



The Senate

STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

The Honorable Ernest Y. Martin, Council Chair and
Members of the Honolulu City Council
Honolulu Hale
530 South King Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

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Subject: In strong support of Bill 13, CD2, Proposed FD1.

Aloha Chair Martin and Members,

I am writing to express my strong support of Bill 13, CD2, Proposed FD1, relating to the Executive Operating Budget and Program for the Fiscal Year July 1, 2015 to June 30, 2016, submitted by Councilmember Carol Fukunaga.

In this proposed draft, an appropriation has been made to purchase body-worn cameras by officers of the Honolulu Police Department. During the 2015 legislative session, Senate Bill 199 and House Bill 365 were offered as a means to fund body cameras for the respective county police departments. However even with the support of the public and many legislators, the bills did not pass.

The majority of citizens I have talked to are strongly supportive of police wearing body cameras. In addition, a recent "Our View" editorial published on May 8, 2015, by the Honolulu Star Advertiser said, "The known presence of cameras would reduce use of excessive force by officers and protect officers from false accusations by people they arrest." With nearly one-third

of the 18,000 police departments nationwide already using body cameras and a surge of interest in establishing new programs after widespread media coverage of alleged police abuse and shootings, it would be wise for the city to invest in this program in the interest of accountability and public safety.

I humbly ask for the City Council's favorable consideration of this Proposed Floor Draft 1. I look forward to working with the Council during the next legislative session to develop policies that will strengthen public safety as well as accountability of our law enforcement community.

Thank You,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Will Espero". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Will Espero
Vice President
Hawaii State Senate