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HAWAII STATE LEGISLATURE
STATE CAPITOL
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

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DATE: June 2, 2015

TO: Honorable Ernest Y. Martin, Chair
and Members of the Honolulu City Council

FROM: Della Au Belatti, Co-Chair
Hawai'i State Legislature
Women's Legislative Caucus

RE: Testimony in favor of amendment to Bill 13, CD2
to add proviso for \$100,000 for pilot program for
wearable body camera technology for the Honolulu
Police Department

Chair Martin and Members of the Council:

I am writing to you in my capacity as a Co-Chair of the Women's Legislative Caucus to urge that the council accept the amendment adding the proviso "At least \$100,000 out of current expenses shall be appropriated for the purchase of wearable body camera technology to establish a Honolulu Police Department body camera pilot project within the Criminal Investigation Division; provided further that a report of the recommendations and findings shall be submitted to the Honolulu City Council by March 1, 2016" to the budget for the Police Department's Specialized Field Operations.

Concerns regarding use of police force are being expressed nationwide, and Honolulu is no different. It is my hope that a program such as this might facilitate increased confidence in our police force. Not only will these cameras assist in observing the behavior of our officers while performing their duties but also to serve as protection for those very officers while interacting with the public. It is my hope that Honolulu may join the growing number of municipalities that have chosen to implement these types of systems and this pilot program would be an important first step in the process.

Thank you for the opportunity to share my opinions regarding this matter.

MISC. COM. 2072

Council