



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
THIRTY-FIRST LEGISLATURE, 2021**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

S.C.R. NO. 169, S.D. 1, H.D. 1, URGING THE GOVERNOR TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO DEVELOP RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL AND LAW ENFORCEMENT IN ENFORCING EMERGENCY PROCLAMATIONS TO MITIGATE THE FURTHER SPREAD OF THE CORONAVIRUS DISEASE 2019 IN HAWAII.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

DATE: Wednesday, April 14, 2021 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 325, Via Videoconference

TESTIFIER(S): Clare E. Connors, Attorney General, or
Lance M. Goto, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (Department) submits comments.

The purpose of this resolution is to urge the Office of the Governor to create a task force to develop recommendations to the Legislature on the roles and responsibilities of the Department and the state and county law enforcement agencies to enforce the supplemental emergency proclamations which require social distancing, wearing of face coverings, and the prohibition of gatherings.

As correctly stated in the resolution, the statewide enforcement of emergency order violations requires an effective response. Traditional law enforcement, such as county police, are best suited to respond quickly and effectively to reported violations and issue warnings or citations. To provide support, the Department temporarily extended beyond its primary investigative responsibilities and expertise, which include criminal fraud, civil actions, and state agency administrative reviews, toward a traditional policing role with the expectation that once emergency order requirements are eased, the Department investigators would return to their primary mission. The Department has a limited ability to provide the traditional policing function.

Looking forward, the Department supports the establishment of an independent state law enforcement department to collaborate statewide with county police departments. This new independent state law enforcement entity would be staffed, trained, equipped, and physically available to effectively address time-critical, public safety issues, such as the enforcement of COVID-19 emergency orders, and would serve as an additional deterrent against potential violations.

The Department appreciates this opportunity to provide comments.

SCR-169-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 2:28:25 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rasa Fournier	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Why is a task force needed for a medical concern, when this pandemic is essentially over? Plus scientifically pass after 18 months. This prolonged restriction of the freedom of citizens is unconstitutional, and to plan to prolong and further restrict our freedoms is a conspiracy against lawful, good citizens. And it is unconstitutional. Please do not waste our taxpaying money for such a task force that would only harm, and not help, us.

SCR-169-HD-1

Submitted on: 4/13/2021 2:48:34 PM

Testimony for JHA on 4/14/2021 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Duane Sosa	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha!!!

My name is Duane Sosa. I am humbly submitting testimony in OPPOSITION to SCR169 SD1 HD1. I believe that for a virus/illness with a 99.97% survivability rate, this p[roposed "TASK FORCE" would be a great waste of State time, manpower & resources. Plus, it promotes the breeding of "Community Gestapos."

Mahalo,

Duane Sosa