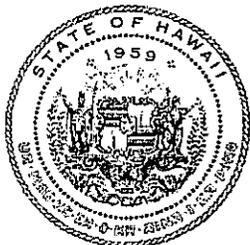


HAWAII
STATE
COMMISSION
ON THE
STATUS
OF
WOMEN



Chair
LESLIE WILKINS

COMMISSIONERS:

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CARMILLE LIM
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June 2, 2015

To: Councilmember Ernest Martin, Chair
Councilmember Ikaika Anderson, Vice Chair
Members of the Honolulu City Council

From: Cathy Betts, Executive Director
Hawaii State Commission on the Status of Women

Re: Testimony in Support, Bill 13 (2015) CD2 re: body cameras

The Commission supports Bill 13 (2015) CD2, which would appropriate \$100,000 for the purchase of body cameras for the Honolulu Police Department. The use of body cameras can be extremely useful in the investigation of domestic violence cases and violations of restraining and protective orders. Body cameras can accurately record factual information, including the presence of eyewitnesses, evidence of a disturbance, the presence of weapons, children, etc.

In cases of domestic violence, time is of the essence. By the time a victim has been questioned about an incident, there is a high chance that he or she has already become reluctant to move forward with any type of law enforcement involvement or prosecution. By the time an officer responds to a potential incident, a perpetrator or any witnesses may have already fled the scene. The presence of body cameras can assist in supporting our officers with data and evidence collection, and can ultimately assist in a successful prosecution. Jurisdictions across the nation currently utilize body cameras and have seen the benefits. Domestic violence cases are difficult to prove. The use of body cameras can assist with this difficulty.

The Commission requests that you pass Bill 13 (2015) CD2. Thank you for your consideration of this important bill.

P9, Bill 13
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