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TO: The Honorable Donna Mercado Kim, Chair
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The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs

The Honorable Glenn Wakai, Vice-Chair
Senate Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental, and
Military Affairs

Members of the Senate Committee on Public Safety,
Intergovernmental, and Military Affairs

FROM: Tenari Ma'afala, President 
State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers

DATE: March 14, 2017

SUBJECT: Testimony on H.B. No. 1534 H.D.1, Relating to Residence
Requirements For Appointed Officers

HEARING: Thursday, March 16, 2017
2:45 p.m. Conference Room 224

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill. Amongst other things, this bill authorizes applicants, for Police Chief of the county police departments, that have not been residents of Hawaii for at least one year immediately preceding appointment. The State of Hawaii Organization of Police Officers opposes this bill.

As you know, the current Police Chief of the Honolulu Police Department retired on February 28, 2017. There have always been many qualified applicants for the job of Police Chief. Not only have there been qualified applicants, but the Honolulu Police Department has had excellent chiefs. To name a few, Chief Frances Keala, Chief Douglas Gibb, Chief Michael Nakamura, and Chief Lee Donohue. They all came from within the department. They have been strong leaders that were well-connected to the community.

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Authorizing applicants that have not been residents for one year creates a steep learning curve of Hawaii's culture, and also of Honolulu's policing needs and strengths. It takes time to build working relationships with other departments, agencies, and to create relationships with community groups.

Further, a new hire from outside of the Honolulu Police Department will not know the strengths and weaknesses of individual personnel in the department, nor its structure and processes. A chief that has worked his or her way up from the bottom to the top over many years has a much stronger base of knowledge from which to select future top administrators in the department.

SHOPO opposes this bill and asks that you consider the Honolulu Police Department's long history of excellent police chiefs that were appointed from within the department.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 13, 2017 4:22 PM
To: GVO Testimony
Cc: mendezj@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1534 on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM*

HB1534

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for GVO/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1534 on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM*

HB1534

Submitted on: 3/13/2017

Testimony for GVO/PSM on Mar 16, 2017 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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LATE

THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2017

COMMITTEE ON GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Chair

COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC SAFETY, INTERGOVERNMENT & MILITARY
AFFAIRS
Senator Clarence K Nishihara, Chair

3/16/2017
Rm. 224, 2:45 PM

HB 1534, HD 1
Relating to Residence Requirement for Appointed Officers

Chair Kim, Chair Nishimoto, and Members of both Committee, my name is Max Sword, Chair of the Honolulu Police Commission (Commission), here on behalf of the Commission in support of HB 1534, HD 1

March 1st starts the official retirement of Chief Louis Kealoha and also officially kicked off the start of our search for a new Chief for the Honolulu Police Department.

In our search for a new Chief, we would like to extend our search beyond the State for the best candidate that we can find. We would be remiss in our efforts to serve the citizens of the City & County of Honolulu if we did not seek the best candidate for the position of Police Chief. Having the restriction of a one-year residence requirement, will limit that ability to fulfill that goal.

We hope you will help the Commission in our search for the best candidate possible for the next Police Chief of the Honolulu Police Department, by passing this bill out.

One amendment I would like to offer is that the language in this bill take effect upon its approval, since we hope to name a Chief by July or August at the latest.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.