molokai/Lanai only*

HB-503

Submitted on: 1/30/2025 2:53:24 PM

Testimony for PBS on 1/31/2025 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Eddie Fujioka	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of HB 503. Building this memorial as a tribute to Hawaii's fallen first responders. In the past 2 year Hawaii has lost a Honolulu Fire Fighter, Maui Fire Fighter, HNL Ocean Safety Lifeguard and a AMR EMT that perished in the Lahina Fire. All these Hero's made the ultimate sacrifice doing what they were trained to do. We should never forget these Hero's. This Memorial will allow families, friends, visitors and community to show respect and appreciation for their bravery.